

MACAU SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: November 02, 2026 - November 09, 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.

Security Analysis Report: Macau (November 02, 2026 – November 09, 2026)

Executive Summary

During the period of November 02 to November 09, 2026, Macau's security landscape was primarily shaped by the significant legal proceedings and subsequent diplomatic fallout surrounding its first national security trial. The conviction and sentencing of former lawmaker Au Kam San to 12 years and six months in prison for subversion and other national security offenses on November 6, 2026, drew strong condemnation from the European Union and other international bodies. Macau's government vehemently rejected these criticisms, asserting the trial as an internal affair and defending its judicial independence. While no major new cyberattacks or military incidents were reported, ongoing efforts to enhance cybersecurity resilience and previous counter-terrorism exercises underscore a proactive, albeit domestically focused, security posture. The week also saw Macau continuing its integration into China's national development plans and hosting international forums, balancing internal security concerns with its regional and global roles.

Key Security Developments

- National Security Trial Verdict and Sentencing

On November 6, 2026, Macau's Court of First Instance delivered its verdict in the city's first national security trial, sentencing former lawmaker Au Kam San to 12 years and six months in prison. Au was found guilty of subversion against state power, establishing ties with external entities to engage in acts endangering state security, and breaching confidentiality. This landmark case, tried behind closed doors, has been a focal point of Macau's tightened national security framework, enacted and amended in 2023.

- International Condemnation of the Verdict

The European Union, the European External Action Service, the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and individual members of the European Parliament strongly deplored the conviction of Au Kam San. The EU specifically called for his

"immediate and unconditional release" and emphasized the importance of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in Macau, as protected by the Macao Basic Law and international commitments.

- Macau's Rejection of External Interference

The Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government and the Legislative Assembly issued strong statements condemning the international criticism, particularly from the European Parliament and other bodies. They asserted that the trial was a strictly internal matter, that Au Kam San's procedural rights were fully protected, and that external forces would not be allowed to interfere with Macau's judicial independence.

- Ongoing Cybersecurity Resilience Efforts

While no new major cyber incidents were reported during this specific week, the Macau government has been actively working to enhance its cybersecurity resilience. In September 2026, a sub-forum for China Cybersecurity Week was hosted in Macau, where the Judiciary Police Director pledged commitment to improving compliance guidelines for AI security and data security, and strengthening the cybersecurity talent system. This follows previous overseas cyberattacks, such as the DDoS attack on five government websites in July 2024.

- Maritime and Border Security Awareness

November 6 is annually celebrated as "Macao SAR Customs Day," highlighting the Customs Service's critical role as the "first line of defense" in monitoring maritime and coastal areas, combating illegal activities, and safeguarding border security. This period also saw the conclusion of the 2026 Maritime Festival on November 1, which aimed to raise public awareness of maritime safety and nautical culture through various activities.

- Counter-Terrorism Preparedness (Contextual)

Although no new counter-terrorism drills were conducted within this specific week, Macau's law enforcement agencies, including the Unitary Police Service and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macao Garrison, have regularly engaged in anti-terrorism exercises. A significant "Spiral Dragon" joint counter-terrorism drill was held in July 2024, simulating a chemical weapon attack and hostage situation at the Macao East Asian Games Dome. Furthermore, a broader "STEALTHNET" Counter Cyber and Physical Terrorism Joint Exercise involving Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and Korea took place in April 2026, focusing on cross-border hybrid threats.

- Integration into National Development Plans

Macau continues to align its development with China's national strategies, particularly the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) and its own 3rd Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2026-2030). These plans emphasize economic diversification,

integration into the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and leveraging Macau's role as a platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

- International Forum on Civilizations

On November 9, 2026, Macau is set to inaugurate the "International Forum on Mutual Learning among Civilizations 2026." This two-day event, themed "Mutual Learning among Civilizations, Inheritance and Development," will host nearly 300 representatives from over 20 countries, reflecting Macau's role in promoting cultural exchanges.

Cyber Threat Landscape

During the period of November 02 to November 09, 2026, no specific major cyber incidents or data breaches targeting Macau were publicly reported. However, the cyber threat landscape remains a significant concern for the Special Administrative Region. Macau's government has acknowledged a "severe cybersecurity landscape" and emerging risks, particularly from the rapid development of AI technology which makes criminal tactics more intelligent and automated, and hacker intrusions faster and stealthier.

Known threat actors, such as BRONZE HIGHLAND (a China-linked advanced persistent threat group), are known to target Macau. While no specific activity by BRONZE HIGHLAND was reported this week, their historical presence indicates an ongoing risk of state-sponsored espionage and intellectual property theft, especially targeting sectors relevant to Macau's economic diversification and integration into the Greater Bay Area. The government's response includes a commitment to improving compliance guidelines for AI security and data security, strengthening cybersecurity talent, and enhancing the overall cybersecurity resilience of civil society. The Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre, comprising officials from the Judiciary Police, Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau, and Post and Telecommunications Bureau, is actively deepening exchanges and cooperation with counterparts in Guangdong and Hong Kong to jointly safeguard the GBA's cybersecurity defenses. Past incidents, such as the distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks that took five Macau government websites offline in July 2024, highlight the persistent threat from suspected foreign hackers.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

Macau's security developments during this period, particularly the national security trial and its international repercussions, have notable geopolitical implications. The

conviction of Au Kam San and the subsequent strong condemnation from the European Union, followed by Macau's firm rejection of external interference, underscore the growing tension between Western democratic norms and China's assertion of sovereignty and national security principles over its Special Administrative Regions. This incident reinforces the narrative of "one country, two systems" being increasingly interpreted through Beijing's lens, potentially impacting Macau's perceived autonomy and its international standing.

Regionally, Macau's continued integration into the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), as outlined in China's 15th Five-Year Plan and Macau's 3rd Five-Year Plan, signifies its deepening ties with mainland China. This integration aims to foster economic diversification and leverage Macau's role as a "Golden Connector" and a platform for trade with Portuguese-speaking countries. The emphasis on "high-level security" alongside "high-quality development" in the MSAR's future outlook reflects Beijing's overarching strategy for its SARs. The "International Forum on Mutual Learning among Civilizations 2026" opening in Macau on November 9, 2026, also positions Macau as a hub for cultural diplomacy, aligning with China's broader soft power initiatives. The broader strategic landscape sees Macau as a stable, albeit increasingly controlled, component within China's sphere of influence, with its internal security measures drawing international scrutiny but unlikely to alter its fundamental alignment with Beijing.

EU Relations and Implications

Macau's relations with the European Union during this period were marked by significant friction stemming from the national security trial. The EU, through the European External Action Service and the European Parliament, strongly condemned the conviction and sentencing of former lawmaker Au Kam San, calling for his "immediate and unconditional release." This stance highlights the EU's concern for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law in Macau, which it views as essential under the Macao Basic Law and the 1987 Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration. Macau's government, however, firmly rejected these statements as "unfounded remarks" and "interference in China's internal affairs and in the affairs of the MSAR," asserting its judicial independence.

These security and cyber developments have direct implications for EU interests and EU-funded cooperation in Macau. While the EU and Macau share a long history of cultural, economic, and trade ties, with the EU being Macau's second-largest trading partner and third-largest source of foreign direct investment, the diplomatic tensions over human rights could strain future dialogues and cooperation. Existing EU cooperation projects in sectors like Trade & Investment, Education & Skills, and Development Cooperation (as per SecurityStudies.info) may face increased scrutiny or

political hurdles if the human rights situation remains a point of contention. The EU's stated commitment to "closely monitor" human rights and fundamental freedoms in Macau suggests that future engagement will likely be conditioned on these concerns, potentially impacting the scope and nature of bilateral relations.

Military and Defense Analysis

Macau maintains a unique defense posture as a Special Administrative Region of China, with its defense primarily overseen by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macao Garrison. During the period of November 02 to November 09, 2026, no specific new military activities, modernization programs, or defense acquisitions were reported. The PLA Macao Garrison's role is primarily to safeguard national security and maintain social order, as demonstrated by its participation in joint counter-terrorism drills.

For instance, the PLA Macao Garrison participated in the "Spiral Dragon" joint counter-terrorism drill in July 2024, which simulated a large-scale terrorist attack and hostage-taking scenario at the Macao East Asian Games Dome. This indicates a focus on urban counter-terrorism capabilities and inter-agency coordination. While specific defense spending trends for Macau are not readily available, its defense policy is intrinsically linked to China's national defense strategy, emphasizing integration and stability within the Greater Bay Area. The PLA garrisons in Hong Kong and Macau are also expected to participate in more overseas drills to enhance their capabilities, serving as "windows for the PLA to connect with the outside world," as observed in past exercises like "Peace and Friendship 2018" with Malaysia and Thailand. Overall, Macau's military and defense capabilities are integrated into China's broader framework, with a focus on internal security and regional stability, rather than independent force projection or significant defense acquisitions.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months):

In the immediate future, Macau is likely to continue navigating the diplomatic fallout from the Au Kam San national security trial. The government will likely maintain its firm stance against external interference, while international bodies, particularly the EU, will persist in monitoring the human rights situation. This could lead to continued verbal exchanges and potentially impact the tone of bilateral engagements, though significant economic or trade disruptions are not immediately anticipated given the established ties. Internally, the focus will remain on implementing the 3rd Five-Year

Plan for Economic and Social Development (2026-2030), with an emphasis on economic diversification and integration into the Greater Bay Area. The "International Forum on Mutual Learning among Civilizations 2026" will proceed, aiming to bolster Macau's role in cultural diplomacy.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas:

The primary flashpoint remains the interpretation and enforcement of national security laws, particularly concerning freedom of expression and political dissent. Any further arrests or trials under these laws, especially involving individuals with international connections, could reignite diplomatic tensions. The ongoing cyber threat landscape, including potential state-sponsored attacks (e.g., from BRONZE HIGHLAND) and criminal activities, poses a persistent risk to Macau's critical infrastructure and digital economy. While no immediate military flashpoints are evident, regional geopolitical tensions, particularly in the South China Sea or concerning Taiwan, could indirectly affect Macau's security posture due to its integration with mainland China's defense framework.

Indicators to monitor:

Key indicators to monitor include any further statements or actions from the EU or other international bodies regarding human rights in Macau, and the Macau government's response. Observe any new legislative developments related to national security or cybersecurity, and the implementation progress of the 3rd Five-Year Plan, particularly its impact on civil society and economic diversification. Watch for reports of significant cyber incidents or changes in the government's cyber policy. Any visible changes in the posture or activities of the PLA Macao Garrison would also be noteworthy, though unlikely in the short term without broader regional shifts.

Strategic recommendations:

For international stakeholders, a balanced approach is recommended, combining principled advocacy for human rights and rule of law with continued engagement on economic and cultural fronts. For Macau, strengthening its cybersecurity defenses through international collaboration and investment in talent development is crucial to protect its digital infrastructure and economic interests. Transparent communication regarding legal processes, where national security permits, could help mitigate international criticism. Continued focus on economic diversification and regional integration, while upholding the "one country, two systems" principle, will be key to Macau's long-term stability and prosperity.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Macau Daily Times

• Population growth masks continued decline in births (2026-11-09 00:52)

Macau's population continued to expand in the third quarter of 2026 despite a sustained decline in newborns, with incoming residents offsetting the shrinking number of births and adding to the city's changing demographic profile. The latest figures from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) show that 2,037 babies were born between January and September, down 4.4% from the same period last year, representing 93 fewer newborns. The decline follows a record low in 2025, when Macau registered just 2,871 births, the fewest since 1978, when the city recorded 2,407 newborns under Portuguese administration. The latest figures suggest that the downward [⋯]

• Community spending scheme injects MOP543 million into market in first three weeks (2026-11-09 00:50)

The 2026 Community Spending Rewards scheme has injected MOP543 million into the market in its first three weeks, with MOP113 million in electronic vouchers redeemed and MOP27.03 million in card-based spending, the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) said. Speaking on public broadcaster TDM's radio program Sunday, bureau director Yau Yun Wah joined Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) deputy director Cheng Wai Tong and Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) acting president Leong Wa Fong to review this year's efforts to attract visitors to local communities and revitalize the economy. Yau said the government launched two major consumption initiatives [⋯]

• Visitors spent 16% more in first nine months of 2026 (2026-11-09 00:48)

Visitor's non-gaming spending totaled MOP67.56 billion in the first three quarters of 2026, up 16% year over year, according to a survey by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). DSEC said the increase was mainly driven by same-day visitors, whose spending rose 59.9% year over year to MOP18.35 billion. Spending by overnight visitors grew at a slower pace, rising 5.2% to MOP49.21 billion. However, this group accounted for the largest share of total spending, at 72.8%. Overall per-capita spending reached MOP2,099 from January to September, up 6.9% year over year. Per-capita spending by overnight visitors (MOP3,970) and same-day visitors (MOP927) increased [⋯]

• IAM records 27% drop in public hygiene violations (2026-11-09 00:46)

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) recorded 9,013 violations of public hygiene regulations in the first nine months of 2026, a 27% decrease from the same period last year, marking the

lowest total for the period since records began in 2020. According to statistics published by the bureau, the number of violations fell from 12,306 in January-September 2025. September was the only month to record a year-on-year increase, with 84 more cases than a year earlier, mainly due to a rise in violations involving the improper placement or abandonment of materials and objects. The most common offense was the abandonment of [⋯]

• Only 28% of residents would report food safety problems, survey finds (2026-11-09 00:44)

Nearly 94% of residents said they would take action if they encountered a food safety problem, but only 28.5% would report it to the government, according to a survey by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions involving 1,133 respondents between January and November. Residents expressed the greatest confidence in the government's food safety testing and information disclosure, giving regulators an average score of 3.51 out of 5, compared with 3.28 for food producers' and brands' self-regulation. The most requested improvements were stronger inspections and penalties for restaurants and takeaway outlets (44.4%), followed by greater transparency and easier access to food [⋯]

• A place for older generations in the age of AI (2026-11-09 00:42)

Artificial intelligence is often associated with younger generations, tech-savvy professionals and people who have grown up surrounded by digital devices. Yet, as AI becomes increasingly embedded in everyday life, one group that could benefit considerably from its development is older adults. For generations who did not grow up with smartphones, online banking or digital communication, adapting to rapidly changing technology has not always been easy. And I say this because, even as a millennial, keeping up with the rapid evolution of technology today is not as easy as it once was. Tasks that once involved speaking to someone over the [⋯]

• Residential property prices fall 4.7% in Q3 (2026-11-09 00:40)

The overall residential property price index fell 4.7% quarter over quarter to 183.3 in the third quarter of 2026, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Prices of existing homes dropped 4.9% to 194.9, while pre-sale units declined 1.4% to 241.6. Existing home prices fell 5.6% on the Macau Peninsula and 2.6% in Taipa and Coloane. Year over year, the overall index decreased 4.3%.

• Police use drones to catch speeding drivers, illegal vehicle modifications (2026-11-09 00:38)

Police intercepted 20 vehicles suspected of illegal modifications and recorded 13 speeding violations during a weeklong operation from Oct. 31 to Nov. 7 ahead of the Macau Grand Prix. The vehicles included 13 motorcycles, six cars and one moped. Officers used drones to monitor roads, including the Guia Circuit, and relay suspects' locations to ground patrols. Violations included modified exhausts, noncompliant tires and concealed license plates. Owners were ordered to undergo inspections.

• 81 pedestrians for traffic violations in one week (2026-11-09 00:36)

Police cited 81 pedestrians for traffic violations across the city between Oct. 26 and Nov. 1, the Public Security Police Force said. The force urged pedestrians to use designated crossings and avoid jaywalking or obstructing traffic. Violations of the Road Traffic Law carry a MOP300 fine. Drivers were also reminded to remain alert to road conditions to help maintain traffic safety.

• Bill could bring yoga and Pilates studios under gym rules (2026-11-09 00:34)

Yoga and Pilates studios equipped with large apparatus, such as reformer beds and shaping machines, may need to be regulated as gyms, a Legislative Assembly committee has suggested, raising questions about whether such premises should face the same safety requirements. The question arose as the assembly's Third Standing Committee completed its first article-by-article review of the Bill on the Regulation of Specific Businesses and Activities on Friday. Chairman Leong Sun Iok and secretary Leong Hong Sai said the committee would compile a list of questions for the government. Under the bill, gyms would no longer face restrictions on opening hours, […]

• Au Kam San sentenced to 12 years and six months in city's first national security case (2026-11-06 04:46)

Former lawmaker Au Kam San was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison today after being convicted of subversion, two counts of establishing links with organizations outside Macau to commit acts endangering national security, and breach of professional secrecy in the city's first case involving alleged violations of the National Security Law. The Court of First Instance announced the sentence following hearings on Sept. 16 and 18. The case marks the first prosecution involving violations of the National Security Law since the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region. According to a statement issued by the court, […]

• Survey finds demand for stronger housing, childcare and parental leave support (2026-11-06 00:46)

Local residents want stronger support for starting and raising families, with housing assistance, stable employment and more flexible childcare arrangements emerging as main concerns in a new survey. Most respondents want parents to have more flexibility in managing childcare, with 67% calling for dedicated leave and 55.9% backing stronger paternity leave provisions. According to a survey by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions' Women's Committee and the Macau Dual Career Women Association, nearly half of residents want substantive housing support to help them have children, while more than eight in 10 see stable income and job security as central to […]

• Nearly 85% of local concertgoers travel abroad for live shows, report finds (2026-11-06 00:44)

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

findings come from The Concert Travel Effect in Asia, jointly released by Trip.com Group and Live Nation Asia at a media briefing in Singapore Wednesday. More than 80% of Macau respondents also identified concerts and live performances as an appealing reason to travel. The lineup appears to carry more weight than the destination itself for many fans. About 69% of respondents said the performers or festival lineup mattered more [⋯]

• A fiery milestone: Feng Wei Ju’s 20th anniversary tribute to Starworld Macau (2026-11-06 00:42)

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the iconic Starworld Macau, a special commemorative dinner was hosted at its crown jewel, Feng Wei Ju. Holding two Michelin stars, this esteemed restaurant is celebrated for its fiery yet refined take on Hunan and Sichuan cuisine. For this milestone occasion, the kitchen delivered a masterful “Michelin Appetizer” tasting menu that harmoniously blended regional spice with premium global ingredients, all perfectly paired with exceptional Chinese wines. The evening began with a spectacular array of cold appetizers that teased the palate with vibrant flavors. Highlights included the Marinated Razor Clams with Peppercorns and Chili, which [⋯]

• Melco’s Q3 profit drops to almost zero as revenue falls 10% (2026-11-06 00:40)

Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited saw profitability collapse in the third quarter (Q3) of this year, with net income attributable to shareholders plunging from USD74.7 million (MOP603.5 million) a year earlier to just $34,000 (MOP274,703), effectively erasing its quarterly earnings. The company presented the results during its quarterly earnings call on Wednesday night (Macau time). Melco reported a deterioration in its unaudited financial results, with operating revenue down 10.4% year over year to $1.17 billion (MOP9.45 billion), compared with $1.31 billion (MOP10.58 billion) in the corresponding quarter of 2025. More significantly, the company reported a consolidated net loss of $9.1 [⋯]

• Summit puts medical tourism and preventive healthcare at center of growth plans (2026-11-06 00:38)

Macau’s tourism industry should expand into preventive healthcare and longevity services, medical and business leaders said Thursday at the inaugural Greater Bay Area Health and Longevity Summit. Melco chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho linked the initiative to Macau’s “1+4” economic diversification strategy, which identifies healthcare as a growth industry alongside the city’s tourism base. “We believe the future of premium travel lies where world-class hospitality meets cutting-edge wellness,” Ho said in his opening remarks. He also pointed to the newly launched iRad Hospital at Studio City as an example of combining diagnostic imaging, health assessments and longevity services with resort [⋯]

• Gov’t recovers another four land parcels for temporary parking lot (2026-11-06 00:36)

The Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) announced that the government had carried out a joint interdepartmental operation to reclaim four state-owned plots of land along Estrada

do Canal dos Patos in northern Macau. The reclaimed plots are part of a group of 39 parcels previously designated for temporary-use projects. In this case, the land parcels will be handed over to the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) to build a temporary parking lot, DSSCU added. The plots are located at the intersection of Estrada do Canal dos Patos, Travessa do Canal dos Patos and Travessa do Narciso. They comprise three plots [⋯]

• Gov't moves to remove more than 100 road manhole covers (2026-11-06 00:34)

The government has set up a working group to reduce the number of manhole covers on the city's roads, with eight projects so far adopting measures expected to eliminate more than 100 covers, the Central District Community Service Consultative Committee heard on Thursday. The committee held its 11th regular meeting of the year, at which it invited representatives from the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), Transport Bureau (DSAT), Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) and Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) to brief members on progress. The Northeast Avenue elevated walkway project, which is now undergoing sewer connections and road restoration, is expected to [⋯]

• MUST smart campus platform wins international communication award (2026-11-06 00:32)

The Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has won first place in the Excellence in Digital Community Engagement category at the 2026 Sharjah Government Communication Award for its internally developed WeMust Smart Campus platform. The awards ceremony was held Nov. 2 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. MUST said it was the first institution in China to receive the award. Vice president Tong Ka Lok, who oversees the project's strategic planning, accepted the award on behalf of the university. Organized by the Sharjah Government Media Bureau, the awards recognize projects in government communication and public engagement. This year's edition received [⋯]

• El Niño keeps typhoon activity low, but more storms possible (2026-11-06 00:30)

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

• Facial recognition clearance reaches 19.7 million uses in first year (2026-11-06 00:28)

All 250 joint-inspection self-service channels at Macau's cooperative border checkpoints now use facial recognition clearance, marking the first anniversary of the measure yesterday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said. As of the end of last month, 664,000 people had registered for smart clearance at Guangdong-Macau checkpoints, with 19.66 million uses recorded in total – 10.28 million at Hengqin, 9.15 million at Qingmao and 228,000 at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's Zhuhai-Macau hall. Facial recognition clearance for the joint

one-stop vehicle lane at Hengqin began on May 7, with 32,000 registrations and 1.43 million uses, accounting for nearly 71.6% of all […]

• Trump has defied political consequences for years. The midterms changed that (2026-11-06 00:02)

For more than a decade, Donald Trump defied the rules of politics that applied to everyone else. Tuesday's elections changed that. Voters categorically repudiated a president who imposed unilateral tariffs that undermined the economy and started a war that raised fuel prices and angered Americans opposed to another Middle East conflict. His outside investments and Washington renovations reinforced perceptions that he showed little empathy for people struggling financially. Having survived scandals, impeachments and a criminal conviction, Trump approached the midterms as another hurdle he could clear through personality, insisting the economy was fine and war with Iran was necessary to […]

• Friday, November 6, 2026 – edition no. 5069 (2026-11-06 00:01)

* Baby blues — Residents demand stronger housing assistance, job security and parental leave as mounting financial pressures weigh on decisions to start families * Fans on the move | 85% of Macau concertgoers travel outside the city for performances * Taste of Edesia * Profit wipeout: Melco's third-quarter earnings plunge to near zero as gaming weakness drives revenue down 10% and debt pressures mount * Macau eyes medical tourism and preventive healthcare as new growth engines * Bomb scares: Multiple flights across Europe face diversions, emergency landings and fighter jet escorts following another wave of threats DOWNLOAD PDF […]

• Multiple flights in Europe diverted because of bomb threats after earlier hoaxes (2026-11-05 13:27)

MILAN — Multiple flights in Europe were targeted by bomb threats on Thursday, forcing emergency landings, searches and in several cases military escorts, in fresh disruptions following hoax threats earlier this week. More than a dozen flights from cities including Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Madrid, Milan and Warsaw were confirmed to have been targeted with bomb threats, most diverted to other airports for emergency landings while others landed safely at their destinations. So far inspections have not turned up hazardous or suspicious materials. Such threats are not new, but the latest incidents come at a time of increased geopolitical tensions and […]

• 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 [⋯]