

# TUI President Sam Hou Fai 'considers' running for Macau's top post

Yuki Lei

With less than a month left before the deadline for nominating candidates for the sixth-term chief executive (CE) election, Court of Final Appeal (TUI) President Sam Hou Fai told the local media yesterday that he was "considering" running in the election, adding that he would inform the public about his final decision.

Born in Guangdong in May 1962, Sam was admitted to the Peking University's Law School in 1981 as the top scholar of liberal arts in Zhongshan city. After graduating from Law School, he worked as a lawyer in a foreign trade law firm in Guangzhou and moved to Macau in 1986. In 1990, Sam passed a government examination in Macau and went to Portugal as a legal talent to enrol in language, culture and law courses at the University of Coimbra. In 1993, upon his return from Portugal, he studied local law at the University of Macau (UM) and attended post-graduate legal and judicial affairs courses. In 1995, became a judicial auditor and one of Macau's first local trainee judges. He was appointed president of the Court of Final Appeal on December 20, 1999, coinciding with the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Apart from being Macau's top judge, Sam chairs Macau's council of judges, and he is a member of the Independent Commission for the Recommendation of Judges, a member of the Working Committee on Regional Legal Assistance and International Mutual Legal Assistance, as well as Honourable Chairman of the Macao Basic Law Promotional Association.

When asked by reporters on the sidelines of a seminar by the Macau Alumni Association of Peking University Law School at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape whether he intended to take part in the upcoming CE election, according to rumours reported by some local media, Sam first expressed his gratitude to the public for their concern and said: "The chief executive is a noble position to serve the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) and its residents," adding that he has always had a desire to serve Macau.

Sam went on to say: "Regarding the question you [the media] raised just now, I am considering it and I will let you know if I have any further decision," noting that some of his friends have encouraged him to "continue to contribute to Macau".

The election for Macau's new chief executive has been slated for



Court of Final Appeal (TUI) President Sam Hou Fai speaks to reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's seminar by the Macau Alumni Association of Peking University Law School at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape. — Photo: MPD/G

October 13, while the nomination period for candidates in the election has been set to run from next Thursday to September 12.

With Wednesday's announcement by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng that he will not seek a second term as chief executive due to health concerns, the 67-year-old will become the first Macau chief executive not to stand for re-election for a second five-year term, while his predecessors –

Edmund Ho Hau Wah and Fernando Chui Sai On – both served their two five-year terms of office in 1999-2009 and 2009-2019 respectively. According to the Macau Basic Law, Macau's chief executives can only serve two terms.

In the previous chief executive elections, except for the first election in 1999 in which Stanley Au Chong-kit lost to Edmund Ho Hau Wah, there was only one candidate.



The 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee will elect the MSAR's sixth-term head on Sunday, October 13. By law, all elections in Macau are held on a Sunday.

A potential chief executive candidate requires the endorsement of at least 66 members of the 400 electors, or 16.5 percent of its members, to get his or her candidacy off the ground.

According to the MSAR Basic Law and the Chief Executive Election Law, the chief executive must be at least 40 years old at the end of the nomination period, be a permanent local resident, hold Chinese nationality, does not have the right of abode in a foreign country, and must have "habitually" lived in Macau for at least 20 years. ■

## Xi urges advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics on 120<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Deng Xiaoping



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech during a meeting to mark the 120<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of late leader Deng Xiaoping, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday. — Xinhua

BEIJING – President Xi Jinping lauded the "outstanding contributions" of late leader Deng Xiaoping and urged advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics initiated by Deng, as the country marked Deng's 120<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary yesterday.

Addressing a meeting held to mark the anniversary, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the

Central Military Commission, said the country must continue to thoroughly study and apply Deng Xiaoping Theory.

"Deng made outstanding contributions to the Party, the people, the country, the nation and the world," Xi said, adding that Deng's achievements have been immortalized in history and will always inspire future generations.

Deng was the core of the second generation of the Party's central

collective leadership, the chief architect of China's socialist reform, opening up and modernization, and the trailblazer of socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi said, adding that Deng was also a great internationalist who made major contributions to world peace and development.

"Comrade Deng Xiaoping had lived a glorious, fighting and extraordinary life," he said.

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### Afghanistan's Taliban govt enacts 'vice and virtue' law

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have announced the codification of laws detailing rules of behaviour and lifestyle based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

– Story on p. 9

### Complaints filed against EU parliament over 'massive' data breach

A non-profit yesterday said it had lodged two complaints accusing the European Parliament of compromising employees' personal data as a result of a massive cyberattack earlier this year.

– Story on p. 11

### War cook: Ukrainian soldier-influencer's winning recipe

Standing amid ruins in east Ukraine, Ruslan Mokrytskyi held a combat knife and concentrated on cutting onions without crying. As trivial as it seems on the front line, it is still not easy.

– Story on p. 15



# No arrests in Macau for HK company fraud case: Judiciary Police

Tony Wong

The Macau Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a short statement last night that no one has been arrested in Macau in connection with a fraud case jointly announced by Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) in a statement on Wednesday, according to which the two Hong Kong entities and the Macau Judiciary Police jointly launched a law enforcement operation, in the two cities respectively, earlier this week when seven were arrested in Hong Kong, including top executives of a listed company.

The PJ statement also said that the Judiciary Police have launched an investigation into the case, adding that "for the time being [the Judiciary Police] have no further information to announce".

The ICAC-SFC joint statement on Wednesday said that the ICAC, the SFC and Macau's Judiciary Police jointly mounted an operation code-named "Demarcation" on Monday and Tuesday against suspected cross-border fraud and misconduct in a listed company in Hong Kong, senior executives of which were allegedly involved in fictitious transactions and false accounting totalling around HK\$120 million, the statement said.

According to the statement, six premises were jointly searched by the ICAC and the SFC. During the joint operation, the ICAC arrested seven people, including the chairman

and an executive director of the listed company.

The ICAC-SFC joint statement did not identify the listed company.

According to the statement, the findings of the ICAC-SFC joint investigation showed that the chairman of the listed company and other individuals had allegedly falsified business documents and accounting records of the company's subsidiaries in Hong Kong and Macau so that the company's trade receivables were reduced by around 113 million patacas (HK\$110 million).

In addition, the statement said, the individuals concerned had also allegedly used false documents and accounting records to conceal the misappropriation of the company's funds of over HK\$9 million.

The ICAC-SFC statement said that as cross-border crimes were involved in the case, Macau's Judiciary Police have also launched an investigation into the relevant individuals' suspected fraud crimes which took place in Macau.

Simultaneous to the ICAC operation earlier this week, the statement said, Macau's Judiciary Police launched their law enforcement operation in Macau where they searched related premises and questioned the individuals concerned.

The statement also said that "as the investigation is ongoing, no further comment will be made by the ICAC and the SFC".

The statement quoted ICAC Deputy

Commissioner and Head of Operations Ricky Yau Shu-chun as saying that "the joint operation fully demonstrates the close collaboration and determination of the two cities' law enforcement agencies in tackling cross-border corruption and other crimes to maintain a clean and fair business environment and effective operation of the financial market. The ICAC will continue to work with the SFC and other law enforcement agencies to curb corruption and other illegal activities and bring local and cross-border criminals to justice".

The statement also quoted SFC Executive Director of Enforcement Christopher Wilson as saying that "the SFC has zero tolerance when it comes to misconduct undermining the orderliness of the market and misconduct by management of listed companies. The joint action demonstrates the determination of law enforcement agencies in both jurisdictions to combat cross-border illegal activities involving listed companies. The SFC will continue to work closely with the ICAC and other local and non-local law enforcement agencies to maintain market integrity and safeguard the interests of investors".

According to reports by the local Portuguese-language channel of public broadcaster TDM and other Macau media as well as Hong Kong media, the listed company involved in the case is a firm providing decoration and repair and maintenance services for various businesses and facilities in Hong Kong and Macau. A TDM Portuguese-language report



This undated photo downloaded from the website of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) yesterday shows its headquarters in North Point.

yesterday said that Macau lawmaker-cum-civil engineer Wu Chou Kit and Macanese community leader Rita Santos are two of the company's non-executive directors. Rita Santos told the TDM Portuguese-language channel that she did not know anything about the case, while TDM said that it could not contact Wu yesterday about the matter. ■

## IAM urges public to stop drinking batch of Japan-made soya milk

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) were recently informed by the Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency that a soya milk product batch may have quality issues, and its manufacturer in Japan is recalling the particular batch, the bureau said in a statement yesterday.

The brand is MARUSAN, and the product is named 毎日おいしい無調整豆乳, the statement noted.

The batch with quality issues has the number 4901033 633042 on each 1,000 ml carton and 4901033 004736 on the product's outer box, with a best before date of December 28 and 29 this year, the statement said.

According to the statement, the bureau is following the case closely, at the same time, the bureau has issued a food warning to the local F&B industry, and sent officials to supermarkets and shops for further investigation.

The bureau urged retailers to stop selling this batch of product

and citizens to stop consuming it.

The statement pointed out that retailers selling the product should inform the bureau that they have this particular batch in stock, in order to protect consumers' food safety.

For enquiries call the IAM food safety hotline on 2833 8181 during office hours. ■



This undated file photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) shows the problematic batch of MARUSAN soya milk "毎日おいしい無調整豆乳".

## Mainland man falsely accuses 'debtor' of cheating him out of HK\$5,000

Yuki Lei

A mainland man was arrested on Tuesday for falsely reporting to the police that he had been defrauded out of HK\$5,000, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said yesterday, adding that the Judiciary Police initially believed that the victim had borrowed money from the suspect for gambling but failed to repay it.

According to yesterday's regular press conference, the Judiciary Police were called to a hotel in Cotai to investigate a suspected fraud case on Tuesday, during which the "fraud case victim" (Liu) told the police he had been cheated out of HK\$5,000 by a man claiming that his son was in a need of emergency hospital treatment.

Later that day, the Judiciary

Police intercepted the "fraud case suspect" at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint and later found that the statement made by (Liu) then the "fraud case victim" did not tally with the facts, Ho noted, adding that the Judiciary Police initially believed that the actual victim had borrowed money from the actual suspect (Liu) for gambling and failed to repay it, intentionally fabricating facts to falsely accuse the actual victim in an attempt to force him to pay back the money.

The suspect, 43, surnamed Liu told the police that he is a farmer, while the victim is a middle-aged man from the mainland. Both met on a flight to Macau on Sunday.

Liu was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Wednesday, facing a charge of making a false police report. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference at the Public Security Police (PSP) press room in Zape. - Photo: Yuki Lei

## Vietnamese man set fire to beehive after being 'stung by bees': police

Yuki Lei

A 37-year-old Vietnamese man was arrested on Wednesday at his workplace in Taipa for setting fire to a beehive at the base of a footbridge near the Lago public housing estate as "he had been stung by bees", Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

At 11:12 p.m. on Tuesday, according to a PJ statement on

Wednesday, the Judiciary Police received a report from the Fire Services Bureau (CB) that a beehive at the bottom of a footbridge off Estrada Padre Estevão Eusébio Situ in Taipa had been burnt, requesting PJ officers to investigate the suspicious fire.

A PJ investigation, Ho said, identified the suspect, a non-resident worker, surnamed Nguyen, who had attached a butane gas canister

to a four-metre-long metal pole and burnt the hive after lighting it with a lighter at the scene earlier that day.

Under questioning, the suspect, who told the police that he works as a cleaner, said that he had been stung on the hands by bees in the vicinity on Monday.

Nguyen has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an arson charge, Ho noted. ■

### Published since Aug 2004

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- Wire services - AFP, Xinhua



### Macau Weather

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27°C~32°C

Source: SMG



# 20 youths talk about 6-week Beijing Palace Museum internship programme

Ginnie Liang

Twenty Macau youths who participated in the 6-week Beijing Palace Museum internship programme spoke about their cultural exchange experience at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM) yesterday, with Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Leong Wai Man expressing her appreciation of the Beijing Palace Museum's arrangement for the interns, an IC statement said yesterday.

The session was held yesterday at the Macau Museum

of Art (MAM) in Nape, with the attendance of Leong, Beijing Palace Museum Deputy Director Wang Yuegong, and Beijing Palace Museum Palace Life and Imperial Ritual Department Deputy Chief Wen Ming, the statement said.

The internship programme, jointly organised by the Palace Museum, the bureau, the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau of Hong Kong, ran from July to mid-August, with a total of 39 interns, 20 from Macau and 19 from Hong Kong, were selected for the programme

to experience various types of work in museums, the statement said. A total of 68 Macau youths have been selected to participate in the Beijing Palace Museum internship programme since 2018.

Local intern representative Cheang Ian Tong expressed her gratitude to the programme for providing them with a chance to gain insights into the operation mechanism and the rich historical and cultural heritage of the museum, the statement said.

During the session yesterday, the interns were divided into four groups telling the audience about their love and deep respect for Chinese culture and expressed their commitment to contributing to the cultural heritage and development of Macau in the future, the statement said.

Leong thanked the Beijing Palace Museum for allowing interns to experience the splendour of the Chinese civilisation and the richness of Chinese history, and to gain not only knowledge, but also witness the professionalism of the people working in



Beijing Palace Museum internship programme representative Cheang Ian Tong speaks during a session held yesterday about their experience on the programme at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM). – Photo: Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC)

the Palace Museum, the statement said.

Wang encouraged the students to aspire to carry forward the cultural mission and contribute to the transmission of Chinese culture, while Wen praised interns for their dedication in learning, the statement said.

The Beijing Palace Museum

is the world's largest and best-preserved wooden palace complex, with a collection of over 1.86 million ancient paintings and calligraphy, ancient artefacts, court relics and book archives, making it the most visited museum in the world, the statement noted. ■

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Macao Young Musicians Competition ends

Rui Pastorin

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Macao Young Musicians Competition has recently concluded, with musicians Lam Cheok Seng, aged 20, and 12-year-old Wang Iat Ham each winning a "Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize" in their respective categories, according to a statement from the bureau yesterday.

The statement noted that 20 Special Prizes in "Chinese Instrumental" and "Western Instrumental / Vocal" categories were presented during the Special Prizes Competition and award ceremony at the Seac Pai Van Public School on August 15.

This year's competition ran from July 24 to August 11, drawing over 900 participants, the statement said, adding that there were 74 sessions in 67 categories. The statement added that first prize-winners in each category and participants recommended by judges were eligible to compete in the elementary, intermediate or advanced level in each of the solo categories and ensembles categories of the Special Prizes Competition.

The statement said that Lam won the "Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize (Chinese Instrumental Solo)", specifically the Grand Champion in the Advanced Level of the Chinese Instrumental Solo category. He started learning Chinese percussion at eight years old and is now a member of the Macao Chinese Percussion Association. He has participated in different competitions and performances, the statement said.

Wang, meanwhile, won the "Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize (Western Instrumental / Vocal Solo)", namely the Grand Champion in the Advanced Level of the Western Instrumental / Vocal Solo category. She was born into a musical family and started learning the violin at four years-old, winning the Grand Champion in the Special Prize Competition (Elementary Level) in the 36<sup>th</sup> Macao Young Musicians Competition at five, and obtaining an ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate with Distinction at the age of eight, according to the statement.



This handout photo taken on August 15 and provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday shows "Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize" in the Western Instrumental/Vocal Solo category winner Wang Iat Ham (left) posing with Cultural Affairs Bureau Vice President Cheong Lai San after receiving her prize during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Macao Young Musicians Competition's Special Prizes Competition and award ceremony.



This handout photo taken on August 15 and provided yesterday by IC shows "Cultural Affairs Bureau Prize" in the Chinese Instrumental Solo category winner Lam Cheok Seng (centre) posing with IC Vice President Cheong Lai San (right) after receiving his award.

More details and contest results can be found on the competition system and [www.icm.gov.mo/cjmm](http://www.icm.gov.mo/cjmm). For enquiries, call 8399 6849. ■



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This undated handout photo provided by MGM earlier this week shows participants of the "New Greater Bay Area Youth Exchange Programme" visiting an exhibition hall in Hengqin.



## MGM co-organises 'New Greater Bay Area Youth Exchange Programme'

**Rui Pastorin**

Integrated resort (IR) operator MGM said in a statement earlier this week that it co-organised the "New Greater Bay Area Youth Exchange Programme" on August 14 and 15, which aimed to "support Macau's appropriate economic diversification, nurture talent, as well as attract youths to participate in regional cooperation".

According to the statement, the two-day exchange trip was co-organised with the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), the Livelihood Affairs Bureau of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and the Macau Youth Development Service Centre. A luncheon and opening ceremony were held at the Hengqin Sumlodol Camping Town with over 80 youths from Macau.

A campfire was also held featuring Zhuhai Aha Youth Incubator Co. Ltd Executive Director David Cheang Iek Wai, Sem Sorriso Culture and Creative Co. Ltd founder Lei Wai Kit and BoardWare Intelligence Technology Executive Director Ng Hong Kei, the statement said, where they gave their insights into starting a business in Hengqin and encouraged the youth to seize opportunities in the Cooperation Zone.

The statement said that MGM Human Resources Executive Vice President Wendy Yu remarked that the exchange programme enables the local youth to

gain insights into current state and future prospects of the Cooperation Zone.

The statement added that Yu believed that the programme could broaden the youths' horizons, help them seize the development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), and facilitate their integration into the national development.

Moreover, Macau Youth Development Service Centre Vice Director Stephen Wong said that the event would enable Macau's youth to gain practical experience on Hengqin's development and discover business opportunities in the GBA.

During the two-day programme, participants visited an exhibition hall at the underground comprehensive utility tunnel and an exhibition hall that showcases the development of Hengqin, the Hengqin Culture & Art Complex, Authenmole (Zhuhai Hengqin) Traditional Chinese Medicine Health Industry Development Co. Ltd, and Zhuhai Nanometals Technology, according to the statement.

Moreover, a session on Hengqin's youth entrepreneurship policies took place at the Zhuhai Sanyi South Headquarters Building, while a lotus pond artwork crafted by participants was also presented to Li Yi, Acting Head of the Department of Culture and Sports Development of the Livelihood Affairs Bureau of the Cooperation Zone in the afternoon.

## SJM hosts cruises, activities for local families

**Rui Pastorin**

SJM Resorts said in a statement yesterday that it has invited over 100 parents and children from Escola Tong Sin Tong, Macau Special Olympics, Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office and the Macau Association of the Hearing Impaired to join the "SJM x Macau Cruise" on special occasions and cultural festivals between March and this month.

According to the statement, 20 primary students from Escola Tong Sin Tong and their parents joined the cruise on March 17 to "admire the scenery" along Macau's coast from A-Ma Temple to Coloane. They also took part in an SJM-hosted Easter workshop in Coloane where they made straw hats, the statement said.

On May 5, the integrated resort (IR) operator said 30 parent-child pairs from the Macau Special Olympics joined the cruise and participated in a Mother's Day workshop in Coloane, where they crafted "twist stick floral baskets", being a "one-of-a-kind gift for their mothers", the statement noted.

Moreover, nearly 30 parents and their children from the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office experienced the cruise on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the same month and were welcomed by SJM mascot "Sam the Rooster". The families also went to Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai and visited the "Moomin Wonderful Encounter - Joyous Adventure in Macau" exhibition, the statement added.

Most recently, the statement noted that 34 members of the Macau Association of the Hearing Impaired joined the "SJM x Macau Cruise" on Sunday for the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival, with participants also having taken part in a themed handicraft activity near Coloane after the cruise. The statement added that the participants "created crafts that enhanced the atmosphere and reunion and celebration of traditional Chinese culture".

The statement said that for the first time this year, "the 'SJM x Macau Cruise' and festive workshops were combined to extend even more enriching CSR [corporate social responsibility] programmes. These activities have helped disadvantaged groups integrate more seamlessly into the society".



This undated handout photo provided by SJM Resorts yesterday shows families who participated in its "SJM x Macau Cruise".

## Hins Cheung to perform 12 shows at The Londoner Arena in Oct & Nov

**Rui Pastorin**

Hong Kong singer-songwriter Hins Cheung King-hin is set to perform a total of 12 shows at The Londoner Arena in October and November for the "Dahlia Blossom Hins Cheung The Prime Classics Live 2024" concert, marking the third chapter of "The Prime Classics", according to a statement on Wednesday from integrated resort (IR) operator The Londoner Macao.

Online and phone ticket sales via Cotai Ticketing and Macau Ticketing started yesterday and are priced between 680 patacas and 1,680 patacas, according to the statement.

The Cantopop singer-songwriter performed three concerts entitled "The Prime Classics Hins Live in London" at the Royal Albert Hall in London in March last year, followed by a series of 14 sold-out "The Prime Classics Hins Cheung

Live in Macao" concerts in December at The Londoner Arena.

Performing again at the 6,000-seat The Londoner Arena, fans attending the upcoming shows are set to enjoy Cheung's classic songs and greatest hits, the statement said.

The statement said that Cheung, who has had over 20 years of industry experience, has consistently topped Hong Kong radio pop charts with hits such as "My Way", "The Book of Laughter and Forgetting", "Ardently Love", "Forever Young" and "What Separates Us".

The statement added that his latest song "Imaginary Fairground" has also had remarkable success.

More ticketing and show information can be found by visiting [www.cotaiticketing.com](http://www.cotaiticketing.com) or [www.macaoticket.com](http://www.macaoticket.com)



This undated handout photo provided by The Londoner Macao shows Hong Kong singer-songwriter Hins Cheung performing at one of his concerts.



# Cotai open-air performance venue may have 1st show at year-end: govt

Staff Reporter

Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Leong Wai Man said yesterday while the government's project to set up an open-air venue for hosting large-scale performances on a large plot next to the Lisboeta Macau resort in Cotai is scheduled to be completed in November, the first performance can only be held there at the end of this year or early next year, according to a report by public broadcaster TDM yesterday.

According to the website of the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), the project got off the ground earlier this month, carried out by Shing Lung Construction and Engineering Company Limited for a price tag of 84.78 million patacas. The DSOP website says that the project is scheduled to be completed in November.

The open-air venue for hosting

concerts and other performances will have a capacity of up to 50,000 spectators.

The 94,000-square-metre government plot in south-east Cotai is located east of the Lisboeta Macau resort, and south of the Grand Lisboa Palace Resort Macau complex.

Leong told TDM yesterday that after the construction project is scheduled to be completed in November, various pieces of equipment and facilities will still need to be set up in preparation for performances to be held there, adding that her bureau is now aiming for the first performance to be held there at the end of this year or early next year.

Leong also said that the first show at the venue, known as Macau Open-Air Performance Venue, will be organised by the government. ■



This artist's rendition downloaded from the Public Works Bureau's (DSOP) website yesterday shows the future Macau Open-Air Performance Venue in south-east Cotai.

# 5 Chinese nationals dead in plane crash in Thailand

BANGKOK – Five Chinese nationals were confirmed dead in a small plane crash in Thailand's eastern province of Chachoengsao yesterday, the Chinese embassy in Thailand told Xinhua, citing Thai authorities.

A search and rescue operation is underway after the charter flight carrying two pilots and seven passengers on board crashed into a mangrove forest at around 3:10 p.m. local time while traveling to the

eastern coastal province of Trat, said Chachoengsao Governor Chonlatee Yangtrong.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, the Cessna Caravan C208B aircraft flight TFT 209 operated by Thai Flying Service lost contact with air traffic control center and disappeared from radar after departing from Suvarnabhumi Airport in the capital Bangkok. (More on Thailand on page 8) – Xinhua

# 32nd Int'l fireworks contest to start on Sept 7

Tony Wong

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced in a statement yesterday that the 32nd Macao International Fireworks Display Contest will be held on September 7, 14 and 21 and October 1 and 6.

The firework shows will be held at 9 p.m. and at 9:40 p.m. on the five days in the sky above Macau Tower, the statement said.

The firework display contest will comprise pyrotechnics companies from 10 countries, the statement said.

The MGTO statement recommended the five best viewing locations to watch the fireworks, namely Anim'Arte NAM VAN; Avenida de Sagres (next to the Mandarin Oriental hotel); the area between Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre and Kun Iam Statue Waterfront Leisure Area on Avenida Dr Sun Yat-Sen; the waterfront at the Macau Science Centre (MSC), and Avenida do Oceano in Taipa.

Details about the 32nd Macao International Fireworks Display Contest can be found on: <https://fireworks.macaotourism.gov.mo>. ■



Poster released by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday about the 32nd Macao International Fireworks Display Contest.

# China welcomes foreign companies to share its development dividends: spokesperson

BEIJING—China will, as always, welcome foreign companies to seize its development opportunities and share its development dividends, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks at a daily press briefing when asked to comment on a signed article by Japanese Ambassador to China Kanasugi Kenji, in which he said China is far ahead in the fields of automobile

electrification, intelligence, digital economy and green development. The ambassador noted that the economic growth of Japan and the world is inseparable from the Chinese economy, adding that Japan should maximize the use of China's economic opportunities.

"Ambassador Kanasugi's view is objective and constructive," Mao said, noting that China's economic growth is a strong driving force for world economic

growth, and China's prosperity is an important opportunity for global prosperity.

China will remain committed to achieving high-quality development and promoting a high level of opening-up, and will, as always, welcome companies from all countries, including Japan, to seize China's development opportunities, share its development dividends and achieve greater development of their own, said Mao. – Xinhua

# Xi urges advancing socialism with Chinese characteristics on 120th birth anniversary of Deng Xiaoping

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Xi noted that, after the Cultural Revolution, a decade-long turmoil that ended in 1976, Deng had led the Party and the people in achieving China's historic transformation.

Deng pushed China to achieve a new breakthrough in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context, break new ground in socialist modernization, and set a correct path for the country's complete reunification, Xi said.

Deng's historical achievements are comprehensive and groundbreaking, with profound and lasting impacts on both China and the world, Xi said.

"We will forever remember his great historical achievements

and forever revere his noble revolutionary conduct," Xi said.

The most important intellectual legacy left by Deng is Deng Xiaoping Theory, Xi said, calling for thoroughly studying and applying the theory to address real-world problems.

"The best way to honor Deng is to continue advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics that he initiated," Xi said.

Xi called for further comprehensively deepening reform to continuously provide strong momentum and institutional safeguards for Chinese modernization.

He urged moving faster to build a modernized economy, working toward greater self-reliance in the

science and technology sector, and developing advanced socialist culture.

Xi also urged efforts to achieve more notable and substantive progress in promoting common prosperity for all.

Realizing China's complete reunification has long been the aspiration of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and other members of the older generation of revolutionaries, Xi said.

He urged resolute efforts to promote the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Strait, and demanded firm opposition to "Taiwan independence" to safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. – Xinhua

## STOCK MARKETS

# HK Hang Seng Index closes 1.44 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 1.44 percent to close at 17,641.00 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 1.34 percent to end at 6,224.24 points, and the Hang Seng Tech Index jumped 2.16 percent to close at 3,508.61 points. – Xinhua