

# Big Taipa Hill Tunnel project to start in Q2 next year



These two artist's renditions downloaded from the Public Works Bureau's (DSOP) website yesterday show the future Big Taipa Hill Tunnel at its north (left) and south sides respectively.

**Tony Wong**

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said yesterday that it expects the government's Big Taipa Hill Tunnel project to get off the ground in the second quarter of next year.

The bureau launched a limited tender on May 29 for the project when it requested construction companies to submit their intentions to bid for the project by July 29. After an assessment, which has now started, the bureau will ask the top five companies with

the highest scores to submit their quotations.

According to a DSOP statement yesterday, eight construction companies have submitted their intentions to bid for the project, which were unsealed by DSOP officials yesterday.

The eight intentions to bid for the project will now be assessed based on four criteria, namely their respective general ability to carry out construction projects (accounting for 40 percent of the scores), construction

techniques and experience (accounting for 30 percent), human resources (accounting for 20 percent), and interview results with officials (accounting for 10 percent).

Only after the bureau chooses the top five companies, will the deadline for submitting the final quotations be announced.

The project is to build a vehicular tunnel under Big Taipa Hill, which will enable drivers to travel more directly between Cotai and Pac On, where the soon-to-open

Macau Bridge lands.

Macau's fourth sea-crossing bridge connecting the Macau peninsula and Taipa island, which has been officially named Macau Bridge, can open later this quarter, the government said early this month.

The fourth Macau-Taipa bridge connects the Zone A land reclamation area on the peninsula side and the Zone E1 land reclamation area off Pac On at the Taipa side.

*Continued on p.5*

## Trump security was unaware of gunman until shots fired: Secret Service

**Chris Lefkow**

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's security detail and a sniper team were not aware there was a gunman on a roof until he opened fire on the former president, the acting Secret Service director said yesterday.

Local law enforcement identified the gunman, Thomas Matthew Crooks, as a "suspicious person" about 90 minutes before the July 13 attack at a Trump campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, according to FBI officials.

Since the assassination attempt, questions have been raised about when the Secret Service became aware of the

presence of the gunman on the roof of a building that overlooked the campaign event.

"Based on what I know right now, neither the Secret Service counter-sniper teams nor members of the former president's security detail had any knowledge that there was a man on the AGR roof with a firearm," acting Secret Service chief Ronald Rowe told a joint Senate committee.

"The only thing we had was that locals were working an issue at the three o'clock, which would have been the former president's right-hand side, which is where the shots came from," Rowe said.

—AFP



China's Zhang Yihan competes in the uneven bars event of the artistic gymnastics women's team final during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Bercy Arena in Paris, yesterday. (More on pages 13-16) — AFP

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### Xi urges efforts to realize 2024 economic goals

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has called for striving to realize economic and social development goals in 2024.

— Story on p. 7

### Third child dies following mass stabbing in UK

A third child died yesterday and five others remained critically injured after a knife attack on a Taylor Swift-themed dance event in a quiet seaside community in northern England, police said.

— Story on p. 11

### Celestial mixes: Portugal's star DJ priest

With his chubby cheeks and clerical collar, Don Guilherme Peixoto doesn't exactly look like an electronic music star.

— Story on p. 12



# Health Bureau logs 22 suicides in Q2, youngest victim aged 12

Yuki Lei

Nine males and 13 females committed suicide during the second quarter of this year, with the youngest victim aged 12 only, according to a statement by the Health Bureau (SSM) yesterday.

There were 22 suicides among 19 local residents and three non-local residents aged between 12 and 76 between April and June, the statement noted, the number of which was the same as in the first quarter and down by two compared to the same period of last year.

According to an SSM statement in May, 22 males and females – 21 local residents and one non-resident aged between 17 and 75 – died due to suicide in the first three months of this year, and the reasons why they

committed suicide “may have been related to” mental illnesses, chronic diseases or physiological disorders, while the causes of suicide in the second quarter “were mainly due to” mental illness, gambling, or financial issues.

In both statements, the bureau underlined that the factors contributing to suicide are complex and often involve mental illness, psychological, socio-economic, familial, interpersonal and biogenetic reasons and, therefore, it is necessary for the whole community to pay attention to, and actively participate in suicide prevention and control as gatekeepers, i.e., to be more in touch with, care for and listen to those around us in our daily lives, while encouraging those who are

emotionally disturbed to take an active role in seeking professional help.

The bureau calls upon those who are going through emotional distress or feeling hopeless to call Caritas Macau’s Lifeline Hotline on 2852 5222 and Expat Life Hope on 2852 5777 for emotional counselling services in Chinese and English respectively, while also visiting the bureau’s “Mental Health Information Website” at <https://www.ssm.gov.mo/apps1/mentalhealth/ch.aspx#clg28356>.

The statements noted that the accessibility of mental health services in Macau is high, and residents can make appointments for the use of mental health services, without the need for referrals, at



This poster from the Caritas Macau website shows its Expat Life Hope Hotline 2852 5777 for Macau’s non-Chinese speaking communities.

health centres in Tap Seac, Fai Chi Kei, Areia Preta, Ilha Verde and Praia do Manduco, as well as Taipa’s Lago Health Centre, Ocean Gardens Health Centre, and Coloane’s Seac Pai Van Health Centre. ■

## IAM consultative committee worries about food safety in summer

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau’s (IAM) Consultative Committee held a regular meeting yesterday during which committee member Lo Kam Kuan expressed concern about food safety especially in the summer, as the bureau had recently discovered that the raw marinated shrimp in a local restaurant contained *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, as well as a number of cases of suspected gastroenteritis occurring every year.

Lo made the remarks during the government-appointed committee’s meeting, adding that the catering sector’s knowledge of food safety and hygiene was relatively weak, and the maintenance of restaurants’ facilities was insufficient, suggesting that the bureau’s

campaigns promoting food safety should be strengthened.

Committee member Wong Sok Kuan also raised concern about food safety as earlier this month a Hong Kong branded bottled preserved bean curd was found to contain an excessive amount of *Bacillus cereus*.

Wong suggested stepping up inspections of food products imported from neighbouring regions that have shown frequent food safety problems, especially prepacked and processed foods, as well as strengthening cooperation with food safety authorities in neighbouring regions, and conducting a study on the convergence of rules and regulations on food safety management in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). ■



Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) Consultative Committee members meet yesterday at the IAM headquarters on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro. – Photo: Ginnie Liang

## Man threatens café owner with knife for ‘bad service’

William Chan

A local man has been arrested for slapping and threatening a café owner whom he deemed to have provided him with bad service, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Wai Chon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect surnamed Wong, in his thirties, told the police that he’s a businessman. The café is located on Rua Nova à Guia.

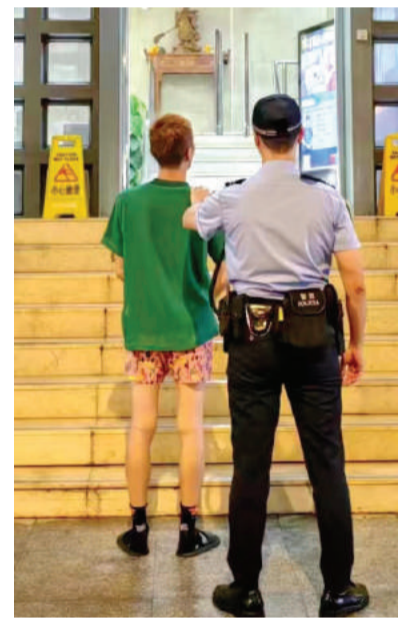
According to the spokesman, a local café owner reported to the police on Sunday afternoon that earlier that day a man had visited his eatery, ordered coffee, and suddenly became angry, leading to a physical altercation when the customer slapped him.

The male victim told the police that Wong then went to his home, grabbed a fruit knife, returned to the café placed it on the counter to intimidate him, and threatened to “bring a gun next time” before leaving.

The police arrested Wong in the neighbourhood 10 minutes after the incident. Under questioning, Wong admitted to intimidating the café owner because of what he considered



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the fruit knife used by the local suspect.



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the local suspect to a police station in Zape.

poor customer service but denied physically assaulting him. However, CCTV footage showed that he did slap the café owner.

The spokesman noted that the fruit knife carried by Wong had a

blade length of 11 centimetres.

Wong has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of bodily harm, intimidation and possessing a prohibited weapon. ■

## Hotel guests rise 20 pct to 7.27 million in H1

Staff Reporter

Macau’s 143 hotels recorded 7.27 million guests in the first half of this year, a year-on-year growth of 20.4 percent, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) has announced.

According to a DSEC statement on Monday, the number of hotel guests in the first six months rose 5.3 percent compared with the same period of pre-pandemic 2019.

The number of foreign guests, i.e., those not from the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong, increased 136.6 percent to 542,000, or 7.4 percent of the total number of guests.

Guests from South Korea increased 270.6 percent to 149,000, or 27.5 percent of all foreign guests.

Guests’ average length of stay remained unchanged year on year at 1.7 nights.

The total number of available guest rooms rose 9.1 percent to 47,000 at the end of June. Guestrooms’ average occupancy rate grew by 6.1 percentage points

year on year to 84.0 percent in the first half.

In June, the hotel industry recorded 1.14 million guests, up by 0.4 percent year on year. ■



Undated file photo of Grand Coloane Resort – Photo courtesy of Booking.com

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### Macau Weather

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FORCE 3 TO 5 SOUTH TO  
SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS WITH  
GUSTS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY  
WILL RANGE BETWEEN  
75% AND 98%.**



**25°C~30°C**

Source: SMG



# Broadway musical Annie to make Asian debut at CCM on Friday



Broadway musical Annie's actors Christopher Swan as Oliver Warbucks (from second left to right), Rainey Trevino as Annie, Stefanie Londino as Miss Hannigan, and programme manager Heather Chockley speak to an MC (left) during yesterday's meet-the-press event at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape. – Photos: Yuki Lei



The show's little actors pose with the alphabet cards for the 1st Macao International Children's Arts Festival, after the event.

**Yuki Lei**  
As one of the highlights of the 1st Macao International Children's Arts Festival, the Broadway classic Annie the Musical will make its Asian debut in Macau, with 12 performances between Friday and August 14, in the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium, and the production team said during a meet-the-press event yesterday it hopes to bring the following message to the audience: "Just be yourself, be optimistic and the sun will come out tomorrow".

Under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture and organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) in conjunction with various local entities, the first edition of the Macao International Children's Arts Festival was launched on July 21, with a two-month programme that includes a mix of performing arts, Broadway musicals, art exhibitions, film screenings, large-scale outdoor installations, art camps, masterclasses, workshops, and arts carnivals.

The bureau held the meet-the-press event yesterday afternoon at the Macau Cultural Centre in which the Annie production team and various performers together with canine performer Kevin to talk about the highlights and behind-the-scenes stories of the musical, including its programme manager – Heather Chockley, and actors – Rainey Trevino as Annie, Stefanie Londino as Miss Hannigan, and Christopher Swan as Oliver Warbucks.

Featuring classic tunes like Tomorrow and It's the Hard Knock Life, the musical – debuted on Broadway in 1977 – tells the inspirational adventure story of Annie, an orphan girl who fights against her fate, "determined to find her parents, fleeing from the evil clutches of Miss Hannigan, the orphanage's spiteful mistress, little Annie escapes to the wondrous world of New York City. There, she finds a new family at Oliver Warbuck's mansion—a lonely, eccentric billionaire that will change her life forever," the bureau said in a statement, which noted that adapted from Harold Gray's comic strip "Little Orphan Annie", the musical won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and was the third longest running Broadway musical in the 1970s.

"Just be yourself, be optimistic – As like Annie says in the show, the sun will come out tomorrow, which means every cloud has a silver lining. Anything that seems bad in the moment, it's only that moment. It's more or less likely that it's going to be over within a little bit. But stay strong, be optimistic. Things may not always turn out how you want them to, but you can always try to find the bright side of that," 13-year-old Trevino said during yesterday afternoon's meeting with the press, adding that her message was addressed to "any girl anywhere".

By staging the family-friendly musical, which has been performed in Europe and North America over 2,000 times, but in Asia and,

consequently, in Macau for the first time, the production team stressed that "it's the same show" as the one staged in North America, adding that the only difference between the performance in North America and Macau was that some subtitles will be shown on the side of the stage here: "We didn't have to make very

many adjustments at all it is the same show that you would see in North America".

The team arrived in Macau from the US to perform, and Kevin the dog also flew in from the US by special arrangement, and its members told the local media that they were full of excitement looking

forward to meeting the Macau audience, including Trevino, who said that as she grows older, she may not be able to play the role of Annie again, but passing the torch to the next girl so that different actresses would have the chance to carry the story forward, while she might then play other characters in the show. ■



Members of the show's production team, including canine performer Kevin (front), pose after yesterday's event.

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# HK Int'l Band Fair features Macau school band

## William Chan in Hong Kong

Macau's Chan Sui Ki Perpetual Help College Wind Band on Monday participated in the Hong Kong International Band Fair 2024 at Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium in Hong Kong's New Territories. I took part as a member of my alma mater.

Established in 2018 by its current conductor Cynthia Lao Cheng Han, the band has performed in various school activities and public events. Monday marked our inaugural performance outside Macau.

Despite having graduated from the school a decade ago, I delightedly joined the young musicians from my old school. It's truly rewarding to observe the passion and progress within our school band.

During our set, we presented a repertoire of four pieces, ranging from the classic piece Waltz No. 2 by Shostakovich to the lively and contemporary overture Landscapes by Rossano Galante.

The Hong Kong band fair also attracted bands from the mainland and Taiwan, spanning diverse genres and age groups—from youth bands to

community ensembles. A total of 13 wind bands participated in Monday's event. The array of bands from Hong Kong was impressive, featuring alumni groups, student bands, and ensembles with semi-professional musicians, each showcasing unique styles and strengths.

Performing on a stage was an invaluable experience for our band. We not only had the opportunity to showcase our talents but also learnt and drew inspiration from the other talented musicians. It was an enriching and memorable event overall.



Chan Sui Ki Perpetual Help College Wind Band performs on Monday at Tsuen Wan Town Hall Auditorium in Hong Kong. - Photos taken by teachers, students and parents



## IAM to organise various animal protection events next month

Leong Ian Kio

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said in a statement yesterday that it will organise a raft of animal protection activities next month, such as “Talk on Health and Veterinary Care of Dogs” and “Talk on Adoption of Dogs and Cats”, and “Pet Preparatory Class – Pet Information Station”, with the aim of continuing to raise awareness of animal disease prevention, pet adoption and being a responsible owner.

The statement noted that the bureau and several animal protection organisations have jointly organised talks on health and veterinary care about mixed breed dogs and various other dog breeds, which, the statement said, have been well received by pet owners.

The statement said that the bureau and several animal protection groups will jointly hold a talk about Bichon Frisé on August 11, briefing participants about the dog breed’s habits, common diseases, clinical symptoms, and treatment methods,

enabling pet owners to gain a better understanding of the characteristics of their pets and develop the awareness of prevention and healthcare as early as possible.

The Bichon Frisé (“curly haired small dog”) is a Franco-Belgian breed.

In addition, the statement said, a “Pet Preparatory Class – Pet Information Station” will be held in Flora Garden on August 24, where there will be gaming booths, painting and drawing sessions, and exhibition activities. A lucky draw will be held to choose 40 participants who will each receive a 200-pataca supermarket voucher.

The statement said that the event on August 24 will also include pet adoption enquiry sessions and rabies vaccination services. The respective pet owners will be required to make an appointment on the bureau’s “Online Booking System” (<https://app.iam.gov.mo/iambooking>) for the rabies vaccination services.

The statement also pointed out

that the dogs and cats for adoption in the bureau’s kennels are mainly mixed breed dogs and domestic shorthair cats. Due to their genetic diversity, the statement said, they have a stronger physique and better adaptability to local conditions, making them suitable for adoption as companion animals.

The statement said that those interested in adopting can sign up for one of the two “Talk on Adoption of Dogs and Cats” to be held at the Macau Municipal Kennel on Avenida do Almirante Lacerda on August 31, between 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., and between 11:45 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively, through their Macao One Account free of charge.

According to the statement, the event on August 31 will include a tour of the kennels, enabling prospective adopters to interact with the dogs and cats up for adoption. Details of the event can be checked on the bureau’s Macau Animal Health Control Website (<https://www.iam.gov.mo/canil>). ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows a “Pet Preparatory Class – Pet Information Station” event earlier this year.

## Foreign tour groups entering Hainan from HK, Macau now enjoy 144-hour visa-free privilege

Chen Bowen

HAIKOU – The National Immigration Administration announced yesterday a 144-hour visa-free policy for foreign tourist groups entering Hainan Province from Hong Kong or Macau.

The measure took effect yesterday.

According to the notice, citizens holding ordinary passports from countries with diplomatic relations with China can enjoy visa-free travel to Hainan for up to 144 hours (six days) after visiting the Hong Kong or Macau special administrative regions and joining a tour group of two or more individuals organised by a legally registered travel agency in Hong Kong or Macau.

Visitors must enter and exit as a group through designated checkpoints in Hainan, with activities limited to the province. The duration of stay will be calculated starting from the day after entry.

The new policy is the latest

measure taken by the administration to further support the comprehensive deepening of high-level opening up in Hainan and to provide services for the construction of the Hainan Free Trade Port, according to a representative from the National Immigration Administration.

This move aims to promote Hainan as a “highland of openness” with a favourable business environment. Additionally, the policy is expected to facilitate the economic development of Hong Kong and Macau, promote exchanges between the two regions and the Hainan Free Trade Port, and better integrate them into the national development framework.

The representative said the administration will continue to optimise and improve regional visa-free entry policies, further advance the immigration management system, and more openly welcome foreign nationals to China.

– Courtesy China Daily

## Over 7,600 traffic accidents result in 2 deaths in H1

Ginnie Liang

Macau recorded 7,666 traffic accidents in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of 18.3 percent, resulting in two deaths and 2,721 injured people, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced in a statement yesterday.

In June, the number of traffic accidents dropped 7.0 percent year-on-year to 1,257, with 390 people injured, the statement said.

The number of licensed motor vehicles stood at 250,633 at the end of June, up by 0.4 percent year-on-year, with light automobiles (117,103) rising by 2.3 percent.

New registration of motor

vehicles in the first half of the year went down by 0.9 percent year-on-year to 5,943, including 1,814 electric vehicles, of which the number of heavy motorcycles declined 30.4 percent to 2,170 (542 of which were electric), the statement said.

Macau’s cross-border vehicular traffic in the first half of the year rose 30 percent year-on-year to 4,304,355 trips, according to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC), the statement said.

The gross weight of containerised cargo by land (34,754 tonnes) increased 114.6

percent year-on-year, with cargo passing through the checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (34,039 tonnes) accounting for 97.9 percent, the statement said.

Macau’s cross-border vehicular traffic passes through several Macau-Zhuhai land border checkpoints as well as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint.

Meanwhile, car trips made under the “Northbound Travel for Macao Vehicles” policy (709,000) and Macau car trips to and from Hong Kong (128,000) increased 72.9 percent and 68.1 percent respectively. ■

## Big Taipa Hill Tunnel project to start in Q2 next year

Continued from p.1

The DSOP statement noted that “a straight traffic line” between Rotunda do Aeroporto near Cotai and Pac On where the Macau Bridge lands is currently blocked by Big Taipa Hill, aka Taipa Grande in Portuguese and “Tai Tam San” in Cantonese.

Rotunda do Aeroporto is located outside the University Hospital of the private Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST).

The statement said that a vehicular tunnel under Big Taipa Hill will enable vehicles to travel between Macau Bridge and Cotai more directly, providing faster movement between the Macau peninsula and Cotai.

In addition to shortening the driving time between the peninsula and Cotai, the statement said, the Big Taipa Hill Tunnel will also be able to alleviate traffic pressure on Estrada de Pac On and Avenida Wai Long where the airport and the Taipa Ferry Terminal are located.

The statement noted that the Big Taipa Hill Tunnel project will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will build the tunnel, spurs leading to Avenida Wai Long and Avenida do Aeroporto on the tunnel’s south side, and the spur on the tunnel’s north side at Pac On.

The statement said that the government will launch the project’s second phase, namely the flyover linking the tunnel’s north

side with the sea-crossing Macau Bridge, in due course.

The ongoing limited tender launched in late May is for the Big Taipa Hill Tunnel project’s first phase.

The future winning bidder will be required to carry out the final design of the project’s first phase before starting the construction.

The tender has set a maximum period of 1,165 working days for the completion of the project’s first phase, with the first 150 working days earmarked for the completion of its final design.

The tunnel will be 600 metres long and have four lanes – two in each direction.

The spurs at the tunnel’s south side will be 400 metres in total. ■

### STOCK MARKETS

## Hang Seng Index closes 1.37 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong’s stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.37 percent to close at 17,002.91 points.

While the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index lost 1.54 percent to end at 5,986.69 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 1.52 percent to close at 3,414.04 points. – Xinhua