

36 illegal currency exchange dealers deported to mainland



Judiciary Police (PJ) Deputy Director Sou Sio Keong (centre) shakes hands with a mainland Public Security Bureau officer after the transfer process.



The 36 mainland illegal money exchange dealers are being transferred to the mainland authorities in the area between Zhuhai's Gongbei and Macau's Barrier Gate border checkpoints yesterday. — Photos: William Chan

William Chan

The Judiciary Police (PJ) deported 36 mainlanders involved in illegal currency exchange activities in Macau to the Zhuhai police yesterday evening. Judiciary Police (PJ) Deputy Director Sou Sio Keong briefed reporters about the case after the transfer of the illegal currency exchange dealers in the area between Zhuhai's Gongbei and Macau's Barrier Gate border checkpoints. Sou noted that the 36 unlicensed dealers comprise 26 males and 10 females. One of the men was a non-resident worker who worked as a waiter in Macau. Sou added that the

local police suspect that the non-resident worker illegally engaged in currency exchange activities in Macau using his purported employment as a guise. According to Sou, the Ministry of Public Security announced a crackdown on money exchange syndicates in May. After sorting and analysing the data, Sou noted, gangs involved in illegal currency activities in the mainland and Macau were identified and the Judiciary Police were informed. Sou noted that the Judiciary Police dispatched 180 officers at 6 a.m. yesterday to various hotels and residential units in different

areas in Macau, especially in Cotai, where they apprehended 36 targeted mainlanders. The operation resulted in the seizure of approximately HK\$1.8 million in cash and over HK\$600,000 in gambling chips. Sou underlined that the extensive operation conducted yesterday was not a direct response to last week's local murder case. In that incident, a mainlander allegedly killed and robbed a Hong Kong man in a Cotai hotel guestroom. Both the suspect and the victim were involved in illegal currency exchange activities. Sou noted that the local and mainland law enforcement

authorities have consistently maintained close communication and cooperation, and that they will intensify intelligence sharing and take timely joint actions to combat cross-regional crimes. Last Friday, legislator Andrew Chan Chak Mo, who heads a Legislative Assembly committee examining a government-drafted bill aimed at combating gambling-related crimes, announced that the bill has been amended by the government in order to criminalise illicit money exchanges occurring on casino and other gaming industry-related premises. Chan also pointed out that

the proposed amendment widens the bill's scope by encompassing auxiliary facilities primarily used for gambling operations, along with other facilities dedicated to artistic, recreational, business or hotel-related activities. He noted that under the proposed amendment to the bill, the maximum prison sentence for currency exchange violations would be five years. Convicts also face exclusion from entering casinos for a period ranging from two to 10 years. However, individuals using illegal currency exchange services would not be subject to punishment, according to the amended bill. ■

Mediterranean Sea temperatures match 2023 records

PARIS – The temperatures of the Mediterranean Sea in recent days have reached heat records set last summer, the main Spanish maritime research centre told AFP yesterday, with marine heatwaves in some places exceeding 30 degrees Celsius. On August 11, the daily median surface temperature of the Mediterranean reached 28.67C, said Justino Martinez, researcher at

the Institute of Marine Sciences in Barcelona and the Catalan Institute of Research for the Governance of the Sea. This comes close to July 24, 2023, when the Mediterranean Sea broke its daily heat record with a median temperature of 28.71C. The preliminary readings for 2024 come from satellite data from the European Copernicus Observatory.

The Mediterranean basin is one of the hot spots of global warming. For the second consecutive year, its waters are warmer than the previous record set on August 23, 2003 when the daily median temperature reached 28.25C amid an exceptional heatwave. "What is remarkable is not so much to reach a maximum on a given day, but to observe a long period of high temperatures, even

without breaking a record," said Martinez. "Since 2022, surface temperatures have been abnormally high for long periods, even in a climate-change environment," he said. This year, the 2023 level was reached "more than 15 days later and usually the sea surface temperature in the Mediterranean is expected to decrease from the end of August", he added.

Locally, waters above very unusual 30C were recorded (4C above normal) along the coasts of Spain, France and Italy. Oceans have absorbed 90 percent of the excess heat produced by human activity since the dawn of the industrial age, according to scientists. This excess heat continues to accumulate as greenhouse gases, mainly from burning oil, gas and coal. — AFP

Washington's bet on 'Tibet card' destined to fail
In a move as symbolic as it is futile, a group of anti-China politicians have recently pushed to pass a bill recognizing the so-called notion of "Greater Tibet," a concept made up by the Dalai group that has no grounding in the political or geographical realities of China. — Story on p. 7

Iran rejects Western calls to stand down Israel threat
Iran yesterday rejected Western calls to stand down its threat to retaliate against Israel for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran late last month. — Story on p. 10

Anti-mafia raid in Brazil seizes assets of Cosa Nostra boss
Palermo police said yesterday they had carried out a raid in northern Brazil with their local counterparts to cripple the lucrative businesses of a leading member of Sicily's Cosa Nostra. — Story on p. 12

MGTO raises Israel travel alert

Yuki Lei

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) raised yesterday its travel alert for Israel to Level 3, indicating an “extremely high” level of threat to personal safety for local residents visiting the Middle Eastern nation.

The update comes amid the increasing frequency of travel for Macau residents along with social and tourism activities’ return to normalcy after the three-year COVID-19 pandemic, according to an MGTO statement yesterday, which noted that it has adjusted its Level 2 travel alert issued for countries and regions on March 19, 2020, while adding five more countries or destinations – Equatorial Guinea, Gibraltar, Kazakhstan and Mauritius as well as

São Tomé and Príncipe – to the list of countries and travel destinations covered by its travel alert system.

MGTO advises local residents to purchase comprehensive travel insurance which covers the 82 countries and destinations listed in its travel alert system.

In line with the current Travel Alert System, Egypt and Turkey are among the countries and regions where the travel alert was raised to Level 2, advising local travellers to reconsider their non-essential travel plans. Bangladesh, Fukushima in Japan, India, Indonesia, Mindanao in Philippines, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and the UK have been elevated to Level 1, recommending travellers to exercise caution.

MGTO generally recommends that local residents planning to

visit Egypt or Turkey reconsider the need to travel there at this time, while local residents travelling to Bangladesh, Fukushima, India, Indonesia, Mindanao, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and the UK should stay alert and vigilant regarding their own safety, based on the recommended precautions.

Travellers are encouraged to postpone trips to countries and regions, and, in certain situations, leave the destinations under MGTO’s Level 3 Travel Alert, with special emphasis on Israel, the only country currently on Level 3.

Macau residents can call MGTO’s 24-hour tourism hotline at +853 2833 3000, the Chinese embassy or consulate in the respective area, or the Global Emergency Call Center

for Consular Protection and Services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at its hotline: +86 10 12308 for assistance in case of need.

MGTO reminds local residents in Japan to stay alert

Meanwhile, in a separate statement on Monday, MGTO reminded local residents currently visiting Japan to pay close attention to the island nation’s earthquake developments, weather warnings and disaster prevention information, follow the precautionary and evacuation instructions issued by the Japanese government, raise their awareness of self-protection, and strengthen their safety precautions. MGTO also reminded local residents who are planning to visit Japan to



旅遊局

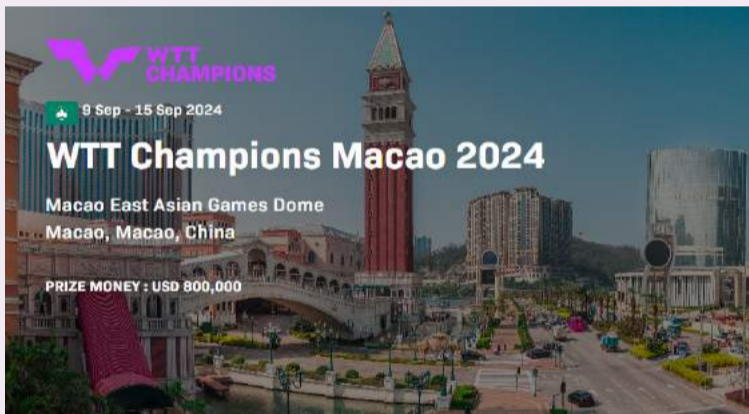
DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO

This image shows the Macau Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) official logo.

stay vigilant and pay attention to the latest earthquake warning issued by the Japanese government.

A magnitude-7.1 earthquake hit southern Japan’s Miyazaki prefecture on Thursday, in the wake of which the Japanese government issued a major earthquake warning for some parts of the country, as reported by Xinhua. ■

List of paddlers in next month’s WTT available



This screenshot of the event website taken last night promotes the upcoming WTT Champions Macao 2024.

Rui Pastorin

The list of paddlers set to compete in the WTT [World Table Tennis] Champions Macao 2024 tournament, which this time is slated to take place at the Macao East Asian Games Dome in Cotai from September 9 to 15, is now available on the official event website.

The week-long contest will see paddlers from different parts of the world vie for a slice of the US\$800,000 prize money. The champion will receive a US\$35,000 prize alongside 1,000 ranking points, according to the event website.

Among the competing players in the men’s singles category are Wang Chuqin, Fan Zhendong, Hugo Calderano, Liang Jingkun and Félix Lebrun,

who are respectively ranked first through fifth in the world, according to the event website. Wang, Fan and Liang are from the mainland, while Calderano and Lebrun are from Brazil and France respectively. Ma Long, who is ranked number six in the world, is also competing.

Meanwhile, in the women’s singles, the world’s top five female players Sun Yingsha, Chen Meng, Wang Manyu and Wang Yidi, all from the mainland, and Japan’s Hina Hayata, are among the players vying for prizes.

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) is the tournament’s presenting partner.

One can find the full list of players on <https://worldtabletennis.com/eventInfo?eventId=2983> ■

Non-resident worker loses 15,000 yuan in online loan scam

William Chan

A mainland non-resident worker reported to the police on Monday that he was cheated out of 15,000 yuan in an online loan scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chan Wun Man said at a press conference yesterday.

According to Chan, the victim told the police that on Monday he received an SMS message offering a personal cash loan. He clicked onto a link embedded in the message, after which he filled in his personal information and bank

account details in the website to borrow 30,000 yuan.

Later, the “customer service” told him that the incorrect input of bank card details he gave had led to the freezing of his loan account, potentially impacting his credit score. To unlock the account, the victim transferred 15,000 yuan as instructed. However, the customer service continued to demand additional funds. Growing suspicious, the victim reported the case to the police. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chan Wun Man looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference.

– Photo: William Chan

HK man hangs himself in hotel room

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) received a report from the Fire Services Bureau (CB) on Monday night stating that earlier that day a Hong Kong man committed suicide by hanging himself in a hotel room in Cotai, the Judiciary Police said in a statement.

The statement said that the deceased was a middle-aged Hong Kong man.

According to the statement, the man had stayed in the hotel room since Sunday afternoon and never left it. When the hotel staff noticed that he hadn’t checked out, they entered the room at 6:45 p.m. on Monday and discovered that he had hanged himself in the bathroom, prompting them to report the case to the police.

A preliminary examination of the body confirmed that the victim’s injuries were consistent with those caused by hanging and no other suspicious injuries were found.

There was a chair next to the deceased and two suicide notes were found. The statement said that a post-mortem examination will be performed.

The case was listed as a dead body found, and has been transferred to the PJ Investigation Section for follow-up, according to the statement.

Those needing support are urged to phone Caritas Macau’s Life Hope Hotline on 2852 5222 (Chinese) or Expat Life Hotline on 2852 5777 (English) or the Social Welfare Bureau’s (IAS) 24-hour Counselling Hotline on 2826 1126. ■



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

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
A FEW THUNDERY SHOWERS.
FORCE 2 TO 4 SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 70% AND 98%.



26°C~32°C

Source: SMG

4 feel unwell after dining in Cotai hotel eatery

Ginnie Liang

Four mainlanders felt unwell yesterday after eating at a restaurant in a Cotai hotel on Monday, according to a Fire Services Bureau (CB) statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the quartet are family members, aged between 18 and 53, comprising three women and one man.

The bureau received a report at 4:40 p.m. yesterday afternoon that four people in Rua Cidade de Santarém in Zape felt unwell after eating, the statement said, and they told firefighters that they started to have stomachaches yesterday morning after eating at a restaurant in a hotel in Cotai on Monday night.

The four were rushed to the

public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre for treatment, the statement said, adding that the four were in stable condition yesterday evening when the statement was issued.

The Macau Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and Health Bureau have been notified to follow up on the case. ■

'Oxfam TowerRun' to seek donations for left-behind kids

Yuki Lei

The 11th Oxfam TowerRun will take place at Macau Tower on October 20, in the hope of raising donations of over 500,000 to 600,000 patacas to support and help left-behind children in the provinces of Guizhou, Gansu and Shaanxi lacking care and attention improve their life skills through the expected participation of 800 people from all over the world taking up the challenge of running up 1,298 steps from the ground floor of the tower to its adventure deck on the 61st floor, the event organiser said yesterday.

Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/OxfamTowerRun2024> through September 6 for those aged at least 16 in the individual race by raising a minimum of 525 HK dollars or patacas, or 5,000 HK dollars or patacas in the four-person team relay race.

Oxfam Hong Kong's Director of Fundraising and Communications Michael Wong Ho-ming told reporters on the sidelines of a press conference at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre yesterday about the upcoming Oxfam TowerRun that "this event is



Oxfam Hong Kong's Director of Fundraising and Communications Michael Wong Ho-ming delivers a speech during yesterday's press conference about the 11th Oxfam TowerRun at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre.

- Photos: Yuki Lei

going to raise money for left-behind children in [mainland] China, which we think there's a big need for [these children] who lack parental care and guidance. So, the funds that we raise from this event will actually help them in taking care of their health, their education and their livelihood."

On its website, Oxfam noted that it is committed to supporting the mainland's left-behind children

by launching child development programmes in Guizhou, Gansu and Shaanxi to enhance their life skills and sense of independence. For example, in Guizhou's city of Bijie, Oxfam provides life skills enhancement services to promote healthy living for left-behind children. In Gansu, it supports teacher training in mountainous areas, using games and stories to increase children's interest in learning and promote their physical and mental health. In addition, Oxfam also advocates for better policies to promote equal education.

A statement released by Oxfam during yesterday's press conference



Malaysian tower runner Soh Wai Ching (centre) and Macau trail runner Vivi Cheung (left), both in their capacity as Oxfam TowerRun ambassadors, talk about their experiences in participating in the Oxfam TowerRun during yesterday's press conference.

highlighted its commitment to "making the Oxfam TowerRun a major tourism and sporting event in Macau and becoming the only internationally-recognised tower running event in the city", and Wong added that Oxfam is expecting, in particular, the participation of runners from Asia, Italy, Spain and the US who took part in last year's tower run with the aim of breaking their own records.

Speaking to the media after the press conference, Malaysian tower runner Soh Wai Ching, ambassador of Oxfam TowerRun who emerged as the world champion in the 2024 TowerRunning World

Championships, described the Oxfam TowerRun at Macau Tower as "definitely" one of the most enjoyable and memorable races. He said that the condition of the staircase "is very direct, straightforward and challenging". Having participated in the Oxfam TowerRun twice already, in 2019 and 2023, Soh said he expected to break his previous record standing at six minutes and 42 seconds through this year's event: "On top of that, I would like to get more and more international tower runners to come and join this event. To make this event more successful and also more exposure". ■

Govt to delay transferring Inner Harbour's cargo business to Ka Ho Port: lawmaker



This undated file photo downloaded from the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) last night shows Macau's Inner Harbour.

Ginnie Liang

The government will delay its plan to transfer the Inner Harbour's cargo business to Ka Ho Port in Coloane, as the plan's implementation would increase logistical costs and involve employment issues, Zheng Anting, who heads the Legislative Assembly's (AL) Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs, said on Monday.

Zheng, an entrepreneur, made the remarks after a closed-door meeting of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) Follow-up Committee for Public Administration Affairs at the legislature's building in Nam Van.

The committee monitored and reviewed two issues on Monday - the situation and development of the logistics industry in the Inner Harbour and the measures in place for preventing suicide - the head of the committee, Zheng told reporters on Monday.

Zheng quoted the government as saying that Macau's annual cargo throughput is about 130,000 to 140,000 shipping containers, with 40 percent handled in Ka

Ho Port and 60 percent in the Inner Harbour, adding that if all the container business was to be relocated to the Ka Ho Port, it would lead to saturation there, therefore, the working hours of the shipping companies there would have to be lengthened, which would involve increased management and employment costs.

Zheng quoted the government as saying that it will reconsider the transfer, taking into account the actual situation, and launch more comprehensive planning.

In addition, Zheng quoted government officials as telling lawmakers that the psychiatric department of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre mainly deals with serious mental illnesses, totalling about 50,000 consultations a year, while the mental health services provided by psychotherapists in the city's health centres offered 6,000 consultations last year. Zheng also said that the psychological counselling services run by local associations and subsidised by the Health Bureau (SSM) could provide more than 4,000 consultations a year. ■

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Through the Investor's "One-stop" Service, IPIM provides comprehensive support and assistance to investors who are implementing investment projects in Macao, and designates staff to follow up the project throughout the company incorporation procedures, from simple consultation to assisting in the implementation of various administrative procedures involved in the investment projects.

Investor's "One-Stop" Service

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IPIM is dedicated to fostering the development of the MICE industry, promoting exchanges and co-operation between Macao's MICE industry practitioners and their counterparts at home and abroad. Through promoting the advantages of Macao's MICE, IPIM encourages MICE event organisers to hold exhibitions and conventions in Macao, and helps Macao enterprises expand business opportunities through the MICE platforms.

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China-PSC Business Compass Service

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Teachers reflect on students' journey in Macao Young Musicians Competition

Interview by William Chan

The 42nd Macao Young Musicians Competition, being hosted by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), will run until tomorrow. The contest, dedicated to both Chinese and Western instruments, includes solo and ensemble sections for participants to compete in.

Local musicians Alex Cheng Chun Chong and Yukie Lai U Kei spoke to the *Post* online about their students' involvement in the competition.

Lai said that she had 16 percussion students participating, divided into intermediate solo and percussion ensemble categories. "Half of them have only been learning for a year, participating for the first time, while others have been studying for several years and have gained experience," she noted.

According to Lai, her students respectively achieved third place in the intermediate solo category, second place in the ensemble category, with others receiving distinctions and merit ratings. "The students are all very happy, particularly those in the ensemble category. I believe that collaborating with peers and succeeding together is more fulfilling than individual accolades. The delight of teamwork not only offers a gratifying experience but also serves as a testament to the bonds of camaraderie among peers."

The ensemble spent about six months practising, with rehearsals once a week, Lai said, pointing out: "Since there were many new students, it took more time to hone their skills and establish an understanding with teammates." Regarding solo performances, she mentioned a similar practice timeframe of six months, with weekly reviews of past lessons. "In contrast, solo performances can often pose greater technical challenges, demanding increased personal practice time – underscored by the students' discipline and commitment," she underlined.

For Lai, while it's great that they won awards, the greatest joy for her comes from witnessing their progress, starting from scratch and achieving something meaningful.

Cheng, a trumpet and saxophone teacher, said that eight of his students participated in the music competition, competing in the saxophone solo elementary and intermediate categories, as well as the elementary solo junior category.

"For most students, this was their first formal music competition. They all received awards, with positions including third place in the elementary saxophone category and first place in the elementary trumpet category. Additionally, several students achieved distinction and merit ratings, Cheng said, adding that the youngsters were very proud and excited about their performances.

Cheng noted that they started intensive practice for this competition in mid-June. "The students dedicated a significant amount of time each week to practise and put in a lot of effort. I am very happy and delighted with the results they achieved," he said.

Cheng said he felt that the overall organisation of the competition was excellent. "The venue was spacious, well-equipped, and the staff were very professional and enthusiastic."

Lai agreed, pointing out the difficulty in finding suitable venues for percussion competitions. "Instrument transportation, loading and unloading the lorries, as well as ensuring appropriate backstage areas are all important factors to consider for finding venues." This time, the percussion competition took place at Escola Oficial de Seac Pai Van, which, while far away, has good facilities to support the competition.

Both underlined that the competition was a great experience for their students. "I believe that through this valuable experience, their musical skills and stage presence will be further improved," Cheng noted.



Local musician Alex Cheng Chun Chong (right) poses with his trumpet student at Escola Oficial de Seac Pai Van recently. – Photos provided by Cheng



Local musician Yukie Lai U Kei (left) poses with her students at Escola Oficial de Seac Pai Van recently. – Photos provided by Lai



Melco launches 3rd Melco Star Youth Talent Competition

Rui Pastorin

A launch ceremony for the 3rd Melco Star Youth Talent Competition was held yesterday at Studio City in Cotai, with preliminary rounds set to take place in October, while the final and prize-giving ceremony is slated for November.

Details of the contest, which is co-organised by Melco Resorts & Entertainment and the National Conditions Education (Macau) Association, were announced at the ceremony.

First held in 2019, the competition, which a Melco statement yesterday said is organised “to instil national pride and patriotism through education of Chinese culture”, has garnered participation of a total of 2,360 students who delivered nearly 300 Chinese Cultural arts performances in dance, song and recital acts.

Melco Resorts & Entertainment Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau-lung said in his speech yesterday that in the past two events, “we have been impressed by the artistic performances and talent of the contestants, aged 5 to 18 years old, from 56 schools in Macau”.

Ho added that this year’s contest features international judges, namely The House of Dancing Water’s Artistic Director Giuliano Peparini and The Planet Entertainment’s founder and Creative Director Kriman Benbella.

Moreover, National Conditions Education (Macau) Association President Jack Wang (王海濤) said in his speech that the contest’s objective since its inception has been “to develop a comprehensive platform for youth to integrate their display of talent, communication, learning, and growth”.

“We believe that through hosting this competition, we will not only showcase the versatility and youthful vitality of Macau’s youth, but also inspire their love for the country and Macau”, he added.

Lin Dan Badminton Open to be held in Studio City

Meanwhile, the company also announced in a separate statement last night that the “Melco Style Presents: 2024 Macau Lin Dan Cup Badminton Open” will take place at the Studio City Event Centre next month,



Melco Resorts & Entertainment Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau-lung delivers a speech during yesterday’s launch ceremony for the 3rd Melco Star Youth Talent Competition at Studio City in Cotai.



National Conditions Education Association (Macau) President Jack Wang (王海濤) delivers his speech at yesterday’s launch ceremony. – Photos: Rui Pastorin

marking the first time it will be held in Macau since it launched in 2020.

The statement noted that the “Lin Dan Cup” has been held at eight “stops” since 2020 and has attracted nearly 1,000 players from Canada, the Chinese mainland, Malaysia, Thailand and the UK, among others.

Lin Dan, a former professional badminton player from the mainland who won gold medals in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, was quoted by the statement as saying: “Ahead of the first ever National Games to be co-hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in the Greater Bay Area in 2025, it is of great significance to be hosting the event in Macau.

Lin also won 20 world championships during his professional career and is the only badminton player in the world to achieve two “Grand Slams”, the statement said.

Melco Board Director Clarence Chung Yuk Man was also quoted by the statement as saying: It is an honour to cooperate with Lin Dan, who personally oversees this wonderful badminton event soon to be held in Macau for the first time to promote both badminton and Macau’s development as a distinguished ‘City of Sports’.

Tickets priced from 80 patacas will be available from August 23 on the Studio City website.

The event will be on September 14-15. ■

Undeveloped plot in Seac Pai Van earmarked for hotels, residential, office buildings

Tony Wong

A plot next to the sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing community in Coloane will be earmarked for a development project comprising residential buildings, retail outlets, office buildings and hotels, according to the proposed legal development conditions for the plot published by the Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) yesterday.

After the Lands and Urban Construction Bureau has drafted the legal development conditions for particular plots, for both public and private projects, they will then be uploaded to its website for residents to submit their opinions and suggestions. After collecting residents’ opinions and suggestions, the legal development conditions will then be discussed in a regular meeting of the Urban Planning Council (CPU) – a consultative body tasked with advising the government on its urban planning policies.

The proposed legal development conditions for the plot in Seac Pai Van were uploaded to the bureau’s website yesterday for residents to submit opinions and suggestions by August 28.

The site is an undeveloped plot located between Avenida da



This photo taken by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) in May shows the undeveloped plot next to the newly completed Light Rail Transit (LRT) Seac Pai Van Station, the Lok Kuan Building social rental housing estate (top), and the private residential estate Praia Park (right).

Harmonia and Estrada de Seac Pai Van.

The Seac Pai Van public housing neighbourhood comprises one social rental housing estate and three subsidised home-ownership scheme (HOS) estates.

The plot earmarked for the new development project is situated next to the Seac Pai Van social rental housing estate, namely Lok Kuan Building, as well as next to the new private residential estate Praia Park.

The plot covers 9,045 square metres, but the land concession’s developer will be required to

relinquish a part of the plot to be used for public streets, according to the plot’s legal development conditions published yesterday.

After the relinquishment, the site that can be used for the development project will cover 6,437 square metres.

According to the legal development conditions, the government proposes a construction height limit of 90 metres on the plot.

The legal development conditions do not reveal how many buildings the project will comprise. ■

Foreign visitors leap 122 pct in Jan-July: MGTO

Tony Wong

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said in a statement yesterday that according to its provisional data, Macau recorded 1.34 million foreign visitors in the first seven months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 122.0 percent, returning to 68.1 percent of the level recorded in the same period of pre-pandemic 2019.

An MGTO statement last week said that according to its provisional data, Macau recorded 19.74 million visitor arrivals in the first seven months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 37.1 percent, returning to 82.9 percent of the figure in the same period of 2019.

Last week’s statement also said that Macau recorded 3.02 million visitor arrivals last month, or a daily average of 97,683, a year-on-year increase of 9.7 percent, returning to 85.8 percent of the level recorded in the same period of 2019.

The Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) is scheduled to announce on Tuesday next week the official data on visitor arrivals

recorded last month and during the first seven months of this year.

Yesterday’s MGTO statement also quoted DSEC data on visitor arrivals recorded during the first half of this year, which was announced on July 19.

According to the DSEC data announced last month, Macau recorded 16.72 million visitor arrivals in the first half of this year, a year-on-year growth of 43.6 percent, reaching 82.4 percent of the figure in the same period of 2019.

The number of foreign visitors in the first six months of this year leapt by 146.3 percent year on year to 1.16 million, returning to 67.2 percent of the level recorded in the same period of 2019, according to last month’s DSEC data.

Moreover, yesterday’s MGTO statement also said that according to its provisional data, Macau recorded 1.48 million visitor arrivals between August 1 and 12, representing a daily average of about 124,000, adding that Saturday last week saw the highest single-day number of 154,542 during the 12-day period. ■



Tourists throng Rua de S. Paulo last week, a narrow pedestrian-only street near the UNESCO World Heritage-listed St. Paul’s Ruins landmark. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.36 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong’s stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.36 percent to close 17,174.06 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 0.33 percent to end at 6,049.41 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index closed flat at 3,429.69 points.

– Xinhua