



# Olympians help local residents enhance sense of patriotism, national pride: ID chief

Yuki Lei

The nation's Olympians from the mainland concluded yesterday their three-day visit to Macau, and Sports Bureau (ID) Acting President Luís Gomes told the media that "the Olympic-themed patriotic education campaign" helped Macau residents enhance their sense of patriotism and national pride.

Gomes also said that the campaign aimed to encourage Macau residents to take the nation's Olympians as an example, learn to persevere and struggle for their goals, carrying forward Chinese sportsmanship on a new journey.

Headed by Gao Zhidan, director of the State General Administration of Sports, the 73-member 2024 Paris Olympic Games Mainland Olympians delegation, comprising 65 athletes and eight coaches from 16 sporting events, arrived in Macau on Saturday for a three-day tour, during which they attended a dialogue session, interacted with young local athletes at the Olympic Sports Centre in Taipa, took part in gala performance at the Macau East Asian Games Dome in Cotai, visited various community service organisations – integrated services centres in Taipa and Coloane's Seac Pai Van managed by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (known as Gung Luen in Cantonese) and the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (known as Kai Fong in Cantonese), as well as a family services centre of the Women's Association of



Five of the 73-member 2024 Paris Olympic Games Mainland Olympians delegation – shooter Li Yuehong (from left to right), sprint canoeist Xu Shixiao, swimmer Zhang Yufei, freestyle BMX cyclist Deng Yawen, paddler Fan Zhendong – speak to the media separately about their three-day visit to Macau, at MGM Macau in Nape yesterday. – Photo combo: Yuki Lei

Macau (known as Fu Luen in Cantonese) – to engage with members of the public, and explored three of the city's six revitalisation districts – Barra, the Rua da Felicidade, and Mount Fortress.

Before leaving Macau, five Paris Olympians, namely Li Yuehong, the gold medallist of Men's 25-metre Rapid Fire Pistol with a world record; Xu Shixiao, the gold medallist of Women's 2,500-metre canoeing event; Zhang Yufei, who won a silver and five bronze medals in swimming; Deng Yawen,

the gold medallist of the Women's BMX Freestyle event, as well as Fan Zhendong, the gold medallist of Table Tennis Men's Singles and Men's Teams, were interviewed by the media at MGM Macau in Nape to wrap up their trip at around noon.

Shooter Li said: "This is the first time for me to follow the State General Administration of Sports to participate in the visit to Hong Kong and Macau, and I have been struck by the enthusiasm of the general public over the past few days and have felt the enthusiasm

of the general public for sports," adding he hoped the advice and encouragement he has given to young people in his interactions with them over the past few days would enlighten them to continue to carry forward Chinese sportsmanship. Li also said that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a place he is very fond of and that he expected to feel again the passion of the general public there for sports during the 2025 National Games.

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## US seizes Maduro's plane

WASHINGTON – The United States yesterday seized Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's plane in the Dominican Republic and flew it to Florida, saying it acted over violation of US sanctions.

United States officials moved to take the aircraft, a Dassault Falcon 900EX private jet used by Maduro and members of his government, with the Justice Department saying the jet was "illegally purchased."

"The Justice Department seized an aircraft we allege was illegally purchased for US\$13 million through a shell company and smuggled out of the United States for use by Nicolás Maduro and his cronies," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

Aircraft tracking site Flight Radar 24 showed that the jet flew from Santo

Domingo to Fort Lauderdale yesterday morning.

The US says that in late 2022 and early 2023, individuals affiliated with Maduro allegedly used a Caribbean-based shell company to conceal their involvement in the illegal purchase of the jet.

"Maduro and his representatives' have tampered with the results of the July 28 presidential election, falsely claimed victory, and carried out wide-spread repression to maintain power by force," a US National Security Council spokesperson said.

The seizure of the plane "is an important step to ensure that Maduro continues to feel the consequences from his misgovernance of Venezuela," they added. – AFP



Xiao Xuxian (left) of China helps Qonitah Ikhtiar Syakuroh of Indonesia during the women's singles SL3 gold medal match of para badminton at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, yesterday. – Xinhua (More on Paralympics on pages 13 & 16)

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### Xi, Ramaphosa announce elevation of China-South Africa ties

President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday announced the elevation of bilateral ties to an all-round strategic cooperative partnership in the new era. – Story on p. 7

### Biden says Netanyahu not doing enough on hostage deal

US President Joe Biden yesterday said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was not doing enough to secure a deal for the release of hostages taken by Palestinian armed group Hamas. – Story on p. 10

### Putin says Ukraine's border incursion will not stop Russian advance

Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that his army was rapidly advancing in eastern Ukraine, citing this as proof that Kyiv's cross-border incursion into the Kursk region was failing. – Story on p. 12



# Xiong'an – future in the making before our eyes



At the invitation of the local Commissioner's Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, representatives of Macau's Portuguese- and English-language – media including *The Macau Post Daily* – visited last week two places in the Chinese mainland that represent both the nation's ancient history and promising future – Xi'an and Xiong'an.

The delegation also included several journalists from the local Chinese-language media, such as *Macao Daily News* and Cable TV.

Both cities are testimony to China's past, present and future – Shaanxi Province's capital Xi'an ("Western Peace"), which has an urban history of over 3,000 years, and Xiong'an, also known as "City of the Future" whose development close to Beijing got off seven years ago.

As each city is extraordinarily important in its own right, I have decided to write a two-part editorial about our four-day trip. While this one focuses on Xiong'an, I will devote the second one to Xi'an.

Xiong'an New Area located 100 kilometres southwest of Beijing is a mega-development project directly overseen by the central authorities, i.e., the Central Committee of the

Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council.

Upon the initiative of President Xi Jinping, the project was officially launched in April 2017. Even though not even a decade has passed since its inception, we could clearly see during our two-day visit to the about 1,700-km<sup>2</sup> area, which exceeds the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's land area by about one-third, that the central authorities' aim of completing the urban construction in 2035 and overall development project in 2049 is on the right track – and all this irrespective of the 2020-2022 COVID-19 pandemic.

Incidentally, the mammoth project's overall completion is scheduled to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) – two particularly meaningful events in China's "political calendar".

Xiong'an New Area covers the counties of Xiong, Rongcheng and Anxin in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei economic development triangle. Its name is a compound of the three counties' name. The counties' farmers have been provided with generous resettlement packages, including spacious flats in purpose-built high-rises in the area, senior officials told us during the visit. Currently, Xiong'an has some 1.5 million residents, or more than



Delegation members of Macau's Portuguese- and English- language media, as well as mainland officials, pose for a group photo at Xiong'an New Area's East-West Axis Dispatch and Command Centre in Xiong'an on Friday. – Photos: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

double Macau's population. The target is to reach a population of five million, many if not most of them highly-qualified human resources – that's what nowadays is generally referred to as "talents" – needed to run a top-notch modernisation and innovation hub and smart city.

On Friday, we were given a detailed introduction to the undertaking by Wang Jiping, deputy director-general of the Leading Group for the Planning and Construction of Xiong'an New Area of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee. What impressed me – and, I am quite sure, all the other members of our delegation – was his emphasis on developing an environmentally-friendly "green and blue" smart city that offers its residents a 15-minute living circle, an urban planning concept in which most daily necessities and services, such as work, shopping, education, healthcare, sports, and leisure can be easily reached by a 15-minute walk, bike ride, or public transit ride from any point in the city – also known as 15-minute city concept.

I do hope that we in tiny Macau would be able to become a 15-minute city before long...

The "green and blue" development objective is another praiseworthy aim that our local government planners should never lose sight of. Xiong'an is blessed with an abundance of natural water resources (nine rivers and a multitude of ponds and lakes) and a wide diversity of plants such as trees, shrubs and grasses. While I was admiring the emerging metropolis from a high-rise lookout tower, the concept of a futuristic garden city came to mind.

The obvious aim is for Xiong'an to become many things in one – an eco-friendly, beautiful, high-tech, smart hub representing the nation's ongoing modernisation and innovation drive in the run-up to the PRC's centennial.

One of the various objectives of the project – certainly one of the

largest ever in history – is to move "non-core" functions of the nation's capital to Xiong'an, such as state-owned enterprises' major facilities, central government entities and R&D offices.

The project also includes a fully integrated transport concept such as a major, centrally located interchange for high-speed and intercity trains as well as other modes of passenger transport. This is another area Macau could certainly learn from. I am convinced that without a fully integrated public and private passenger and freight transport system, any city would find it virtually impossible to advance its innovation and modernisation process.

We did arrive from Beijing Daxing International Airport at Xiong'an "in style" by high-speed train, and we continued our tour with a five-hour high-speed train ride to Xi'an. High-speed train travel is one of the many aspects of China's reform, modernisation and innovation drive that the whole nation can take great pride in. Most countries, including some of the West's supposedly most developed nations – there is no need to mention which ones I am alluding to – still force their citizens and tourists to travel on trains dating back to the early or mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

I have come to the conclusion that Xiong'an New Area is an "of-the-people, for-the-people, by-the-people" project, based on the central authorities' determination to improve the Chinese people's living conditions and livelihoods by combining reform, opening-up, modernisation and innovation with environmental protection, social welfare and economic sustainability. That's not an easy feat as it requires determination and hard work.

Incidentally, the Xiong'an project got off the ground with over 200,000 workers who continued working there even during the pandemic, and there are currently some 100,000 workers there.

Any large-scale project (which concerning Xiong'an sounds like an understatement) is prone to encounter some difficulties, and there are going to be, as one would expect, bumps in the road towards its conclusion. I am, however, confident that the central authorities are able to overcome all of them.

Unlike other major urban developments overseas, Xiong'an does not depend on foreign expertise, labour and funding. This is, literally speaking, a home-made undertaking. This does not mean, of course, that foreign expert views and sci-tech are not welcome.

The visit has shown as that Xiong'an is nothing less than future in the making before our eyes.

Just one adjective suffices to wrap up my evaluation of the Xiong'an New Area project: impressive.

## Superb organisation, stupendous camaraderie

I cannot avoid concluding the first part of my editorial by expressing my gratitude for the superb organisation of the trip by our friends from the local Foreign Affairs Ministry Commissioner's Office, Gao Yuan and Chen Zhenhua, as well as our tour guides Afey Wong and Leo Wu.

And, last but not least, I also would like to thank my fellow journalists for their stupendous camaraderie during the two-city journey, which included lots of mutual learning, interesting exchanges of views, a strong dose of humour, lots of laughter, and erudite discussions about the culinary delights – including of the liquid kind – that our hosts in Xiong'an and Xi'an offered as.

The camaraderie included, naturally, also the delegation's non-journalist members. Thank you all!

– Harald Brüning

(Photos of the visit to Xiong'an on Page 4; editorial and pictures about our trip to Xi'an tomorrow)



Wang Jiping, Deputy Director-General of the Leading Group Office for the Planning and Construction of Xiong'an New Area of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee; Member of the Working Committee of Xiong'an New Area of the CPC Hebei Provincial Committee gives a speech at the welcoming lunch for the delegation of Macau's Portuguese- and English- language media on Friday in Xiong'an.

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MACAU POST

**Macau Weather**

**VERY HOT.**  
**FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.**  
**LIGHT WINDS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 55% AND 95%.**

**27°C~35°C**

Source: SMG



# Olympians help local residents enhance sense of patriotism, national pride: ID chief

Continued from p.1

Sprint canoeist Xu expressed her sincere gratitude to the local government for its careful arrangements for the visit: “Our delegation members felt the patriotic fervour of the [Macau and Hong Kong] residents waving the national flag and their regional flag at the same time, and as athletes, we were also very excited and happy. . . . It’s a good opportunity for us to interact with the residents, and it’s an unforgettable moment for me”. After her second visit as a member of a delegation of mainland Olympians to Macau, Xu said that the close contact with the public made her feel that the trip of these past few days was “wonderful and unforgettable”.

Her first visit took place three years ago.

Swimmer Zhang said that she had gained a lot of love, attention and enthusiasm from members of the public in Macau and Hong Kong: “It makes us feel like we’re home and I want to visit [the two SARs] again but I don’t know when I’ll be able to visit next time,” encouraging children to learn swimming like her.

Freestyle BMX cyclist Deng said that one of her impressions of Macau was that even if Macau did not know or even did not care or even did not have it, Macau still tried its best to give us the opportunity to present motocross biking: “Yesterday [Sunday] when we were at the variety show and they provided us with a bike similar to our race bike, I asked the staff here why didn’t they find a bike that’s the same as the ones we used at the Olympics but then they apologised and said it’s the only bike that we can find in the whole of Macau right now”. Deng also said she felt youthfulness in Macau athletes which was “very rare”, encouraging everyone not to



Sports Bureau (ID) Acting President Luis Gomes talks yesterday to reporters following the five Olympians’ interviews with the media at MGM Macau in Nape.

– Photo: Yuki Lei

give up even though there are many setbacks on the way to pursuing their dreams: “Hard work does not always yield results, but not working hard certainly does not. As long as one is willing to work hard, the results will manifest themselves in different places”.

Paddler Fan said that it was his first time to accompany a delegation to visit Hong Kong and Macau: “I feel very happy and these few days are unforgettable, and I communicated well with people from all walks of life in Hong Kong and Macau, including young friends, as well as forging a deep friendship with members of the delegation from various sporting events, so I think it is a very valuable and precious journey for me,” adding that



Members of the mainland Olympians delegation make “snow skin” mooncakes with residents during their visit yesterday to a social service centre run by the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations, at Coloane’s Seac Pai Van public housing estate.

– Photo: Tony Wong

various forms of activities arranged during the visit provided the delegation members with more opportunities to communicate with each other in a more relaxed environment, beyond their respective training sessions.

Wrapping up the arrangements made for the delegation’s visit, Gomes said that the visit demonstrated the nation’s support for Macau and was a rare opportunity for local residents, youngsters in particular, which enabled them to gain direct experience and come into close contact with the Olympians: “The delegation attended many different activities, including a welcome ceremony organised by the SAR government, an exchange session with local

youths, participation in cultural and creative experiences and visits to local communities, as well as visits to the city’s neighbourhoods and historic districts to meet with the public and gain an in-depth understanding of Macau’s history, culture and community, as well as to experience the glamour of the coexistence of Chinese and Western cultural characteristics and the successful implementation of the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ principle in Macau”.

Gomes pointed out that the delegation’s visit to Macau resulted in good publicity for the city as it enabled its residents and tourists alike to feel the city’s historic heritage, as well as its diverse sports culture. ■

## Whisky Live to make Macau debut next month

Rui Pastorin

Whisky Live is set to be hosted at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai from October 11 to 13, marking the first time that the event will be held in Macau.

Whisky Live in Hong Kong was launched in 2016 and is organised by *Whiskey Magazine*.

The upcoming three-day Whisky Live Macau 2024, for which details were unveiled during a media preview event at GLP yesterday, is this year organised in partnership with SJM Resorts. There will be over 40 exhibitors showcasing international whiskies and culinary delights throughout the event.

According to a statement provided yesterday, the event will allow attendees to sample “the world’s most popular and rare whiskies”, as well as interact with producers, distillers and whisky experts.

The event venue, the statement said, spans a

total of 20,000 square feet (1,858 square metres).

The statement added that over 300 whiskies from distillers from places such as Scotland and Japan will be showcased at the Grand Pavilion.

Meanwhile, live jazz performances by the Ted Lo Quartet and the Dr João Mascarenhas Quartet will also take place.

The cocktail garden, one of the event’s highlights, will be held at GLP’s Jardim Secreto (“Secret Garden”), with the statement adding that it will showcase spirits from places such as the UK, US, Hong Kong and Japan. Special cocktails and DJ performances are also featured.

Masterclasses led by global whiskey experts are also to be held in 14 sessions during the event.

More details and ticketing can be found on <https://www.whiskylivemacau.com/ticketing/>. ■



A banner and bottles promoting the inaugural Whisky Live Macau 2024 event slated to take place next month are displayed at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai yesterday. – Photo taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin

## ‘Essence Unbounded’ presents gongbi painting works by 32 artists



This photo shows some of the “gongbi” works currently on display at the Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery (FRC).

– Photo taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

A total of 32 paintings are on display at the Rui Cunha Foundation (FRC) gallery until Saturday for an exhibition entitled “Essence Unbounded”, with each work showcasing the gongbi technique through different themes.

A careful realist technique in Chinese painting, Wikipedia notes that gongbi (工筆), which means “tidy” in Chinese, uses “highly detailed brushstrokes that delimits details very precisely and without independent or expressive variation”.

A recent statement from the gallery added that the technique, which dates back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD) and requires great precision, features

drawings with very fine lines to show exaggerated likenesses of objects, while washes of ink and colour are added layer by layer on rice paper or silk.

The exhibition kicked off last week, with the works on display created by 32 members of the Macau Gongbi Painting Association and curated by its president, Li Jinxiang, who is also a member of the Chinese Gongbi Painting Association and the Macau Artist Society.

The gallery is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays. Admission is free. Aside from the exhibition, Demonstration Sessions are also slated to be held tomorrow and on Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. ■





# Xiong'an – future in the making before our eyes

All photos taken by Maria Cheang Ut Meng during the local media delegation's visit to Xiong'an New Area on Friday.





## Female overstayer steals HK\$150,000 from male friend's hotel safe

William Chan

A woman from the mainland, who has overstayed in Macau for three years and eight months, has been arrested for stealing HK\$150,000 from a male friend's hotel guestroom safe, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong told reporters at a regular press conference yesterday.

The 61-year-old suspect, surnamed Gu, told the police that she's jobless. The elderly victim had met Gu a year ago while gambling in a casino and had since been inviting her again and again to gamble with him and stay in his hotel guestroom.

The victim arrived in Macau on August 24 and again invited Gu to join him in a guestroom at a Cotai hotel.

On Friday, upon the victim's return to his room after attending to some private matters, he discovered that HK\$150,000 cash he had put in his hotel safe had vanished. Neither was Gu in the room, prompting the victim to report the case to the police.

The police located and arrested



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: William Chan

the suspect in another guestroom of the same hotel. Under questioning, she admitted to the theft. Police found the stolen money and casino chips in her room.

Gu was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Monday, facing an aggravated theft charge, according to Chong. ■

## 89,000 students enrolled in non-tertiary education: DSEDJ chief

Yuki Lei

The 2024/2025 school year began yesterday, and Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) Director Kong Chi Meng said that the overall non-tertiary education student enrolment was at its peak this year, with about 89,000 students – or about 13 percent of the population – enrolled in 76 non-tertiary education institutions.

Speaking to public Chinese-language media broadcaster TDM and newspaper *Macao Daily News* yesterday morning on the sidelines of his inspection visit to Keang Peng School in Areia Preta district, Kong said that the total number of students enrolled in the city's non-tertiary education institutions stood at about 89,000, mainly in the first and second years of junior secondary education, adding that due to the high birth rate in 2012 – 7,315 newborns – and the return of local students from elsewhere in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) for their further studies in Macau, the number of F1 students has increased by about 1,200 compared to the previous academic year.

Kong pointed out that, as cited by the two media outlets, the bureau has meanwhile coordinated with local schools to open nearly 30 extra classes at F1 level. He added that only about 10 students, due to their late enrolment in Macau, were yesterday still seeking a school place through interviews.

About 80 percent of non-tertiary education institutions started their academic year yesterday, according to Kong, who described the overall traffic and school conditions on Macau's "first day back to school" as "generally smooth", with DSEDJ officials having inspected a number of schools to ensure that



Students and their parents crowd the entrance to Santa Rosa School (Chinese Section) in Zape yesterday, the first day of the 2024/2025 academic year.

— Photo: MPDG

the new school year got off to a trouble-free start, including newly opened schools, such as the new divisions of Pui Ching Middle School in Coloane and Pooi To Middle School in Taipa.

Concerning the low fertility rate which led to the decline in the number of students enrolled as K1 pupils, Kong said that the bureau has launched a capacity enhancement scheme to provide schools which are smaller in size or have difficulties in student enrolment with financial support to help them enhance both their hardware and software facilities, including teacher training, or in their transformation.

Meanwhile, according to a statement by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) yesterday, the city's two public bus operators recorded over

117,000 passengers on 2,800 bus trips between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. yesterday, among which nearly 14,000 trips were made using student cards.

Avenida Dr Rodrigo Rodrigues, Avenida de Horta e Costa and Rua do Almirante Sérgio in the Macau peninsula as well as Avenida de Kwong Tung in Taipa were temporarily congested during the morning peak hours, but traffic was generally smooth, the bureau stated, urging teachers, students and parents to plan their trips early, use public transport as far as possible and travel at staggered times, as well as to avoid aggravating pressure on road traffic by making good use of the pick-up and drop-off zones around their respective schools and not parking their private vehicles indiscriminately. ■

## Police nab local, 2 mainlanders for theft-by-finding

William Chan

A local man and two women from the mainland have separately been apprehended for two theft-by-finding cases, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

In the first case, the local suspect surnamed Chan, who is in his sixties, told the police that he's jobless.

According to Lam, a local man reported to the police on August 26



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the two female theft-by-finding suspects to a police station in Taipa.

that he had lost his wallet in Estrada de Dona Maria II, containing 7,100 patacas. Subsequently, police officers identified Chan as the individual who had picked up the wallet, leading to his arrest.

Under questioning, Chan admitted to the crime. The police retrieved the wallet from his flat.

In the second case, the female mainland suspects, surnamed Zhang and Yi respectively, are relatives. Zhang is in her thirties, while Yi is in her fifties. Both told the police that they're jobless.

According to Lam, a woman lost her phone, worth 3,300 patacas, at a Cotai bus stop and reported the case to the police on August 26.

Subsequently, police officers identified Zhang and Yi as the individuals who had picked up the phone, leading to their arrests in a hotel nearby.

Under questioning, the duo admitted to picking up the phone but denied the accusation. Both claimed that they had put the phone in their room as they did not know what to do with it.

The three suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing theft-by-finding charges, Lam said. ■

## Mainlander robs illegal currency dealer with scissors

William Chan

A man from the mainland has been arrested for robbing a female illegal currency exchange dealer in a hotel guestroom of HK\$400,000 by threatening her with a pair of scissors, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chong Kam Leong said at a special press conference yesterday.

The 52-year-old suspect surnamed Chen told the police that he's jobless. The victim, also from the mainland, had conducted transactions amounting to HK\$500,000 with Chen before.

On Sunday the victim once again struck a currency exchange deal with Chen in her hotel room in Nape. During the meeting, Xie suddenly held a pair of scissors to her neck and robbed her of casino chips worth HK\$250,000, as well as HK\$150,000 in cash, after which Chen bound her with duct tape.

Following the incident, Chen

immediately went to the casino to gamble, while the victim managed to free herself half an hour later and sought help from the police.

Later that day, Chen gave himself up to the police and claimed that he

had gambled away all the loot.

Chen was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing robbery, possession of a prohibited weapon and false imprisonment charges. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the hooded robbery suspect to a police vehicle outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

— Photo: William Chan

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 1.65 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.65 percent to close at 17,691.97 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 1.89 percent to end at 6,211.61 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 2.08 percent to end at 3,486.40 points.— *Xinhua*



## 8 people feel unwell after eating in Japanese eatery

Ginnie Liang

The Macau Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is following up on two collective cases, where eight people felt unwell after eating in an izakaya (Japanese style pub) called “田淵” on Avenida da República in Sai Van on Friday, according to an IAM statement yesterday.

The eight people developed abdominal pain, diarrhoea and fever on Saturday after eating Wagyu Sukiyaki and Japanese omelette, the statement said, adding that according to the epidemiological investigation conducted by the bureau, it is likely that the incident was caused by a bacterial pathogen.

The statement noted that IAM officials went to the restaurant to investigate, and after taking food samples from the restaurant for examination they found that the overall environmental hygiene of the eatery was unsatisfactory, as both raw and cooked food were not stored separately and properly.

The bureau ordered the immediate suspension of the eatery's operation, which will remain in force until the restaurant has passed the bureau's assessment in the re-inspection.

In addition, the bureau also announced in a separate statement on Sunday that it had launched an



This undated handout photo downloaded from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) website shows the izakaya (Japanese style pub) called “田淵” on Avenida da República in Sai Van.

investigation into three collective cases on Saturday where a total of 16 people felt unwell after eating in two eateries, namely a dim sum restaurant called “粵匠·臻品” on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes, and another dim sum restaurant called “粵匠·名爐” on Avenida do Almirante Magalhães Correia, both of which are in Areia Preta district.

According to the statement, the patients ate food such as spiced salt ginger pork knuckle, and developed nausea, abdominal pain, and diarrhoea.

The two eateries were ordered to suspend the supply of the problematic food products immediately.

The statement said that during the high temperatures in the

summer, food can easily perish and, therefore, gastrointestinal illnesses are common. The bureau appealed to the trade to comply with the government's Food Hygiene and Safety Guidelines, such as that raw and cooked food should be properly handled and stored separately to avoid cross contamination, while ingredients should be prepared according to actual demand, properly covered and stored in refrigerated facilities.

The statement also said that high-risk groups, such as the elderly, infants and young children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems, should avoid consuming raw or undercooked food. ■

## Mainland, HK, Macau sign pact to strengthen infectious diseases joint response

Tony Wong

The mainland, Hong Kong and Macau signed a cooperation agreement yesterday aiming to strengthen their joint response mechanism for tackling infectious disease, the Macau Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement last night.

The agreement was signed in Hong Kong yesterday by top officials from the three regions' respective health authorities.

According to the SSM statement, a five-member delegation led by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U travelled to Hong Kong yesterday to sign the deal.

Members of the delegation also included SSM Director Alvis Lo Iek Long and Leong Iek Hou, who heads the SSM Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Ao Ieong's portfolio oversees Macau's health sector.

Before the agreement's signing ceremony, a seminar on the topic on tackling infectious diseases was held, attended by the officials from the three regions, the statement said.

The agreement, officially known as Cooperation Agreement on Response Mechanism for Public Health Emergencies caused by Infectious Disease, was signed by Wang Hesheng, a vice-minister of the National Health Commission (NHC), Hong Kong Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau, and Ao Ieong.

Wang also heads the National Disease Control and Prevention



Hong Kong Secretary for Health Lo Chung-mau (from left to right), National Disease Control and Prevention Administration Director Wang Hesheng, and Macau Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U shake hands after signing the Cooperation Agreement on Response Mechanism for Public Health Emergencies caused by Infectious Disease in Hong Kong yesterday. — Photo: SSM

Administration, a deputy-ministerial-level agency under the National Health Commission.

During yesterday's seminar in Hong Kong, according to the SSM statement, Wang and Lo Chung-mau underlined that the three regions have been maintaining close cooperation aiming to jointly tackle the threat of major infectious diseases, ensuring the protection of the population's health and social and economic stability in the three regions.

According to the statement, Wang, Lo Chung-mau and Ao Ieong said during the seminar that the new agreement aims to further strengthen the three regions' joint ability to prevent and control infectious diseases.

Ao Ieong underlined that the Macau government has been

complying with the nation's overall health policy, such as by constantly pushing ahead with the development of Macau's public health, community health service and specialty medical services.

Ao Ieong noted that the Macau government has drawn up its Healthy Macau Blueprint in compliance with the nation's Healthy China 2030 Planning Outline as well as with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.

The SSM statement said that the new agreement requires the three regions to jointly respond to major infectious disease outbreaks in compliance with the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the three regions' respective laws and regulations. ■

## CTT offers postmark cancellation in celebration of Teacher's Day

Rui Pastorin

A Temporary Post Counter will be set up at the General Post Office's Philatelic Shop next Tuesday to provide the commemorative postmark cancellation service for the “Celebration of Teachers' Day”, according to a statement yesterday from the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT).

Apart from Macau, Teacher's Day is also celebrated on September 10 in the mainland and Hong Kong.

The counter will be open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The statement added that commemorative envelopes with stamps and cancellations will also be distributed on the day. ■



This image provided by the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) yesterday shows the commemorative envelope for the “Celebration of Teachers' Day”.

## Middle-aged woman falls to death from building in Taipa

Staff Reporter

A local woman “fell” from a flat in a residential building in Taipa yesterday afternoon and died in hospital later after emergency treatment to save her life failed, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a statement last night.

The Public Security Police (PSP) informed the Judiciary Police at 3:05 p.m. yesterday of the case, which occurred at a building on Rua de Choi Long, a street just a stone's throw from the entrance to Friendship Bridge.

After receiving a report about a woman lying on the building's podium, firefighters and paramedics rushed her to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre for emergency treatment where she died later.

According to the statement, PJ officers went to the hospital for investigation, where a preliminary examination of the body showed

that the injuries were consistent with a fall from a height, according to the statement, which said that there were no suspected criminal injuries on the body.

PJ officers also went to the flat where the woman lived for investigation, where they saw that the bedroom window was open, and the podium's location where the woman was found lying was underneath the bedroom window, the statement said.

The statement also said that there were no signs indicating that the flat had been ransacked or a fight had occurred there.

The statement merely said that the local woman was middle-aged and did not provide further details of her personal information.

An autopsy will be carried out to confirm the exact cause of the woman's death, the statement said.

The case has initially been classified as a dead body found, the statement said. ■



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



## No.1 stand-by signal may be hoisted today as 'Yagi' approaches Macau: SMG

Ginnie Liang

The local observatory is considering hoisting the No.1 stand-by signal from tonight to tomorrow as Tropical Storm "Yagi" located east of the Philippines is forecast to be within 800 km of Macau.

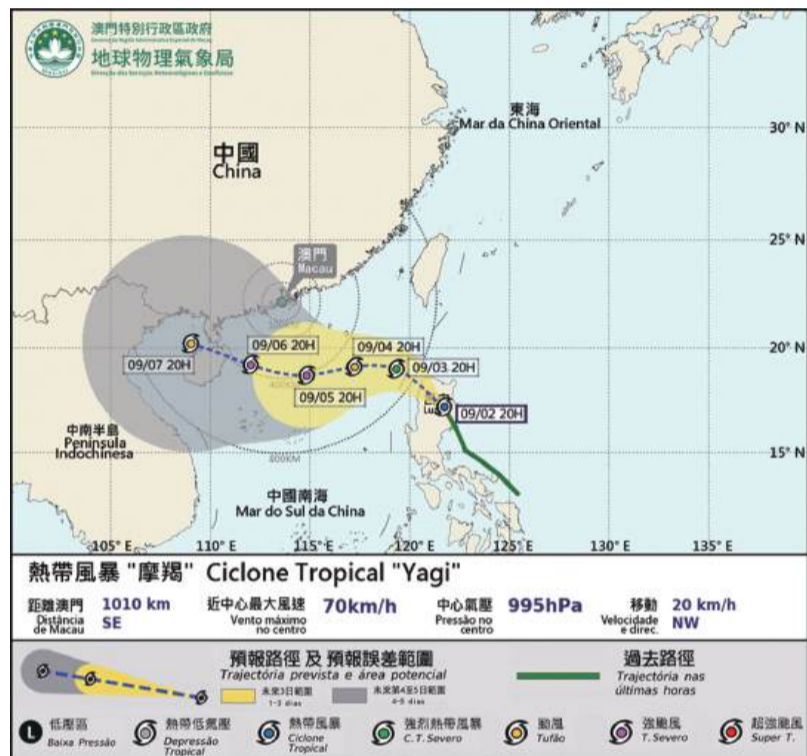
The storm, according to the weather station, is forecast to enter the South China Sea in the middle of this week, and is likely to move across the northern part of the South China Sea when its intensity will gradually increase, with a chance of it becoming a strong typhoon.

However, the observatory said

whether Yagi becomes a strong typhoon depends on the strength, path and circulation size of the storm after it enters the South China Sea.

On its website, the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) underlined that it is closely monitoring the track of Yagi, urging the public to pay attention to the bureau's latest weather information.

Under the impact brought by the tropical storm's outer subsiding air to Macau, the observatory predicted the weather today to be "extremely" hot, due to which thunderstorms and strong gusts may occur from tomorrow. ■



This graphic provided by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) at 9 p.m. yesterday shows the projected trajectory of the Tropical Storm Yagi moving westwards to the South China Sea.

## Xi, Seychelles president elevate bilateral ties

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping and President of Seychelles Wavel Ramkalawan jointly announced here yesterday the elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

The two countries should continue to give priority to supporting each other on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns, and adhere to strategic mutual trust, common development, common security and traditional friendship, Xi said when meeting with Ramkalawan, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Xi welcomes Seychelles to continue to participate in the China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development and Cooperation to accelerate the sustainable development of ocean resources, and translate the potential of its blue economy into a driving force for development.

China is ready to strengthen cooperation with Seychelles in emergency response and disaster prevention and mitigation, and supports the country in combating piracy and other illegal activities, Xi said.

China supports the launch of direct flights with Seychelles, encourages bilateral tourism, and welcomes more students from Seychelles to study in China, Xi said.

Xi added China is willing to work with Seychelles and other parties to ensure a successful summit and promote China-Africa cooperation to bear more fruit.

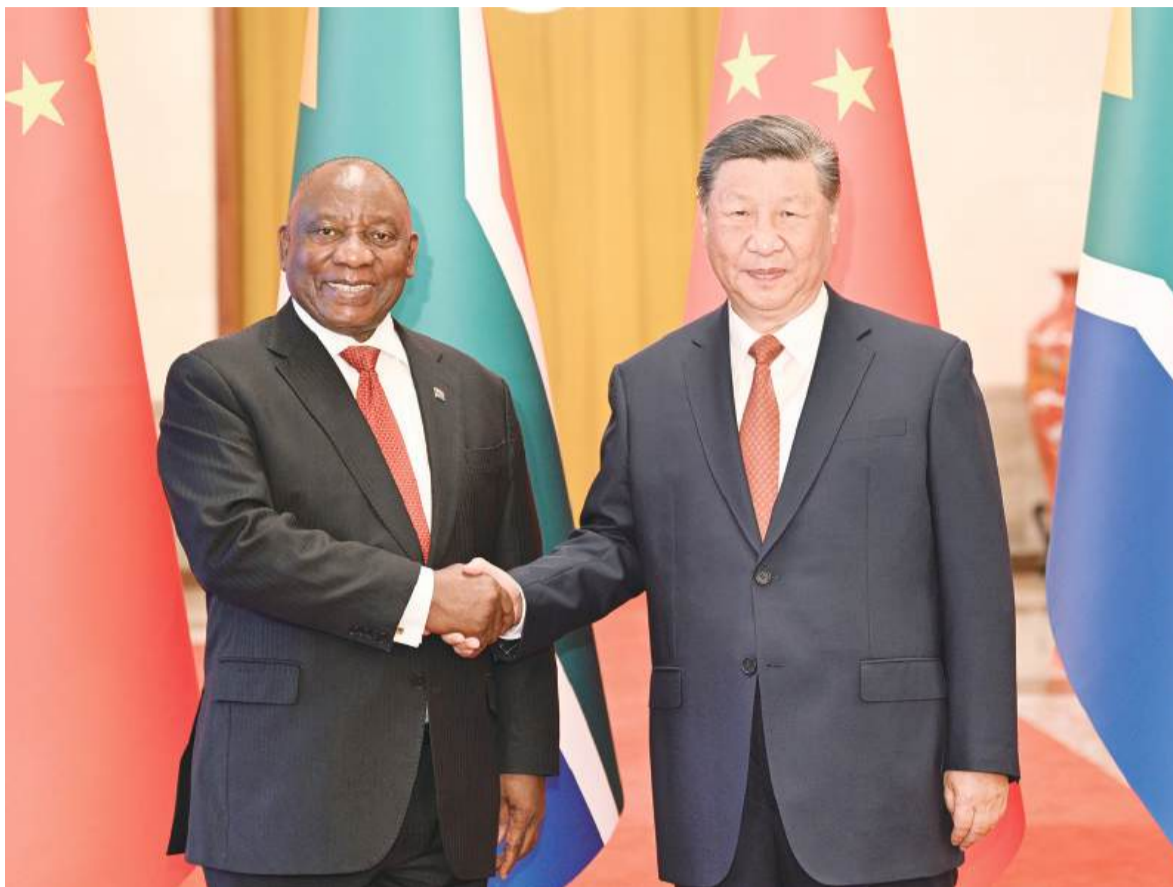
Ramkalawan said the friendship between Seychelles and China is based on mutual respect and mutual benefits.

Expressing gratitude for China's help to Seychelles, he said that thanks to Chinese vaccines, Seychelles quickly overcame the COVID-19 epidemic and resumed economic and social development.

Ramkalawan expects the opening of direct flights to further promote the two countries' friendship, and welcomes the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy hospital ship "Peace Ark" to visit Seychelles again.

During the summit, China and Seychelles will sign bilateral cooperation documents on Belt and Road cooperation plans and subnational collaboration, among others. – Xinhua

## Xi, Ramaphosa announce elevation of China-South Africa ties



President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and a state visit, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

– Xinhua

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday announced the elevation of bilateral ties to an all-round strategic cooperative partnership in the new era.

Xi held talks with Ramaphosa, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and a state visit.

Xi said strengthening solidarity and cooperation between China and South Africa is in line with the two peoples' common expectations and the historical process of the Global South's growth.

The Chinese president called on the two countries to lead the bilateral relationship forward with high-level strategic mutual trust and stressed joint efforts to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, enhance cooperation in the digital economy, artificial intelligence and new energy, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in human resource development.

Xi said China will open its door

wider to African countries, adding that the country stands ready to work with South Africa and other African countries to create new momentum for cooperation and promote high-quality development of China-Africa cooperation.

The more complex the international situation becomes, the more the Global South countries must uphold independence, strengthen unity and cooperation, and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice, Xi said.

Ramaphosa said South Africa will remain a trustworthy and reliable friend of China.

By seizing the opportunity of building the all-round strategic cooperative partnership in the new era, South Africa will expand and deepen pragmatic cooperation with China in fields such as economy, trade, investment, infrastructure, new energy and poverty reduction. It will also boost people-to-people exchanges and educational and cultural cooperation with China, the president said.

Ramaphosa noted that cooperation under the FOCAC framework has delivered massive benefits to African countries, including South Africa.

South Africa supports the six common understandings on the political settlement of the Ukraine issue jointly proposed by China and Brazil, he said, adding that the country will continue to boost communication and collaboration with China under the BRICS, G20 and other multilateral frameworks.

After the meeting, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of a raft of bilateral cooperation documents in areas such as the application of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System. The two sides also released a joint statement on building their all-round strategic cooperative partnership in the new era.

Prior to the meeting, Xi held a welcoming ceremony for Ramaphosa at the Great Hall of the People. – Xinhua

## Xi meets Eritrean president

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping yesterday met with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

China appreciates Eritrea's adherence to an independent foreign policy and its efforts in firmly safeguarding national sovereignty and dignity, Xi said, adding that China views the bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, and stands ready to deepen political mutual trust, advance practical cooperation and achieve common

development with Eritrea.

China is willing to strengthen exchanges at all levels and share experience on governance with Eritrea, Xi said.

China will make good use of initiatives and platforms such as Belt and Road cooperation, FOCAC, and the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa, deepen cooperation with Eritrea in fields including energy, infrastructure and agriculture, and facilitate Eritrea's industrialization and agricultural modernization, said the Chinese president.

Afwerki said Eritrea-China

relations feature a profound history, a strong friendship and sound cooperation. The two sides also have consensus on many issues.

Cooperation with China has helped and will continue to help African countries achieve better development, resist colonialism and hegemonism, and gain equality and dignity in the international arena, he said.

Eritrea firmly adheres to the one-China policy, he said, adding that it hopes to deepen cooperation with China in energy, infrastructure, the marine sector, and other fields. – Xinhua