

MACAU SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 29, 2026 - November 05, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

Macau's security landscape from October 29 to November 05, 2026, was primarily shaped by its ongoing integration into mainland China's national security framework and persistent efforts to manage internal security challenges. Key developments included the continued implications of China's revised National Defense Mobilization Law, which came into effect on October 1, 2026, potentially impacting Macau's civilian resources in a national emergency. Internally, authorities grappled with a notable increase in gaming-related crimes, particularly fraud and illegal currency exchange, despite an overall decline in general crime. Diplomatic engagements focused on strengthening Macau's role as a platform for China's outreach to Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries, while aviation security was tested through a simulated hijacking exercise. These trends underscore Macau's dual focus on aligning with national security directives and safeguarding its unique economic and social stability.

Key Security Developments

- Implementation of China's National Defense Mobilization Law

China's revised National Defense Mobilization Law, which took effect on October 1, 2026, following its revision on August 31, 2026, is a critical development directly impacting Macau's defense posture. This law allows for the potential mobilization of Macau's civilian resources, infrastructure, and personnel under central government control in a national emergency, underscoring the full integration of Macau's security into China's national defense strategy. The law aims to facilitate a rapid transition to wartime and support "national unification."

- Increase in Gaming-Related Crime

Macau authorities reported a 12.3% increase in gaming-related crimes during the first nine months of 2026, totaling 1,951 cases, compared to 1,737 cases in the same period of 2025. Fraud cases rose by 21.3% to 558 incidents, and illegal currency exchange activities increased by 11.9% to 404 cases, making them the primary drivers of this uptick. This rise in casino-related offenses contrasts with a slight overall decline in general crime across the city during the same period.

- International Police Cooperation on Transnational Crime

From October 27-29, 2026, the Macau Judiciary Police attended an Interpol Match-Fixing Task Force meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. Subsequently, on October 30, 2026, Macau Judiciary Police Director Sit Chong Meng met with Portuguese Judiciary

Police leadership in Lisbon to discuss enhanced cooperation on high-risk crimes, including counter-terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, and computer crime. These discussions covered intelligence sharing, joint personnel training, and crime prevention campaigns.

- Aviation Security Exercise at Macau International Airport

In the early morning of October 27, 2026, Macau International Airport conducted an "Exercise on the Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft." The exercise simulated a hijacking scenario involving armed individuals demanding to land at the airport, testing the effectiveness of the airport's emergency plan and the response capabilities of participating agencies, including the Public Security Police Force and its Special Duty Unit. The operation successfully resulted in the arrest of four simulated hijackers and the rescue of all hostages.

- Ongoing National Security Legislation Enforcement

Macau's national security law, approved in March 2026, continues to shape the security environment by allowing for closed-door court proceedings when deemed necessary to protect national security interests. This legislation builds upon previous national security laws enacted in 2009 and amended in 2023, signaling a sustained emphasis on national security alignment within the Special Administrative Region.

- Enhanced Cybersecurity Measures

Macau is actively strengthening its cybersecurity regulations, particularly focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data security, as part of its Third Five-Year Plan. In September 2026, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai underscored that cybersecurity is a crucial component of the national security system and a fundamental pillar for consolidating Macau's defense line. A cybersecurity exchange delegation also visited Macau and the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin in September 2026 to bolster cooperation and defensive capabilities.

- PLA Macau Garrison Routine Activities and Public Engagement

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison completed its 27th unit rotation on August 27, 2026, a routine procedure to ensure troops are familiar with Macau's conditions and laws. Earlier in the year, the garrison hosted its annual Open Day at its Taipa base on May 1–2, 2026, for Macau residents, and opened a Military History Exhibition in April 2026 at the Taipa Barracks to serve as a platform for patriotic education. Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai has consistently praised the PLA Garrison as a "great wall of iron" and a "stabilising force" for Macau.

- Economic Diversification as a Security Imperative

Macau's Third Five-Year Plan, unveiled in August 2026, prioritizes economic diversification, social progress, and closer integration into national development, while simultaneously ensuring security. This strategic alignment indicates that

economic stability and diversification away from overwhelming dependence on casino-linked activity are considered integral to Macau's overall security and long-term prosperity.

- Diplomatic Expansion to Spanish-Speaking Countries

Building on its established role as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macau's Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai visited Spain in April 2026, following a visit to Portugal. This visit aimed to extend Macau's platform role to Spanish-speaking countries, broadening international markets and external cooperation. The MSAR Government is studying the expansion of the Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon to cover Spain, supporting enterprises in accessing Spanish-speaking markets.

- U.S. Travel Advisory Maintained

The U.S. State Department maintained its "Level 3 - Reconsider Travel" advisory for Macau, issued on September 4, 2026. The advisory cites concerns over the limited ability of the U.S. government to provide emergency consular services and the arbitrary enforcement of local laws, including potential scrutiny or requests to unlock personal digital devices by authorities.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Macau's security developments during this period are deeply intertwined with its role as a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China and its strategic positioning within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). The emphasis on national security legislation and the implementation of China's National Defense Mobilization Law underscore Beijing's firm control over Macau's defense and security affairs, reinforcing the "One Country, Two Systems" framework with a clear national security imperative. This integration means that Macau's stability is directly linked to China's broader national security objectives and its strategic blueprint, particularly the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), which positions Macau as a "knowledge-intensive facilitation platform" and a strategic pivot point for China's opening-up.

Macau's unique historical and cultural ties, particularly with the Portuguese-speaking world, continue to be leveraged as a diplomatic asset for China. The Chief Executive's recent visits to Portugal and Spain, and the new Foreign Ministry Commissioner's pledge to strengthen "diplomacy benefiting Macau," highlight efforts to expand Macau's role as a platform for economic and cultural exchange with the Global South. This strategy serves to diversify China's international partnerships and strengthen its influence in regions like Latin America and Africa, utilizing Macau's distinct legal system and multicultural environment as a bridge.

The broader geopolitical tensions between the United States and China continue to cast an indirect shadow over Macau. Concerns over cybersecurity friction and trade imbalances between the two major powers inherently impact Macau's economic stability and digital environment due to its close integration with mainland China. The U.S. State Department's maintained "Level 3 - Reconsider Travel" advisory, citing concerns over arbitrary law enforcement, reflects these broader tensions and highlights potential risks for international visitors and businesses operating in Macau. This advisory, while not directly targeting Macau's internal security, contributes to the perception of a tightening security environment under Beijing's influence.

Military and Defense Analysis

Macau's military and defense posture is entirely integrated into the People's Republic of China's national defense strategy, with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison serving as the primary military presence. The garrison's mission, as defined by the Law on Stationing Troops in the Macau Special Administrative Region, includes defending the SAR against aggression, safeguarding its security, undertaking defense services, and managing military facilities. The PLA can also be called upon by the Chief Executive to assist in maintaining public order and disaster relief efforts, as demonstrated during Typhoon Hato in 2017.

The routine 27th unit rotation of the PLA Macau Garrison on August 27, 2026, ensures that troops are continuously trained and familiar with local conditions and laws, maintaining a state of readiness. The opening of a Military History Exhibition at the Taipa Barracks in April 2026 further underscores the garrison's role in patriotic education and its symbolic importance in maintaining national sovereignty and stability within Macau.

A significant development impacting Macau's defense framework is the implementation of China's revised National Defense Mobilization Law on October 1, 2026. This law solidifies the legal framework for national security, potentially leading to increased scrutiny and alignment of local policies with national directives, particularly concerning information and resource management. It means that in a national emergency, Macau's civilian resources, infrastructure, and personnel could be subject to mobilization under central government control, further cementing Macau's role within China's comprehensive national defense system.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Macau is expected to continue its rigorous enforcement of national security laws, with ongoing judicial proceedings under the March 2026 legislation. The focus on combating gaming-related crime, particularly fraud and illegal currency exchange, will likely intensify, driven by the reported increase in cases and the government's commitment to maintaining public order and financial integrity. Cybersecurity initiatives, including strengthening regulations around AI and data security, will remain a priority as Macau integrates further into the digital economy and the Greater Bay Area. Border management will also continue to be a key area, especially following periods of high traffic, ensuring public safety and order.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: Critical flashpoints for Macau include the potential for increased international scrutiny and concern over the application of national security laws, particularly regarding judicial due process and political pluralism, as highlighted by the U.S. travel advisory. Economic vulnerabilities, stemming from its heavy reliance on the gaming industry and external factors such as global economic shifts and US-China trade tensions, pose a persistent risk to Macau's stability. The ongoing challenge of gaming-related crime, including money laundering and fraud, could also impact Macau's reputation as a secure financial hub. Furthermore, the implications of China's National Defense Mobilization Law, while aimed at national security, could lead to unforeseen challenges in resource allocation and governance within the SAR during a national emergency.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the evolution of US-China diplomatic and economic relations, as any escalation or de-escalation could have direct and indirect impacts on Macau's economy and its international standing. The practical implementation and judicial interpretations of Macau's national security laws and China's National Defense Mobilization Law should be closely observed for their effects on local governance and civil liberties. Trends in gaming-related crime, particularly the effectiveness of new measures to curb fraud and illegal currency exchange, will be crucial for assessing internal security. Additionally, the progress of Macau's economic diversification efforts, especially its integration into the Greater Bay Area and its role as a platform for China's engagement with Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries, will indicate its long-term resilience.

Strategic recommendations: To enhance its security posture, Macau should continue to strengthen its internal security mechanisms, particularly in combating financial and gaming-related crimes, through improved regulatory oversight and law enforcement cooperation. Enhancing international cooperation on transnational crime, as demonstrated by the recent meetings with Portuguese police, is vital. Accelerating economic diversification remains a strategic imperative to build resilience against external economic shocks and reduce over-reliance on a single industry. Clear and transparent communication regarding the application of national security policies,

while adhering to the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, could help mitigate international concerns and maintain confidence. Finally, continued investment in cybersecurity infrastructure and capabilities is essential to protect critical information and digital assets.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Macau Daily Times

• Delivery riders consider return to petrol bikes over EV reliability concerns (2026-11-05 00:56)

Several riders working for food and goods delivery platforms are considering returning to petrol-powered motorcycles, the Times has learned. According to a rider who switched to electric vehicles (EVs) less than a year ago, the new vehicles have experienced reliability issues that are jeopardizing his business and reducing his earnings. He also said other riders are facing similar problems. Speaking to the Times, Viktor Chan, one of the riders affected, said, “I bought the [EV] bike less than 8 months ago, and it has already broken down twice.” Chan noted that, beyond reliability, riders face another issue: the manufacturer’s refusal [⋯]

• Woman in critical condition after bus hits wheelchair user (2026-11-05 00:54)

A woman in her 90s who uses a wheelchair was struck by a bus and trapped underneath it at a signalized pedestrian crossing on Rua do Guimarães Wednesday morning. As of approximately 5 p.m. yesterday, the injured woman was conscious but suffered multiple fractures and required surgical intervention, according to the Public Security Police (PSP). Officers said it received a report at 10:53 a.m. They found the local woman injured and pinned beneath the bus. Firefighters freed her before she was taken to Conde S. Januário Hospital. The local male bus driver, in his 30s, tested negative [⋯]

• Bus operators renewed for six years with LRT transfer requirements (2026-11-05 00:52)

Macau’s two bus operators have been granted six-year contract extensions, with new terms requiring greener fleets and greater coordination with the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, following the expiration of their existing contracts at the end of the year. Under the new contracts, effective January 1, all newly registered operational vehicles must be new-energy vehicles with low-floor designs and step-free boarding at the doors. Vehicles with more than two doors may have additional steps at the rear door. By January 1, 2030, the operators – Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau, S.A. (TCM) and Transportes Urbanos de Macau S.A.R.L. (Transmac) [⋯]

• LVS chief Dumont and wife take controlling 69% stake in Mavericks (2026-11-05 00:50)

Las Vegas Sands chairman and CEO Patrick Dumont and his wife, Sivan, have acquired Miriam Adelson’s shares in the Dallas Mavericks, giving the couple a controlling 69% stake in the NBA franchise, which played in Macau last month, according to ESPN. The transaction, reported Tuesday, shifts ownership within the family that bought control of the team from Mark Cuban in

December 2023 at a $3.5 billion valuation. Adelson, Sivan's mother and Dumont's mother-in-law, previously led the ownership group, while Dumont became the Mavericks' governor and representative on the NBA's board. ESPN's Tim MacMahon reported that the purchase took place in [⋯]

• DSAL reports 3,897 workplace accident victims, four deaths (2026-11-05 00:48)

The city's cultural and recreational services sector and its hotel and restaurant industry accounted for more than half of all workplace accident victims recorded in the first nine months of the year, as authorities reported nearly 3,900 workers injured and four fatalities. A total of 3,897 workers suffered occupational accidents between January and September, a 0.85% increase from the same period last year, according to figures released by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL). Four workers died, while seven sustained permanent disabilities. The latter figure marked a sharp decline from the 71 cases recorded in the first nine months of 2025, [⋯]

• Democrats win House and Senate as voters rebuke Trump and Republicans (2026-11-05 00:46)

Democrats won control of both chambers of Congress, delivering a decisive rebuke of Republican governance and ushering in a new era of congressional resistance to President Donald Trump. Tuesday's midterm (yesterday, Macau time) elections laid bare voters' frustrations over high prices, the Iran war and government corruption. Democrats flipped states that have voted Republican for decades and that Trump won by double digits two years ago. James Talarico won a stunning Senate victory in Texas, where no Democrat had won statewide office in more than 30 years. Annie Andrews upset Sen. Darline Graham in South Carolina. Trump had thrown his [⋯]

• Two passport stories, one question of belonging (2026-11-05 00:44)

Two stories about Macau passports have surfaced in recent weeks, and together they raise something more interesting than either does alone: who gets to decide what a Macau document – or a Macau identity – means? The first is bureaucratic. A Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport holder was refused boarding at Beijing airport while transiting to Mexico, despite a valid visa-free arrangement. Ground staff cited an internal WeChat message saying Macau passports were now treated as Chinese ones. The Identification Services Bureau checked with the Mexican consulate in Hong Kong, which confirmed that the policy was unchanged and found [⋯]

• Four universities improve in QS Asia rankings (2026-11-05 00:42)

All four local universities included in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027 improved their positions, according to the latest rankings released by global higher education research organization Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The University of Macau climbed six places to 96th, while Macau University of Science and Technology rose 21 places to 190th. Macau Polytechnic University recorded the largest improvement among the four institutions, moving up 96 places

to 306th. City University of Macau advanced 63 places to 370th. The University of Hong Kong retained the top position, followed by Peking University and Tsinghua University in second and third place, respectively. [⋯]

• IAS increases number of family mediators to 57 (2026-11-05 00:40)

The SAR now has 57 family mediators following the appointment of 12 additional professionals by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), the bureau said. The second batch of appointees all hold valid social worker registration certificates and have extensive experience in family services. Before taking up their roles, the mediators completed professional training covering family mediation laws, report writing, procedural guidelines, judicial practices and practical case-sharing sessions.

• Elderly man loses MOP2 million in online investment scam (2026-11-05 00:38)

A local elderly man reported losing about MOP2.03 million in an online investment scam after being persuaded to invest in stocks by a woman he met on social media, the Judiciary Police said. The victim met the woman in September and downloaded an investment app at her instruction. Between September and Oct. 28, he transferred a total of RMB575,000 to designated mainland bank accounts. He also handed over HKD1.3 million in cash to a man designated by the scammer in three separate meetings outside his North District residence over three consecutive days from Oct. 28. The victim later discussed the [⋯]

• Thursday, November 5, 2026 – edition no. 5068 (2026-11-05 00:01)

* Charged Down — Less than a year after switching to electric bikes, some delivery riders are considering a return to petrol-powered bikes over reliability concerns, the Times has learned * Ponte 16 Crossing | Woman critical after being struck by bus in wheelchair * Transport | Bus operators renewed for six years, with LRT transfer requirements * Las Vegas Sands CEO Patrick Dumont and wife Sivan acquire 69% stake in the Mavericks, which played in Macau last month, ESPN reports * Macau records nearly 3,900 workplace accident victims, four deaths * USA: Democrats seize control of Congress, flipping Republican [⋯]

• Over 80% of full-time carers want to work but face barriers, survey finds (2026-11-04 00:50)

More than 80% of full-time family carers want to return to work but find it difficult, according to a Women’s General Association survey on balancing family and career, which found that nearly 40% of women spend more than four hours a day on caregiving and more than half bear the main caregiving responsibility. The survey, which combined questionnaires and in-depth interviews conducted between September and October, collected 672 responses and included interviews with 16 women, mostly aged 26 to 45 and with tertiary qualifications. Nearly 45% of respondents said they had chosen jobs with stable hours but fewer opportunities or [⋯]

• Casinos Gaming growth to stall below 1% as high-end demand weakens (2026-11-04 00:48)

Macau's gaming revenue is expected to grow by less than 1% in 2026, according to separate brokerage assessments, with weaker high-end demand prolonging the market's downturn. Seaport Research Partners forecasts annual gross gaming revenue (GGR) growth of 0.9%, following October's 10% year-over-year decline to MOP21.68 billion. Its outlook, issued Sunday, anticipates further weakness in November before conditions improve toward year-end. "We forecast November to remain soft with GGR down 6.1 percent year-on-year, while fourth-quarter GGR is expected to be down 5.2 percent year-on-year," senior analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote. The annual forecast implies revenue of approximately MOP249.6 billion, based on 2025's […]

• Hengqin university project drives Macao Foundation grants to MOP1.93 billion (2026-11-04 00:46)

Two universities developing a joint campus in Hengqin accounted for most of the Macao Foundation's (FM) more than MOP1.93 billion in grants distributed in the third quarter, as funding for the project pushed the quarterly total to nearly 16 times its level a year earlier. The Macao University of Tourism and Macao Polytechnic University each received MOP885.32 million to purchase land for the planned campus, according to the foundation's latest grant disclosures. The combined allocations accounted for the vast majority of the quarter's funding. The total was also more than 10 times the MOP190.22 million distributed in the second quarter […]

• Preliminary figures point to GDP growth of 2.9% in the first nine months (2026-11-04 00:44)

The local economy grew steadily in the first three quarters of this year, with preliminary figures showing gross domestic product (GDP) expanding by 2.9% year over year in real terms to MOP316.13 billion, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). DSEC said overall economic output was 89.8% of the level recorded in the same period in 2019 (pre-pandemic). Service exports grew 3.4% year over year in the first three quarters, driven by rising visitor arrivals, DSEC noted, attributing this growth to government efforts to boost visitation and a succession of large-scale themed events. Meanwhile, gross fixed capital formation grew […]

• Union Hospital takes on larger share of public healthcare workload (2026-11-04 00:42)

The Islands Healthcare Complex is taking on a growing share of the public healthcare workload, performing nearly three in 10 public-sector surgeries and handling more than 15% of emergency services by August, according to the Health Bureau (SSM). The data shows a gradual transfer of patient care to the facility, which opened in September 2024 to ease capacity at Conde de São Januário Hospital and increase treatment access. In a written reply to lawmaker Ngan Iek Hang, the bureau said the Macau Union Medical Center had conducted 44,000 specialist outpatient consultations and 32,000 diagnostic imaging examinations between January and August. […]

• Seven children placed in foster families since scheme launch (2026-11-04 00:40)

Seven children and young people have been placed in foster families since Macau's foster care service began, with figures standing at June 2026, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) said, adding that recruitment continues even though no children are currently awaiting placement. Applications opened on the Macao One Account platform in mid-May with no deadline. Foster families receive MOP2,000 upon the first placement, MOP5,438 a month for the child's expenses and a MOP7,690 monthly allowance for the foster parents. In response to public concern that some might be drawn by subsidies rather than genuine care, the bureau said it conducts strict […]

- Macau passport holder denied boarding to Mexico despite valid visa-free arrangement (2026-11-04 00:38)

A Macau special administrative region (SAR) passport holder was refused boarding on a flight to Mexico despite being eligible for visa-free entry, prompting the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) to confirm with Mexico's consulate in Hong Kong that the policy remains unchanged. The resident wrote on social media that they had spent six months preparing for a trip to Mexico's Day of the Dead festival, but were turned away by Hainan Airlines staff while transiting through Beijing. "At the counter in Beijing Capital, the ground staff glanced at our passports and said Macau passports don't qualify for visa-free entry to Mexico […]

- Macau, Hengqin add 61 remote government services (2026-11-04 00:36)

Macau residents can now access 61 additional government services through remote service counters linking the SAR and the Hengqin Cooperation Zone. Announced Tuesday, the new services cover social security, immigration, driving, taxation, education, sports, intellectual property and pharmaceutical affairs. Counters in Hengqin added 47 Macau services, while counters in Macau added 14 Hengqin services, bringing the total to 353. The SAR government said it would continue working with the Hengqin Cooperation Zone to improve the user experience and introduce additional services through different channels, allowing Macau residents to "handle their affairs more conveniently."

- Gov't to survey building conditions in historic district (2026-11-04 00:34)

Macau will begin surveying building conditions around St. Paul's Ruins on Nov. 4, starting with properties in the Rua dos Ervanários and Rua da Palha areas, as part of efforts to support targeted urban renewal. The Land and Urban Construction Bureau will conduct on-site inspections and photograph building structures, utilities and maintenance conditions. The survey will later expand to other areas, prioritising older districts. The data will help the government assess building conditions and formulate renewal measures, the Urban Renewal Committee said yesterday.

- Beijing urges Macau, Hong Kong to align five-year plans with national development (2026-11-04 00:32)

China’s central authorities have urged Macau and Hong Kong to align their development plans with the country’s 15th Five-Year Plan, strengthen governance and contribute more actively to national development. In an article published in the People’s Daily, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said the two cities should leverage their strengths to meet national needs, while implementing their own five-year plans. It also stressed the importance of upholding the “patriots governing Macau and Hong Kong” principle and improving governance under the law.

- The hidden cost of artificial intimacy (2026-11-03 00:02)

Artificial intelligence promises something human relationships rarely deliver: attention without interruption, companionship without inconvenience and reassurance on demand. For someone who feels lonely, misunderstood or rejected, that promise can be powerful. But the growing appeal of artificial intimacy raises a question we cannot leave to technology companies: what happens when our need for connection becomes a business model? The feelings involved may be entirely real. A person can develop affection, trust or even love for a chatbot. The system, however, offers no demonstrated emotional experience in return. Its language can suggest concern, remember personal details and imitate tenderness. None of […]

- Disappointing October accounts for the fifth consecutive month in the ‘red’ (2026-11-02 00:46)

Gross gaming revenue (GGR) from local casinos fell sharply in October, continuing the decline since June and marking the fifth straight month of year-over-year declines. Last month’s result (MOP21.68 billion) was 10% lower than the same month last year, when GGR reached MOP24.09 billion. Usually fueled by high visitation during the National Day Golden Week, October has historically been one of the strongest months for casino revenue. Compared with September, October still shows a 20% increase, but it adds to the poor second-half results of 2026, bringing those results closer to the government’s projection, which, at the time of the […]

- Lawmaker urges ‘seamless’ border crossings as Hengqin traffic surges (2026-11-02 00:44)

In a recent spoken inquiry at the Legislative Assembly (AL), lawmaker Lam Lon Wai has called on the government to assess whether the city’s land border crossings can handle rapidly rising vehicle traffic and to coordinate with mainland authorities to achieve fully “contactless” clearance for drivers and passengers. In the written inquiry submitted on 16 October, Lam said that growing exchanges between Macau and Guangdong, together with the development of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, had pushed cross-border vehicle flows to record levels. Lam cited Hengqin Port handling about 1.25 million vehicle crossings in 2022, rising to roughly […]

- Gastronomy decade offers lessons for other cities, tourism chief says (2026-11-02 00:42)

As the city prepares to mark the milestone anniversary next year, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that Macau's decade as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy offers lessons that could serve as a reference for other cities seeking similar recognition. "We are working with UNESCO on a research project to examine the results since Macau's designation and how it can further drive sustainable urban development, hoping to provide a reference for cities interested in applying or already designated," she said on the sidelines of the official opening of the 2026 Bocuse d'Or Asia-Pacific [⋯]

• CE praises elderly workers as a symbol of Macau's vitality (2026-11-02 00:40)

Chief Executive (CE) Sam Hou Fai has described elderly residents who remain active and socially engaged as embodying the "Vibrant Macau" vision. He recounted his decades-long relationship with his barber in a shop in an old district as an example of the city's enduring neighborhood character. In a recent blog post, Sam said he had been going to the same barbershop in an old district for more than 30 years, from his return from studying in Portugal through his time as a judge and as president of the Court of Final Appeal to his current role. "For decades, his careful [⋯]

• Skid resistance to improve on roads following motorcycle crash (2026-11-02 00:38)

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has pledged to improve the anti-slip performance of road markings, manhole covers, and bridge expansion joints following safety concerns raised by lawmaker Leong Pou U after a motorcycle accident near the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The bureau issued its response after consulting with the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), as noted in the written response. The inquiry called for a review of road design after a motorcyclist slipped near a bend on the connecting bridge linking Zone A of the New Urban Zone to the bridge's artificial island. Leong said the accident occurred at [⋯]

• Binance and billionaire founder Zhao victims of largest cryptocurrency heist (2026-11-02 00:36)

Targeted in what looks like the largest cryptocurrency heist in history, Binance and Changpeng Zhao have been front-page news for most of the crypto exchange's short history, often in unflattering ways. He and his company have been accused of turning a blind eye as the exchange was used by drug traffickers, child abusers, terrorists and money launderers. Zhao himself even went to jail over the charges. On Thursday, a hacking group, possibly from North Korea, turned against the company, allegedly stealing an estimated $6.3 billion in bitcoin and other crypto from its customers. Here's a look at the fabulously successful [⋯]

• Natural stupidity (2026-11-02 00:34)

We live in an extraordinary moment of paradox. On the one hand, never in human history has information been so abundant, so accessible, and so rapidly disseminated. Yet never has it seemed so difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood, knowledge from ignorance, and credible

information from fabricated narratives. The internet was once celebrated as the gateway to an information society, promising a world where knowledge would empower citizens, strengthen democracy, foster intellectual progress, and bring humanity closer to the truth. But is this really happening? Fueled by the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, the proliferation of fake news, the [⋯]

• Committee backs tougher penalties for collusion in social housing tenders (2026-11-02 00:30)

A new bill under scrutiny at the Legislative Assembly (AL) provides that companies found colluding in tenders for commercial units in social housing buildings would lose their deposits and could have their contracts terminated. The AL First Standing Committee said it has completed detailed scrutiny of the bill governing the allocation of commercial space in social housing buildings and signed its opinion after four meetings. The bill, which passed its first reading on June 25, aims to reform a regime in place for more than 30 years, the committee said no longer suits current economic and social conditions. It seeks [⋯]

• IAM completes 120-hectare hill forest restoration (2026-11-02 00:28)

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) completed the second phase of its hill forest restoration program in 2024, restoring 120 hectares over three years by replacing aging trees with native species to rebuild local forest ecosystems. The bureau has since carried out long-term maintenance to improve seedling survival, and said that patrols by forestry staff are routine. The IAM expects to promote more diverse vegetation in the forest to provide more and better wildlife habitats. It also said it will continue to monitor conditions and educate the public.

• First mainland yachts dock in Macau as city counts 220-plus berths (2026-11-02 00:26)

The first four mainland yachts arrived in Macau under the Guangdong-Macau yacht free-travel scheme, in a ceremony marking a new stage of two-way exchanges and connectivity between the two places. The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) said Macau now has more than 220 yacht berths, sufficient to accommodate local and non-local yachts and to support yacht exhibitions and sailing events. The bureau has also established a temporary anchorage area off Hac Sa Beach. Mainland yachts participating in the travel scheme can apply for entry and exit online, with approval completed within 48 hours if documents are complete, and the owner [⋯]

• China’s record-breaking exports of clean tech making big dent in emissions (2026-10-30 00:52)

China is exporting a record amount of clean energy technology and equipment as the energy crisis from the Iran war drives surging demand for renewables, and that will help reduce global emissions, according to a report released Thursday. Once installed or deployed, these 2026 exports will likely avert emissions of about 450 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, roughly equal to Brazil’s annual emissions, says the analysis by the Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. It’s a small sign of progress as global efforts to curb climate

change fall short. In November, Turkey will host [⋯]

• SMEs and community groups turning pink ribbon into action (2026-10-30 00:50)

In Macau, breast cancer awareness is increasingly being advanced not only by hospitals and advocacy groups but also by small businesses, survivors, and community organizations willing to make the issue visible. From Lord Stow's long-running Pink Ribbon campaign to a local survivor's account of diagnosis and recovery, and to the International Ladies' Club of Macau's (ILCM) educational initiatives, the message is consistent: early detection, open conversation, and practical support can drastically improve outcomes. The Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation, which has received donations from Lord Stow's campaign, advocates regular breast awareness and screening, including monthly self-examinations, clinical breast examinations, and, [⋯]

• A Symphony of Heritage: Reviving the Imperial Feast at Chai Jia Chai (2026-10-30 00:48)

In the heart of modern dining, where fusion often threatens to overshadow tradition, an evening at Chai Jia Chai stands as a resolute testament to the enduring majesty of Chinese gastronomy. Guided by the masterful hands of Chef Tsai Shih Wei, the meal was not merely a dinner, but a profound historical reenactment. Inspired by the Qing Dynasty's legendary Manchu Han Imperial Feast—a banquet so grand it historically spanned three days and 108 dishes—Chef Tsai has distilled that monumental heritage into a refined, contemporary tasting menu. It is a stunning revival of history, crafted with impeccable modern finesse. The evening [⋯]

• MGM hits Q3 revenue record, market share reaches 17.1% (2026-10-30 00:46)

MGM China reported record third-quarter (Q3) revenue and its highest-ever share of Macau's gaming market, though earnings growth lagged sales growth. Revenue rose 4.9% year over year to HKD8.93 billion for the three months ended Sept. 30, 2026, while adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) increased 0.9% to HKD2.39 billion. Both were third-quarter records, but not all-time quarterly highs. The operator's market share in Macau reached 17.1%, with MGM Cotai at 10.5% and MGM Macau at 6.6%. The gains contrasted with a 3.8% decline in Macau's quarterly gross gaming revenue to MOP60.22 billion, which the company attributed [⋯]

• SSM evaluates new Taipa health center as lawmaker raises access concerns (2026-10-30 00:44)

The Health Bureau (SSM) said it will continue assessing Taipa's population growth and medical needs and optimize resources in the district in response to lawmaker Leong Hong Sai's concerns about insufficient healthcare facilities and poor walking access in Taipa. In a written reply, the bureau said Macau currently has nine health centers, three health stations, and a health station at Macau New Neighborhood in Hengqin, all providing accessible community medical services. The Taipa and Lago health centers already cover most of Taipa Island, it said,

but the bureau will continue to evaluate the district's population growth and medical demand. In [⋯]

• 292-building conditions survey in historic center (2026-10-30 00:42)

The Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) announced yesterday that it will launch a building condition survey next Wednesday, with the first phase covering 292 buildings across three zones in the old district around the Ruins of St. Paul's and running for 60 to 90 days. The pilot area covers Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo, Rua da Tercena, Rua do Infante, Rua de Cinco de Outubro, and Rua das Estalagens. The authorities said the pilot program is intended to support the government's policy direction and the Third Five-Year Plan by advancing urban renewal and systematically gathering data on shared [⋯]

• Inflation up 1.33% in September due to fuel prices (2026-10-30 00:40)

The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) reported that the Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 1.33% year-over-year and 0.14% month-over-month in September 2026. For the 12 months ended September this year, the average Composite CPI increased by 1.03% compared with the previous period (October 2024 – September 2025). In September, the Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages price index rose 1.25% year-over-year, driven by higher charges for dining out and takeout, while the Transport index rose 4.39% due to rising fuel prices, DSEC noted. In addition, the price indices for Miscellaneous Goods & Services (such as personal care products, insurance, jewelry, and [⋯]

• Customs seizes MOP1.48 million in smuggled goods (2026-10-30 00:38)

Macau Customs Service (SA) intercepted 30 suspected smuggling cases in one week, seizing cigarettes, e-cigarettes, silver pellets, and other goods worth an estimated MOP1.48 million as authorities intensified border enforcement under Operation Thunder 2026. The seizures, made from Oct. 16 to 22, took place at Macau International Airport, the Inner Harbour Ferry Terminal and the Border Gate, according to the bureau. During this period, officers declared confiscating about 157,000 cigarettes and 58,000 e-cigarettes, along with 319 used electronic products, roughly 38 kilograms of suspected silver pellets, 103 cosmetic products and about 120 boxes of medical devices. In this set of [⋯]

• New parking lot at Av. Marginal do Patane opens today (2026-10-30 00:36)

A new public parking lot will open today at Avenida Marginal do Patane. The facility will offer a total of 93 motorcycle parking spaces. The new facility results from a revamp of the existing outdoor motorcycle parking area, which previously offered free parking but was often fully occupied. The lot opens at 10 a.m. today, and the Transport Bureau says it aims to increase parking turnover in the area. To that end, the facility will enforce the 30-minute parking fare and "first 15 minutes free" to facilitate short-term parking.

• CE extends condolences for the death of the former Vice Premier (2026-10-30 00:34)

Chief Executive (CE) Sam Hou Fai expressed deep sorrow at the death of former Vice-Premier Liu Yandong and, on behalf of the Macau SAR, extended condolences to her family. Liu, a former Politburo member and CPPCC vice-chairwoman, died in Beijing on the afternoon of October 28. Sam praised her leadership in education, science, health care, and women's and children's affairs, as well as her support for Macau's development. Liu visited Macau in 2006 and 2009 as deputy leader of the Central Coordination Group for Hong Kong and Macau Affairs. The CE noted that residents will remember her guidance and enduring [⋯]

• NIMBY or pension: Australia pops the data center bubble (2026-10-30 00:02)

Not in my backyard or in my retirement fund. Australia is giving us a chilling preview of how fast the trillion-dollar AI data center buildout can unwind. Builders are planning to add around 23 gigawatts of compute capacity, up from just 6 gigawatts in February, according to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The country is seen as a prime destination: It's priced competitively — rental rates in Sydney are half of those in Singapore — and the biggest cities have more space. But odds are that most of these won't materialize. Local communities are increasingly vocal, and successful pushback by [⋯]

• Friday, October 30, 2026 – edition no. 5065 (2026-10-30 00:01)

* Clean sweep — China's record-breaking clean technology exports could avert emissions equivalent to Brazil's annual output, according to a Finland-based research center * Pink ribbon, stronger community action — A Times investigation finds that SMEs and community groups are joining forces to raise breast cancer awareness and promote early detection * Taste of Edesia * Gaming: MGM China posts record Q3 revenue, lifting its market share to 17.1% despite softer overall gaming demand * SSM weighs another Taipa health center amid concerns over accessibility * City: Gov't launches a pilot survey of 292 historic center buildings to assess conditions [⋯]

• Revision cuts 2040 population forecast, earmarks land for major projects (2026-10-29 00:42)

Macau's planning population has been revised down to about 783,000 by 2040 under the government's amended Urban Master Plan (2020-2040), which also earmarks land for three major public construction projects. The revised version was presented yesterday to members of the Urban Planning Committee at a special meeting dedicated solely to this topic. The meeting, chaired by Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) director Lai Weng Leong, heard the consultant team's revised plan. According to the presentation, the amendment accommodates land needs for major public construction projects and for "1+4" industrial diversification, and updates the plan to reflect higher-level plans, legislation, [⋯]

• SCL prices US$1 billion senior unsecured notes offering (2026-10-29 00:40)

Local casino operator Sands China Ltd. (SCL) priced US$1 billion (MOP8.08 billion) of senior unsecured notes yesterday, according to a press release from its parent company, Las Vegas

Sands Corp. (LVS). The offering consists of two tranches, one of US$700 million (MOP5.7 billion) in 6.4% senior notes maturing in 2032 and another of US$300 million (MOP2.4 billion) in 6.7% senior notes maturing in 2033. The transaction is scheduled to close on Nov. 3 (next Tuesday) and is subject to customary closing conditions. According to the same statement, “Sands China intends to use the net proceeds of approximately US$989 million from […]

• Macau pitches itself as ASEAN’s gateway to GBA (2026-10-29 00:38)

Macau can bridge ASEAN and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) by improving certification services and connectivity, business and diplomatic leaders said during a panel at the 31st Macau International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF). Speaking at the ASEAN Symposium, Kelvin Tan, chairman of the Macau ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce (MAICC), said Macau’s future is “increasingly intertwined with ASEAN’s.” “We are not simply a point of transit; we are a platform. A connector. A place where ASEAN and Chinese businesses can meet, build trust, and grow together,” Tan added. The symposium, titled “Macau as the Bridge: Connecting the […]

• Macau still able to reach MOP236B gaming target, CreditSights says (2026-10-29 00:36)

Despite four consecutive months of year-over-year declines, CreditSights said Macau casinos can still meet the government’s MOP236 billion (US$29.2 billion) gross gaming revenue (GGR) target for 2026 in its latest report. The financial research firm said it was “too early to conclude” whether recent softer results signal lasting structural weakness or a cyclical slowdown. “For now, we still see room for Macau to reach its 2026 GGR target,” analysts Nicholas Chen and David Bussey said. They wrote that Macau needs an average monthly GGR of MOP16.3 billion (US$2.02 billion) in the fourth quarter to reach the annual goal. Missing the […]

• Seac Pai Van chosen as pilot for 15-minute elderly service circle (2026-10-29 00:34)

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) continues to build a “15-minute community elderly service circle” in line with its aging-in-place policy, using Seac Pai Van as a pilot site. An information zone will launch on the Macao One Account platform next month, offering an electronic map, activity registration, assistive equipment rental, and smart check-in to encourage more older residents to participate in community activities and access support. Aging in place remains the preference of most older residents and a policy goal the government is pursuing, with the bureau continuing to build community support networks in partnership with organizations. Day centers across […]

• Halal moments need more than a brochure (2026-10-29 00:30)

Macau wants a place on the Muslim travel map, and it should. The city has the hotels, food culture and connectivity to compete. What it still needs, despite a promising start, is the infrastructure and clarity that turn a “Muslim-friendly” label into something travelers can trust. The opportunity is sizable. International Muslim arrivals reached 176 million in 2024, up 25% from 2023, according to the Mastercard-CrescentRating Global Muslim Travel Index. By

2030, arrivals are projected to reach 245 million, with spending hitting US$230 billion. Macau debuted in the 2025 index, ranking 16th among destinations outside the Organization of Islamic Cooperation [⋯]

• Macau green space grows 10.3% over five years, IAM claims (2026-10-29 00:28)

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said that over the past five years, greening efforts have expanded green space under its management by 10.3% and increased tree numbers by 8.1% compared with 2020, while planting more than 19,000 mangrove seedlings. Under the Third Five-Year Plan, the bureau will add or improve at least 200,000 square meters of green space, plant about 3,000 trees, and introduce green areas to suitable footbridges and elevated walkways. The bureau said it has invited mainland experts to lead industry talks and courses, with 45 participants.

• ID’s VP retires ahead of merger (2026-10-29 00:26)

The vice-president of the Sports Bureau (ID), Cheang Kai Meng, will retire voluntarily, effective November 1, according to a publication in the government’s official gazette. The vice-president’s retirement coincides with the day the ID completes its merger with the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) to form a single bureau, the Cultural and Sports Bureau (DSCD). Cheang will retire after 30 years of public service. The Executive Council announced the merger’s procedure and timing the previous day at a press conference, noting that it had concluded its analysis of the administrative regulations and would also merge two previous funds into one.

• Another MOP100,000 lost to scams (2026-10-29 00:24)

The Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed yesterday that it had received seven additional reports of telecom fraud, involving the so-called “TikTok Customer Service” scam and the “MPay scam.” After reporting some 15 cases the day before, with losses totaling over MOP560,000, the PJ said the new cases, all of the same kind, add another MOP100,000+ to the total damages caused by this type of fraud. The new cases include three involving “TikTok” and four involving “MPay.” In the highest loss reported yesterday, a local resident lost up to MOP68,000.

• Oktoberfest kickoff at MGM Cotai (2026-10-29 00:22)

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2026 officially opened yesterday (October 28) at MGM Cotai and will run through November 8. The annual festival transforms the resort’s Roof Terrace into a Bavarian-style celebration featuring authentic German beer, traditional cuisine, and live entertainment. Having drawn over 200,000 attendees over the years, the event continues to celebrate Macau’s cultural diversity and tourism appeal. This year’s highlights include the Macau debut of the German band SAKRISCH GUAT, performing Bavarian tunes, international hits, and Chinese classics. New “Cantopop DJ Nights” on October 30 and 31 will feature Cantomania and Halloween costume contests. Guests can enjoy Paulaner [⋯]

- Thursday, October 29, 2026 – edition no. 5064 (2026-10-29 00:01)

* Population shortfall — Macau’s revised Urban Master Plan cuts its 2040 population projection by 25,000 to 783,000, while reserving land for three major public projects * Gaming | Sands China prices USD1b in new notes to refinance debt * Cooperation | Macau pitches itself as ASEAN’s gateway to the GBA * Gaming: CreditSights says Macau casinos can still meet the MOP236 billion GGR target despite four months of declines * Society: Seac Pai Van selected to pilot 15-minute elderly community service circle * China: Beijing takes Mbappé’s apology seriously after Mao remarks spark backlash, cost sponsorships and trigger broadcast […]