

# CPC United Front Work Dept head praises Macau as 'One Country, Two Systems' exemplar

Tony Wong

Shi Taifeng, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of the CPC Central Committee, visited Macau for a two-day investigation and research tour, which ended on Sunday, during which he praised Macau for being an exemplar of the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) announced in a statement yesterday.

The statement said that during his two-day fact-finding tour, Shi, also a vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), had a meeting with Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, during which they exchanged views on studying and implementing the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee, which was held in Beijing from July 15 to 18, as well as views on various other topics.

During his meeting with Ho, according to the GCS statement, Shi, 67, said that in the past 25 years since its return to the motherland, Macau has been maintaining continuous economic development and social harmony and stability where residents live and work in peace and contentment.

Shi, who is also the executive vice president of the China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful National Reunification, said that the "One Country, Two Systems" cause is moving



This handout photo released by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday shows Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (right) meeting with Shi Taifeng, head of the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of the CPC Central Committee, at Santa Sancha Guesthouse on Penha Hill during Shi's two-day fact-finding tour of Macau on Saturday and Sunday.

forward, the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) is forging ahead, and the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is undergoing rapid changes, adding that Macau is now standing at a new historical starting point.

According to the statement, Shi noted that the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee made strategic plans for further deepening reform comprehensively

to advance Chinese modernisation, thereby providing new major opportunities for Macau's development, adding he believes that Macau will definitely have a better future.

According to the statement, Ho said that Shi's investigation and research trip highlighted the central authorities' concern and care for Macau.

Ho said that Macau has been maintaining prosperity and stability since its return to the

motherland during which the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle has been steady and enduring.

Ho noted that the central government rolled out a string of measures favourable to Macau's development earlier this year, because of which Macau has been able to work with an increasingly better development landscape.

Continued on p.5

## Netanyahu says aims to free 'maximum' number hostages in first Gaza exchange



JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he seeks to free a "maximum number" of living hostages held in Gaza in the first stage of a ceasefire deal with Hamas.

"I would like to emphasise: The efforts to release a maximum number of living hostages – already in the first stage of the deal", he said in a video statement released by his office after meeting US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Netanyahu promised to send an Israeli team to new talks scheduled this week on a ceasefire with Hamas.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu committed to sending his senior expert team back to either Doha or to Egypt to try to complete this process, but we look to Hamas, first and foremost, to get behind the bridging

proposal," Blinken said, referring to a US blueprint to close the gaps.

Blinken also said he asked Israel's leaders to take action against a rash of violent attacks by settlers against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"We look to see action taken, action taken to prevent that kind of violence, action taken to hold people who are responsible for it accountable," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, Blinken also said that Israel has agreed to support efforts to vaccinate Gazans for polio after the besieged territory reported its first case of the disease in 25 years.

"We're working with the Israeli government on that, and I believe that we'll be able to move forward with a plan to do that in the coming weeks. It is urgent. It is vital," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv. (More on p.10) – AFP

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### Xi, Lam hold talks, guiding development of China-Vietnam community with shared future

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese president, held talks with To Lam, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and Vietnamese president, yesterday in Beijing.

– Story on p. 7

### Pakistan's jailed ex-PM Khan applies to be Oxford chancellor

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has applied to become the next chancellor of Britain's prestigious University of Oxford, his party says.

– Story on p. 9

### UN says malnutrition crisis worsening in Mideast, N Africa

The United Nations warned yesterday of a "deepening crisis" of malnutrition in the Middle East and North Africa affecting a third of children.

– Story on p. 11

# MICAF Fun Day to start on Friday

## House of Literature to hold parent-child activities next month

Ginnie Liang

The "1st Macao International Children's Arts Festival (MICAF)" will start its grand finale "MICAF Fun Day" Arts Carnival at the Cultural Centre Plaza from Friday to Sunday and from August 30 to September 1, welcoming children aged five to 12 to play in the outdoor splash zone and bubble zone party with their parents or guardians, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, the event will feature a main stage performance area, a central sitting-out area, a splash zone, a bubble zone, workshops and games area, plus a food and market area.

From Friday to Sunday, the main stage will feature a local orchestra performing a number of Disney animated movie soundtracks, as well as street dance, skipping, band performances, cheerleaders, diablo\* performances, and Portuguese folk songs and dances, the statement said.

The event will also feature outdoor screenings of a number of international and local animated short films on the themes of embracing life, childlike innocence and the world of fantasy, with interactive performances such as magic, clowns and stilt walkers will be held in the central sitting-out area.

In addition, Hong Kong singer James Ng Yip-kwan will make an appearance on Saturday.

The activity will be free for entry, interested individuals can register for participation. One can also visit [www.icm.gov.mo/micaf](http://www.icm.gov.mo/micaf) or contact the bureau on [micaf@icm.gov.mo](mailto:micaf@icm.gov.mo) or 8399 6699 for festival details.

### Macao House of Literature to hold parent-child activities

The bureau announced in a separate statement yesterday that the Macao House of Literature will launch three puppet performances for parents and children, as well

as four lantern-creating workshops for the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, and all of the activities, which will take place next month, are free of charge.

The puppet theatre will combine puppetry and thematic guided tours, with a brand-new protagonist, a robot, taking participants on a journey through the various spaces of the literature house, interpreting a number of classic characters through interactive and interesting puppetry.

The three sessions of the puppet theatre will be held on September 7 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and on September 8 at 11 a.m., with an approximate duration of one hour, and targeting children aged 4 to 7 years old.

Meanwhile, the parent-child lantern creating workshops will be held on September 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. respectively, targeting children aged 5 to 12 years old.

Interested parties can sign up for the activities through the "Macao One Account" mobile app starting from 10 a.m. today.

Details of the programme can be found on the Macao House of Literature's website at [www.clm.gov.mo](http://www.clm.gov.mo). For enquiries, one can call 8399 6211 during office hours. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday shows the upcoming "MICAF Fun Day" Arts Carnival at the Cultural Centre Plaza. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. respectively, targeting children aged 5 to 12 years old.

\*The diablo is a juggling or circus prop consisting of a bobbin and two hourglass/egg timer shaped cups or discs derived from the Chinese yo-yo. This object is spun using a string attached to two hand sticks. A large variety of tricks are possible with the diablo,

including tosses, and various types of interaction with the sticks, string, and various parts of the user's body. Multiple diabolos can be spun on a single string, according to Wikipedia. The word's etymology comes from the French word "diable", which means "devil".

## Local Filipina nabbed for cash register theft

William Chan

A local Filipina has been arrested for stealing 12,000 patacas from the cash register of a convenience store on two occasions, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hou said in a regular press conference yesterday.



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

The suspect, surnamed Vivian, is in her fifties. She told the police she's jobless.

According to Lei, on August 12, the suspect abruptly left the convenience store in San Kio district while an employee was momentarily distracted, prompting suspicion among the staff who then attempted to chase her but failed. Upon their return to the store and subsequent examination, they discovered that 5,500 patacas and HK\$1,500 were missing from the cash register.

After reviewing CCTV footage, they found that besides stealing cash on August 12, Vivian had stolen 5,000 patacas from their cash register the day before, leading them to report the case to the police.

She was subsequently apprehended in the Areia Preta district last Wednesday. Vivian admitted to the crime, and claimed that she had gambled away all the stolen money.

Vivian has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing theft charges, Lei said. ■

## Mainland duo nabbed for burglary of local woman's flat

William Chan

Two mainland construction workers have been arrested for allegedly breaking into a local woman's home and stealing a number of valuables, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said at a special press conference yesterday.

Ho identified the duo as a 33-year-old man surnamed He, who has a criminal record for street theft in the mainland, and a 43-year-old man surnamed Luo.

According to Ho, around 8 p.m. on Saturday, while a security guard of a Taipa residential building was patrolling the property, he noticed a man climbing the scaffolding and promptly reported the incident to the police.

After arriving at the scene, the police discovered a black backpack hidden on the 7th floor of the building. Inside were suspected burglary tools such as iron pens, screwdrivers and wrenches, as well as two sets of clothes, hats, masks, and some food.

With the aid of CCTV footage, the police identified the duo and arrested them later that day. The police also requested the building's estate manager to enquire whether



This undated photo provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday shows evidence including a backpack, clothes and shoes being examined by the police at a residential building in Taipa, as construction workers look on.

any residents' flats had been burgled recently.

On Sunday, a local woman residing on the 21st floor reported to the police that two pieces of gold jewellery and a pearl necklace worth 16,000 patacas and 5,000 cash had vanished from her home.

Under questioning, the duo

refused to cooperate. The police were still investigating the exact method used to break into the flat and make their escape at the time of the press conference.

He and Luo were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing aggravated theft charges, Ho said. ■

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MACAU POST

### Macau Weather

**SLIGHT FLOODING MAY OCCUR IN INNER HARBOUR AREA FROM 8 ~ 11 AM DUE TO ASTRONOMICAL TIDE. UNSETTLED. CLOUDY. SHOWERS, HEAVY AT TIMES. OCCASIONAL THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 80% AND 99%. 24°C~28°C**



Source: SMG

### Correction

This is just to correct a mistake in the headline of our story on Page 3 yesterday about the arrival of mainland China's Olympians in Macau on August 31. The headline wrongly stated that Team China would arrive in Macau on August 29. In fact, the national team will arrive in Hong Kong on August 29 and in Macau on August 31. We apologise for the error which occurred during the editing process.

# Malaysia's public transport giant Prasarana briefs MAICC on RTS Link, delegates visit Forest City

## Yuki Lei in Malaysia

A business delegation of the Macao ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) continued yesterday its fact-finding trip aiming to deepen its understanding of Malaysia's economic development when the Malaysian government arranged for its Prasarana public transportation giant to give the delegation members an in-depth presentation on its ongoing Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link project between Malaysia's state of Johor Bahru and Singapore.

According to the project operator, the four-kilometre-long RTS Link will run from Johor Bahru in Malaysia to Singapore's Woodland North Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) station, with an estimated capacity of 10,000 passengers per hour in one direction, and about 150,000 passengers per day. With the planned completion of the Johor Bahru Rapid Transit (SBRT) system in late 2026, including the building of a new Immigration, Customs and Quarantine (ICQ) Complex next to the station at Bukit Chagar in Malaysia, the project is aimed to ease the traffic congestion at the Johor-Singapore



Members of the Macao ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) business delegation pose after yesterday's visit to Forest City in Iskandar Puteri, Johor, Malaysia. — Photo: MAICC

Causeway, strengthen the connectivity between Malaysia and Singapore, enhance people-to-people contacts and create social and economic co-benefits via passport-free travel between Singapore and the southern Malaysian state of Johor by QR code. The completion of the RTS Link project stood at 83 percent as of last month.

The Johor-Singapore Causeway is strategically located in the state

of Johor, just a causeway away from Singapore, which has made possible the launch of "friendly access" arrangements and an efficient transportation system that allows residents and tourists alike to travel between Malaysia and Singapore

with ease, according to the RTS Link operator.

MAICC Chairman Kelvin Tan Hai Ching has told the *Post* and *Macao Daily News* — Macau's top-selling English- and Chinese-language newspapers, respectively

— he believes that the RTS Link will be an efficient transportation system enabling people working in Singapore to choose to live in Malaysia, and thus enjoying the lower cost of living and tax advantages there, as it is expected to take a mere 30 minutes to travel from the southern Malay peninsula's state of Johor to the Lion City.

The delegation ended their tour of Malaysia yesterday with a visit to Forest City — an integrated residential development and privately developed town, where members of the delegation were briefed about the Malaysia My Second Home (MM2H) programme, which, the programme representatives said, is a resettlement policy, not an immigration policy, i.e., applicants will be granted a visa to stay in Malaysia for an indefinite period without giving up their nationality.

The delegation started its two-nation fact-finding trip on Thursday, and its over 40 members will return to Macau today. ■

## Tickets for 36<sup>th</sup> Macao Int'l Music Festival go on sale



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Friday shows a performance of *Tosca – Opera in Three Acts* by Giacomo Puccini.

### Rui Pastorin

The 36<sup>th</sup> Macao International Music Festival (MIMF) is slated to take place from October 4 to November 4, with tickets for the monthlong event, themed "And the Stars Shine", now on sale.

According to a statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Friday, this year's music festival will feature 12 programmes.

The festival will open with *Tosca – Opera in Three Acts* by Giacomo Puccini presented by the Mariinsky Theatre from Russia and acclaimed classical music conductor Valery Gergiev, in collaboration with the Macao Orchestra and the Mariinsky Orchestra, the statement said. Gergiev will also conduct the Mariinsky Orchestra in two concerts.

Yugoslav-born Croatian pianist Ivo Pogorelich will present music from the Romantic period, while a

concert by US jazz pianist Herbie Hancock is also set to be held. The closing performance, the statement said, will be presented by Portuguese fado diva Mariza and the Macao Chinese Orchestra under the baton of Tsung Yeh.

More details and ticketing for this year's programme can be found on [www.macaoticket.com](http://www.macaoticket.com) or by calling 2855 5555. One can also visit the MIMF website on [www.icm.gov.mo/fimm](http://www.icm.gov.mo/fimm).

Meanwhile, tickets for the "Music on the Big Screen: Cinematheque•Passion" are also on sale at Cinematheque•Passion and its website on [www.cinematheque-passion.mo](http://www.cinematheque-passion.mo). Registration for other outreach activities can also be done through one's Macao One Account on [activity.mo.gov.mo/activity-h5/activity-list-web](http://activity.mo.gov.mo/activity-h5/activity-list-web). For enquiries, call 8399 6699 or email [outreach@icm.gov.mo](mailto:outreach@icm.gov.mo). ■

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Photos taken yesterday by Rui Pastorin



# Local lensman explores act of seeing in 21<sup>st</sup> century at 'Datascape' exhibition

*Rui Pastorin*

Young local lensman Kun Wang Tou is showcasing his works at an exhibition entitled "Datascape – Post Photographic Art in Digital Era", which is displayed across The Parisian Macao's third floor until September 30.

Open from 12 noon to 7 p.m., the free-admission exhibition in Cotai is part of the Art for All Society's (AFA) annual "Artificial Landscape: New Media Art Exhibition Series I" and invites exhibitiongoers to think about photography's evolving definition in the digital age, according to a recent AFA statement.

The photographs serve as "meditations on the nature of perception, the impact of technology on our lives, and the search for meaning in an increasingly digitised world", the statement said, adding that the exhibition explores the act of seeing and understanding in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The first section of the exhibition, "Datascape: The Apotheosis of Tourism I", is an installation and light photography series where Kun uses photography as "a tool for social observation, documenting the rituals of tourism as if they were religious practices".

"The Apotheosis of Tourism II", meanwhile, sees the local photographer recreate the Ruins of St. Paul's and A-Ma Temple as large-scale check-in points within the integrated resort's shopping mall, the statement noted, hinting at the sites being "reproduced" and "consumed" in modern society, especially within the tourism industry.

Kun then challenges the exhibitiongoers' perception of reality using photographic and post-processing techniques in the "Blue Wave" section.

In "Allegory of Aperture", Kun digitally reassembles his architectural photographs of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) to create surreal geometric images, the statement said.

Moreover, "Barakah" features post-processed images of the sky and Moon, while "Datascape" sees Kun transform his photographic works into video installations, according to the statement.

Kun was born and raised in Macau, the statement said. He studied both traditional and digital photography at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in the US.

Expanding his creative boundaries, Kun's works began to reflect the "pervasive influence of the digital realm, questioning the very nature of images in an age of endless replication and manipulation, and proposing the potential of 'post-photography'", according to the statement.

Detailed information on Kun and his works exhibited can be found on <https://www.afamacau.com>



# NIA receives about 30,000 foreign permanent residents' mainland travel permit applications

Ginnie Liang

As of yesterday, the number of applications for special travel permits to enter mainland China for foreign permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau received by the National Immigration Administration (NIA) had reached about 30,000, the NIA announced at a press conference in Beijing yesterday.

Since July 10, non-Chinese nationals who are permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau have been able to apply for the permit, officially known as Hong Kong and Macau Residents' Entry and Exit Permit for Travelling to and from the Mainland, on multiple trips for up to 90 days each time within a five-year validity period.

The permit allows foreign permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau to travel to the mainland for short-term entry purposes such as investment, visiting relatives, tourism, business, seminars and exchanges.

Eligible residents can submit their applications in person to China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Limited and China Travel Service (Macau) Limited respectively.

The NIA said that nationals who are permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau are the builders of and contributors to the civil societies of Hong Kong and Macau, and the issuance of the special travel permits for them is a major reform measure to fully and accurately implement the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", and actively respond to the new needs and expectations of the civil societies of Hong Kong and Macau.

Media reports last month indicated that there are 270,000 foreign permanent residents in Hong Kong and 20,000 in Macau who have the right to apply for the special mainland travel permit.

In addition, the NIA also announced during yesterday's press



This handout photo provided by the State Council Information Office shows National Immigration Administration (NIA) officials addressing yesterday's press conference about the new mainland travel permits for foreign permanent residents in Hong Kong and Macau and talent travel permits for residents from Beijing, Shanghai and the Greater Bay Area (GBA) allowing them to enter Hong Kong and Macau.

conference that it had issued "talent travel permits" for more than 23,000 mainland residents in Beijing, Shanghai and the Guangdong-Hong

Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) to enter the Hong Kong and Macau special administrative regions.

High-end talents under six categories working in the Beijing, Shanghai and GBA regions are eligible to apply for such travel permits. They are: talents who have made outstanding contributions to the development of their region; scientific research talents; education sector talents; health science talents; legal sector talents; and other talents recognised by local authorities.

Visitors under the "talent travel permit" will be granted a stay of as long as 30 days in either of the two SARs, with the validity period ranging from one to five years.

Currently, the existing travelling permits for individual tourists and business visits from the mainland allow a maximum stay of seven days in Hong Kong and Macau, while visitors for family reunion purposes can stay up to 90 days, and a longer duration can be approved for training and studying in Hong Kong and Macau. ■

## HK salesman, mainland engineer cheat casino at baccarat

William Chan

A Hong Kong salesman and an engineer from the mainland have been arrested for separately cheating a casino when playing baccarat, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said at a regular press conference yesterday.

In the first case, the 35-year-old salesman is surnamed Kakadiya.

According to Ho, on a Saturday morning, Kakadiya participated in a baccarat game at a Cotai casino. During the game, after the cards were revealed, he immediately placed a HK\$1,000 casino chip on the "Lucky 6" bet, which offers a payout rate of 50 times the original amount. Subsequently, he won HK\$50,000 and swiftly converted the chips into cash.

Upon the suspicion of the casino supervisors and a subsequent CCTV review, the case was reported to the authorities. Kakadiya was apprehended on Monday with HK\$51,000 in his possession.

In the second case, the 37-year-old suspect is surnamed Wang.

On Saturday, while Wang was participating in a baccarat game at a Cotai casino, he placed five HK\$10,000 gambling chips on the player's side. When the cards



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. — Photo: William Chan

revealed his loss, he promptly attempted to retrieve the chips.

The casino staff intervened, and the case was reported to the police, leading to Wang's arrest at the scene.

Ho did not reveal whether both cases occurred at the same casino.

Kakadiya and Wang were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, Kakadiya face a fraud charge while Wang face a theft charge, Ho said. ■

## CPC United Front Work Dept head praises Macau as 'One Country, Two Systems' exemplar

Continued from p.1

Ho underlined that the local government is pragmatically promoting Macau's appropriate economic diversification drive in line with its 1+4 plan and the development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, as well as actively integrating the city into nation's overall development.

According to the statement, Ho noted that the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee last month adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernisation, systematically planning a string of strategic and overall major reform measures, which, Ho said, has provided the right direction for the nation's high-quality development and strategic planning, as well as important guidance for Macau to maintain its sustainable development and long-term prosperity and stability.

Ho noted that according to the third plenary session's resolution, the central authorities will continue to give full play to the institutional advantages of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and support Hong Kong and Macau in developing themselves into hubs for international high-end talents, i.e., highly-qualified professionals.

Ho noted that according to the resolution, the central authorities will continue to deepen cooperation within the GBA where the integration of regulations between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau will be strengthened, as well as improve the systems for promoting economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation between the mainland and the Taiwan region.

Consequently, Ho said, Macau must make further contributions to meeting the country's needs by studying and implementing well the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee.

According to yesterday's GCS statement, during his two-day fact-finding visit to Macau, Shi had meetings with a number of community leaders, accompanied by Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U.

Shi is also a secretary of the CPC Secretariat.

After leaving Macau, Shi visited Hong Kong for a fact-finding tour where he met with its chief executive John Lee Ka-chiu yesterday, according to a statement by the Hong Kong government yesterday.

According to Hong Kong media reports yesterday, Shi will deliver a speech at the Overseas Chinese World Conference for Promoting Peaceful Reunification of China at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) today. ■

## Govt collecting oath-taking forms from CE election committee members

Tony Wong

The period for members of the 400-strong Chief Executive Election Committee to submit their respective oath-taking declaration forms to the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE) started yesterday, with all of them required to submit their forms by 8 p.m. on Saturday.

A total of 344 out of the Chief Executive Election Committee's 400 members were chosen by secret ballot cast by 5,521 voters

on August 11, while the other 56 members were chosen by a variety of other methods earlier this month.

According to the newly amended oath-taking law, which took effect in late May, the Chief Executive Election Committee members are also required to take an oath when taking office. However, the amended law only requires the committee's members to take their oaths by signing a declaration, unlike all the others such as the chief executive,

principal officials, legislators, judges, and prosecutors, who are required to take their oaths of office in person at special ceremonies.

The Chief Executive Election Committee members are required to submit their signed oath-taking declaration forms in person to the electoral affairs counters on the first basement floor of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo on or before Saturday this week, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. ■

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.8 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.8 percent to close at 17,569.57 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index jumped 1.04 percent to end at 6,225.86 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 1.68 percent to close at 3,517.09 points. — Xinhua