

Sam Hou Fai to announce his CE candidacy today



Potential chief election candidate Sam Hou Fai, no longer Macau's top judge from today, speaks to reporters on the sidelines of last Thursday's seminar by the Macau Alumni Association of Peking University Law School at The Plaza Restaurant in Nape. Sam is a graduate of the school. — Photo: MPDG

Yuki Lei

Sam Hou Fai will announce at 11 a.m. today at the Macau Science Centre in Nape his candidacy for the sixth-term Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) chief executive (CE) seat.

The Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office Preparatory Group invited the media yesterday to this morning's press conference, stating in an English-language letter that "Sam Hou Fai will be holding a press conference to announce his candidacy running for the sixth-term chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region, at the Convention Centre of the Macau Science Centre at 11 a.m. on Wednesday on August 28, 2024".

Since Macau's return to the motherland on December 20, 1999, Sam, 62, had been the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) for nearly 25 years until midnight last night.

A chief executive order published in the Official Gazette (BO) on Monday confirmed Sam's request to Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng to be relieved of his duties as president

of the Court of Final Appeal and as one of the three judges of the Court of Final Appeal and as a member of the Independent Commission for the Recommendation of Judges of the Macau Special Administrative Region, making it clear that Sam would no longer remain in his judicial posts as of 00:00 of August 28 (today).

Sam, who chaired Macau's council of judges, has been a member of the Working Committee on Regional Legal Assistance and International Mutual Legal Assistance, as well as the Honorary Chairman of the Macao Basic Law Promotion Association.

According to the Chief Executive Election Law, principal officials, members of the Executive Council, judicial officers and judicial auxiliaries are not eligible to be nominated as candidates, except those who have resigned or retired from their respective positions before the commencement date of the nomination for candidates in the Macau Special Administrative Region's chief executive election, which, for the upcoming sixth-term

chief executive election set on October 13, will start tomorrow and end on September 12.

Upon his departure from all his judicial posts with effect from today, Sam, who moved to Macau in 1986 as a native of Zhongshan City in Guangdong Province, has become eligible for nomination as a CE candidate.

Counting from tomorrow, Sam will have a maximum of 15 days to be endorsed by at least 66 of the 400 members of the Chief Executive Election Committee, or 16.5 percent of the electors, to formally launch his bid to become Macau's sixth-term chief executive.

If, as generally expected, Sam will run unopposed and succeed in his election bid, Sam would become Macau's first chief executive not born here.

Only permanent residents holding Chinese nationality who have lived "habitually" for at least 20 years and are at least 40 years of age at the end of the chief executive candidacy nomination period can run for Macau's top post. ■

WHO says droplets a 'minor' route of mpox transmission

GENEVA — The WHO yesterday said that droplets were a minor route of transmission for mpox compared to physical contact, adding that more research was needed to understand how the outbreak is spreading.

The World Health Organisation declared an international emergency over mpox on August 14, concerned by the surge in cases of the Clade 1b strain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and its spread to nearby countries.

The UN health agency says on its website that mpox spreads between people mainly through close physical contact with

someone who has the virus.

"Close contact includes skin-to-skin (such as touching or sex) and mouth-to-mouth, or mouth-to-skin contact (such as kissing)," it says.

It can also include "being face-to-face with someone who has mpox (such as talking or breathing close to one another, which can generate infectious respiratory particles)".

WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said yesterday that if a person with the virus had lesions, "if you're talking closely to someone, breathing on them, physically close, face-to-face, there is a possibility" of viral spread, "but this is a minor source".

Instead, "what we're seeing is the close, physical skin-to-skin" contact as the chief route of transmission, she told a briefing in Geneva.

"When you're talking to somebody, you're spitting out droplets," but "it's not a very major form of transmission — and it's not a... through-the-air, long-distance sort of transmission".

"More research is needed to fully understand the transmission dynamics," Harris added.

The WHO recommends the use of facemasks for those with mpox, their close contacts and health workers treating them.

— AFP

Zuckerberg says US pressure on COVID-19 posts was 'wrong'

WASHINGTON — Republicans cried victory on Tuesday after Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he now believes US government pressure on his social media platforms to take down certain COVID-19 content in 2021 was "wrong," and would resist similar attempts in the future.

In a letter addressed to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan and released by Republicans on the committee on Monday, Zuckerberg addressed a number of controversies centered on content moderation on his platforms.

He also asserted that he did not plan on repeating funding efforts for US election infrastructure ahead of the country's presidential poll this year, donations that had drawn sharp

criticism from Republicans and used to stoke conspiracy theories.

Regarding the pandemic, the Facebook founder said President Joe Biden's administration had in 2021 "repeatedly pressured our teams for months to censor certain COVID-19 content, including humour and satire."

"I believe the government pressure was wrong, and I regret that we were not more outspoken about it," Zuckerberg wrote.

"I feel strongly that we should not compromise our content standards due to pressure from any administration in either direction — and we're ready to push back if something like this happens again."

— AFP

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Wang, Sullivan hold new round of China-US strategic communication

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, started a new round of China-US strategic communication with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Beijing yesterday.

— Story on p. 7

Israeli hostage rescued as Gaza war rages on

The Israeli military said a hostage was rescued yesterday from a Gaza tunnel, more than 10 months after the 52-year-old Israeli Bedouin was seized during the Hamas attack that triggered a devastating war.

— Story on p. 10

Brazil tightens entry rules over 'stopover' migrants

Brazil has tightened entry requirements on Monday after a surge in migrants disembarking during stopovers at São Paulo's main airport in a bid to seek asylum in the country.

— Story on p. 12

Ten local youths selected as 'GBA outstanding young entrepreneurs'

Ginnie Liang

A total of 125 young entrepreneurs who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) were prize winners at the 5th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award Ceremony held at the University of Macau (UM) campus yesterday, among whom 10 are from Macau, including five UM alumni.

The ceremony, which was organised by the Guangdong-HK-Macao Bay Area Entrepreneurs Union, was held simultaneously on the UM campus and in Hong Kong in the form of a live stream yesterday.

More than 3,000 people took part in the award ceremony yesterday, either virtually or in person, including Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) John Lee Ka-chiu, and other government officials



Founder of E.C. Film Production Company Limited Emily Chan Nga Lei (left), Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award winner Leng Ka Chan (centre) and CEO and general manager of the Digifluidic Biotech Ltd Oscar Chen Tianlan talk to reporters on the sidelines of the 5th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award Ceremony held on the University of Macau (UM) campus yesterday. — Photos: Ginnie Liang

from Macau and Hong Kong. Founder of E.C. Film Production Company Limited Emily Chan Nga Lei, one of the UM alumni, who was awarded the Best Cultural and Creative Award, praised the local government for "vigorously" promoting

filming in Macau in recent years. "However, Macau has limitations in terms of filming locations, therefore, integrating the city into the GBA will help solve the problems of a lack of large-scale video studios and accommodation

for film crews," Chan said, adding that as the local market is relatively small, taking film productions to the GBA would help restore investors' confidence in the local film industry. Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award winner Leng Ka Chan,

who operates a real estate and logistics management company in Macau, pointed out that the central government has introduced a number of preferential policies for Hong Kong and Macau in recent years. Though the Macau market is relatively homogeneous at the moment, combining it with the strengths of the neighbouring cities in the GBA in terms of people, logistics and capital flows will help promote industrial diversification and high-quality development.

CEO and general manager of the Digifluidic Biotech Ltd Oscar Chen Tianlan, another UM alumni, was awarded the Best Technological Innovation Award. Chen pointed out that his company's production and R&D bases are located in the GBA, which enables it to effectively utilise resources such as the talent acquisition policies of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone, as well as abundant upstream and downstream suppliers, and thus reducing the cost of enterprise development. ■

Mainlander steals phone left on shuttle bus: police

William Chan

A man from the mainland has been arrested for stealing a smartphone left on a shuttle bus, Public Security Police (PSP) Wong Chi Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lei said that the suspect surnamed Yu is in his thirties. He told the police that he works as a manager.

According to Wong, the mainland victim forgot his phone, worth 8,900 patacas, when he got off a shuttle bus travelling to a Cotai casino on May 1. After failing to retrieve the phone himself and suspecting that it had been stolen, he reported the case to the police.

Police officers scrutinised their citywide CCTV surveillance system and identified a passenger, Yu, who they assumed to have picked up the phone later that day from the bus. He was arrested at the Barrier Gate checkpoint last Wednesday.

Under questioning, he admitted to stealing the phone, and claimed that he had thrown the phone away as he could not unlock it.



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the male theft-by-finding suspect to a police station in Taipa.

The suspect has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft-by-finding charge, Wong said. ■

Drunken cabbie hits bollards, reverses, hit and run

William Chan

A taxi driver has been arrested for drunk driving, hitting 10 traffic bollards, reversing against the flow of traffic, and a hit and run, Public Security Police (PSP) Wong Chi Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect surnamed Fong is in his forties. He said he's self-employed.

According to Wong, the police received a report from a local resident in the wee hours of Monday saying that a car had reversed along Avenida Norte do Hipódromo and hit several traffic bollards. The police soon identified the car and found it

nearby in Areia Preta district. The male driver, who had fallen asleep in the driver's seat, was reeking of alcohol.

A breathalyser test detected his alcohol concentration as 1.47 grams of alcohol per litre of blood.

Under questioning, Fong admitted to drinking alcohol earlier that day in the mainland. He denied the hit-and-run accusation. Wong noted that a total of 10 bollards have been scratched by the vehicle.

Fong has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). He faces charges of evading responsibility and drunk driving. ■



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the male drunk-driving suspect to the Traffic Police Headquarters.

Man's bank account frozen after illegal currency deal: police

William Chan

A mainlander's bank account has been frozen after an illegal currency exchange dealer transferred 927,000 yuan (1.04 million patacas) into his account, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou said at a regular press conference yesterday.

The two male mainland suspects are a 25-year-old construction worker surnamed Cao and a 30-year-old man surnamed Wu, who told the police that he's jobless.

According to Lei, the mainland victim won HKS960,000 in a Cotai casino last Wednesday, after which he encountered a stranger outside the casino, who introduced him to currency exchangers Wu and Cao.

After the victim received

927,000 yuan in a bank transfer from Wu and Cao, he gave the cash to the duo, and then they departed.

The victim received a notification from the bank two days later, informing him that a total of 140,000 yuan in his account involved illicit funds and, therefore, it had been frozen by the bank, leading him to report the case to the police.

Wu and Cao were arrested when they attempted to leave Macau via the Barrier Gate checkpoint on Saturday. They refused to cooperate with police.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of fraud and money laundering. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou looks on during a regular press conference yesterday. — Photo: William Chan

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Macau Weather

VERY HOT. FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS. A FEW SHOWERS LATER. POSSIBLE THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 2 TO 4 WEST TO SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 55% AND 95%.



27°C~35°C

Source: SMG

IC to close surroundings of Ruins of St. Paul's for maintenance

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement yesterday that regular inspection and maintenance will be carried out on the Ruins of St. Paul's (former Mater Dei Church), with some of its surroundings to be closed on September 3 and 4 (next Tuesday and Wednesday).

Mater Dei means "Mother of God" in Latin.

During the period, weeding removal and regular inspection will be carried out on the façade's bronze statues. The forecourt area in front of the ruins' façade and areas of the

Ruins of St. Paul's College including the "Visiting the Ruins of St. Paul's in Space and Time" – Exhibition of Virtual Reality at the Ruins of St. Paul's, and the Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt will be closed during the maintenance period, the statement noted.

Meanwhile, temporary barriers, the statement added, will be set up on the forecourt and staircase of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed monument from 6 p.m. next Monday.

Enquiries can be made by calling the bureau on 2836 6320 during office hours. ■



This recently taken photo shows visitors walking around the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

Govt vows to ensure 'smooth' traffic flow at start of new academic year

Yuki Lei

About 80 percent of primary and secondary schools in Macau will start their new academic year next Monday, September 2, with some of the new school divisions getting off the ground, and the government said yesterday that it would ensure a "smooth" traffic flow and "safe" transport preparations for students and teachers on their trips to and from their schools ahead of the new academic year.

According to a joint statement by the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Public Security Police (PSP) and Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) yesterday, the three entities and the city's two public bus operators recently held a meeting about their preparations tackling the possibly increased volume of traffic at the start of the new school year, including the deployment of more traffic police officers to manage the flow of people at busier traffic points and in the vicinity of schools, the timely increase in various bus routes' frequency and the preparation of emergency support to help teachers and students get around safely.

The statement quoted the Transport Bureau's commitment during the meeting that most of the roadworks carried out during the summer holidays will be completed



This undated handout photo along with a joint statement provided by the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Public Security Police (PSP) and the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) yesterday shows a pedestrian crossing in front of Hou Kong Middle School (Primary Section) on Rua de Afonso de Albuquerque.

by Saturday, adding that of the city's 24 major roadworks during the summer, only 10 will still be taking place after the start of the new school year, including, among others, the work on the pumping station and box-culverts at the waterfront of Patane North Bay, the work on the rainwater pumping station and drainage system in the southern Inner Harbour area and the work to build the utility tunnel at the Zone A land reclamation project.

The statement urged teachers, students and their parents to plan their itineraries as early as possible,

allow enough time for their trips, favour walking or using public transport and pay attention to official traffic and weather information. Parents planning to drive their kids to schools are advised to use drop-off areas, in order to avoid violating the traffic law and obstructing the flow of traffic.

According to the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), as of October 26 last year, the number of non-tertiary education institutions in Macau in the 2023-24 academic year stood at 76, comprising 116 school divisions. ■

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6th Alice in Wonderland's 'Curiouser & Curiouser' exhibition opens at Macau Tower

Interview by William Chan

The "Curiouser & Curiouser - Excursion in Alice's Secret Garden" exhibition, running from August 5 to September 20, is on display on the ground-floor of the Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre.

The inauguration took place on Sunday, as noted by the event's curator Mel Cheong Hoi I in a recent online interview with the *Post*.

Cheong, previously an artist featured in the "Curiouser & Curiouser" exhibition series, has transitioned to a curator role for this edition. "We aim to offer more opportunities to local artists, uncovering their talents and presenting them to the public," she underlined.

In a previous article, the *Post* published an interview about last year's "Curiouser & Curiouser" exhibition with Cheong.*

This year, the exhibition features more interactive and spacious elements resembling a forest. Umbrellas now serve as leaves atop wooden planks, and mushrooms act as chairs, with a special focus on hosting collaborative performances involving artists from local organisations. "There are also fun-house mirrors attached to the wooden planks, so that visitors would feel like Alice in the story where after she drank and ate some mysterious stuff she ended up changing size constantly," Cheong said.

Cheong noted that the local installation artist, Teng Ka Man, has clearly reflected details of the story of Alice in Wonderland, having known how the installation-art elements could fit the event, which is a mime show accompanied by live music. Each Sunday afternoon, actors playfully portray caterpillars within the forest setting, transforming into butterflies by the play's conclusion - aiming to enchant young audiences with the magic of live performances.

Meanwhile, workshops, held on Saturdays, aim to offer a unique experience through book readings of Alice in Wonderland and creative sessions. "We hope that after the reading sessions, children will become more immersed with the installation art and rediscover some of the previously unnoticed elements," she said.

The Mime Show takes place every Sunday until September 15, at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., free of charge. Reading sessions are scheduled for every Saturday until September 14, at 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m., with tickets priced at 200 patacas. For purchases go to www.macaoticket.com/TicketWeb2023/programme/P-055021

*<https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/18698>

A storyteller narrates the tale of Alice in Wonderland on the ground floor of the Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre.
- Photos provided by Mel Cheong



Performers act as butterflies at the end of the play.
- Photos: William Chan



Taipa open-air public carpark to provide parking for motorbikes

Tony Wong

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) plans to convert three parking spaces for heavy vehicles into 50 spaces for motorcycles in Macau's first and only open-air public carpark, located on Taipa's Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira near its junction with Avenida de Kwong Tung, according to a DSAT statement yesterday.

The statement did not mention when the new measure is expected to get off the ground.

Currently, the carpark comprises 61 parking spaces for cars and 10 spaces for heavy vehicles, without parking spaces for motorcycles.

The open-air public carpark, located outside the former Macau Jockey Club, opened on December 11 last year when there were 41 parking spaces for cars and 17 spaces for heavy vehicles. Since then, its parking area for cars had normally been busy, but its parking area for heavy vehicles had hardly been used at all, because of which, the bureau converted seven parking spaces for heavy vehicles into 20 spaces for cars on May 14, when the number of parking spaces for cars was increased from 41 to 61, while the number of parking spaces for heavy vehicles was decreased from 17 to 10.

Running alongside the now-defunct Macau Jockey Club, Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira is a two-way road connecting an area near the Ocean Gardens estate and the Macau Stadium complex. The road's dual carriageways are separated by a central area.

The outdoor carpark is located in a central area of Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira near its junction with Avenida de Kwong Tung, i.e., outside the Nam San Garden residential estate.

According to yesterday's statement, DSAT officials had a meeting with members of the government-appointed Traffic Consultative Council on Monday where the officials briefed the members about the bureau's plan to convert some of the Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira Open-air

Public Carpark's parking spaces for heavy vehicles into ones for motorcycles.

The statement underlined that with the aim of meeting motorbike riders' need to park their vehicles, the bureau is planning to convert three of the open-air public carpark's 10 parking spaces for heavy vehicles into ones for motorcycles, because of which the carpark will be able to provide 50 parking spaces for motorcycles, while seven parking spaces will be kept for heavy vehicles.

The statement noted that the open-air public carpark's "second adjustment" of its distribution of parking spaces will keep the number of spaces for cars unchanged at 61.

New bus stop outside Macao Union Hospital

Meanwhile, yesterday's statement also said that the bureau will set up a new public bus stop on Estrada do Istmo, outside the new Macao Union Hospital.

The avenue in central Cotai, informally known as Cotai Strip, connects Taipa and Coloane.

The statement did not mention when the new bus stop will come into service.

The statement noted that because of the new measure, public buses on 14 routes that currently travel on Estrada do Istmo en route to Coloane will stop outside the large Macao Union Hospital.

Currently, only five public bus routes serve the Macao Union Hospital, namely routes 35, 50, H3, MT4 and N5, but with bus stops at other locations outside the hospital, not on the Taipa-Coloane Estrada do Istmo.

After its ongoing trial operation which started in December last year, the large-scale Macao Union Hospital will officially open on September 16.

The new Light Rail Transit (LRT) Seac Pai Van section, which is scheduled to open at the end of this year, has two stations – one on Estrada do Istmo outside the Macao Union Hospital and the other one outside Coloane's sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing community. ■



This photo taken in late May shows cars parked in the Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira Open-air Public Carpark outside the now-defunct Macau Jockey Club in Taipa. – Photo courtesy of TDM

AI can 'significantly' improve media performance: MAIR president

Yuki Lei

The Macau Press Workers Association (澳門新聞工作者協會) held yesterday a seminar themed "Overview and Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" at the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS), exploring the impact of artificial intelligence technology on the media industry and how media workers can prepare themselves for the technological changes.

Macao Association for Internet Research (MAIR) President Angus Cheong Weng Hin told the media after the seminar he believed that AI could "significantly" improve the efficiency of the media and the quality of reporting, saying: "In fact, the latest research shows that in the field of artificial intelligence, the adoption of AI by enterprises will increase significantly in the next two to three years, especially by 2025".

"The application of artificial intelligence is a major trend," Cheong said, adding that with the popularity of artificial intelligence, enterprises need to make good use of the technology to nurture their staff and strengthen their training to enhance their competitiveness, while the media can also make use of AI to enhance the efficiency of their reporting: "Technological change will inevitably bring about an impact on the existing environment, under the impact of the AI wave, the media and even all other industries should keep abreast of the times and make good use of AI technology, and only by adapting to the environment in the future will we be able to



Macao Association for Internet Research (MAIR) President Angus Cheong Weng Hin briefs media practitioners during yesterday's seminar themed "Overview and Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" hosted by the Macau Press Workers Association at the Macau Government Information Bureau on Avenida da Praia Grande. – Photo: MPDG

add wings to our tigers [a traditional Chinese idiom urging people to use something that is already powerful in order to make them even more powerful] and grasp a greater advantage in the competition in the industry."

Cheong briefed about 30 media practitioners during the seminar about how they can make good use of AI technology to improve the accuracy and timeliness of news and what they should do properly to ensure that they will not be replaced by AI, as well as providing them with insights into the future development trends of their industry. ■



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STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.43 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.43 percent to close at 17,874.67 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 0.44 percent to end at 6,306.36 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dipped 0.05 percent to close at 3,501.29 points. – Xinhua

Sisters aged 1 & 4 become this year's 5th & 6th whooping cough patients

Tony Wong

Macau recorded this year's fifth and sixth cases of pertussis, aka whooping cough, yesterday, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night.

According to the statement, the two patients are local sisters aged one and four. They were staying in the mainland between July 12 and Friday last week, during which both came down with a cough at the end of last month, after which they were taken to medical institutions in the mainland for treatment several times.

After returning to Macau on Friday last week, the statement said, the two girls' symptoms persisted, after which they were taken to the private Kiang Wu Hospital the next day where they were then hospitalised.

According to the statement, the two girls were diagnosed with pertussis yesterday after testing positive for *Bordetella pertussis*.

Last night's statement said that both were in a stable condition.

Kiang Wu Hospital reported the two cases to the Health Bureau yesterday.

The statement said that by yesterday none of the two sisters' family members living with them in Macau had come down with similar symptoms.

According to the statement, both had previously each received four DTaP jabs in Macau, a vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

The statement warned that without receiving

proper treatment, pertussis can be fatal.

The statement noted that antibiotics are effective in treating pertussis provided that they are used early after the onset of the symptoms.

The statement noted that vaccinations are the most effective way for pertussis prevention. The statement also pointed out that the local government's regular vaccination programme requires every child to receive a DTaP jab when they are two months, four months, six months, 18 months and five years old.

The statement underlined that pertussis is rare in Macau because of the government's regular vaccination programme.

However, the statement said, the incidence rates of pertussis have been gradually increasing in various countries and regions worldwide over the past decade, adding that one of the possible reasons is that pregnant women and other adults' levels of antibodies against pertussis have been gradually declining because of a decrease in natural infections over the period.

Except this year's fourth patient, a 71-year-old local man, all other pertussis patients so far this year have been babies or small children.

Macau reported one pertussis case last year.

Macau did not record any pertussis cases in 2021 and 2022. One case was recorded in 2020, while three cases were confirmed in 2019. ■

Jellyfish found at Coloane beaches, govt urges public to be wary

Ginnie Liang

Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) officials recently found a number of jellyfish at Hac Sa and Cheoc Van beaches during their patrols.

The bureau has hoisted yellow flags on both beaches indicating that the coastal water is "not suitable for swimming" there, according to a DSAMA statement yesterday.

The statement pointed out that the bureau has set up information boards on both beaches to warn residents and tourists alike about jellyfish, and lifeguards will also urge beachgoers to refrain from swimming.

The bureau warned the public not to touch the jellyfish. Anyone coming across a jellyfish should instead inform a lifeguard as soon as possible, the statement noted.

Lifeguards will provide immediate help if anyone feels discomfort after having been stung by a jellyfish, the statement said.

Lifeguards are on duty from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. during Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays.

The bureau also advised the public that before visiting the beach to access the DSAMA official website (<https://www.marine.gov.mo>) to check photos of the two beaches, which are being updated on a daily basis, in order to better grasp the hygiene and environment situation of the day, the statement said.

The bureau also reminded residents to pay attention to the colour of the flags, information boards, megaphone messages and the situation of the sea when enjoying a day at the beach, the statement said.

According to the DSAMA website, when the yellow flag is hoisted on a beach it means



This undated handout photo released by the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday shows a jellyfish found at one of Coloane's two beaches.

"not suitable for swimming", while when the red flag is up it means "do not go into the water".

According to Wikipedia, jellyfish are armed with nematocysts. Contact with a jellyfish tentacle can trigger millions of nematocysts to pierce the skin and inject venom.

A nematocyst is a capsule containing a barbed, threadlike tube that delivers a paralyzing sting. The effects of stings range from mild discomfort to extreme pain and death. Most jellyfish stings are not deadly, but stings of some box jellyfish, such as the sea wasp, can be lethal. ■

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Applications open for 15th Xiamen Cultural Industries Fair: IC

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will set up the "Macao Creative Pavilion" during the 15th Cross-Strait (Xiamen) Cultural Industries Fairs (CCCIF) in Xiamen, with applications now open for local companies and associations from the cultural and creative industries, according to a statement by the bureau earlier this week.

The application period started on Monday.

The fair is slated to take place from October 31 to November 3, the application website notes, which also says that exhibitors may take part in the event free of charge. The IC statement added that applications can be submitted through September 5.

The fair, the statement said, is "an important platform for cross-strait cultural exchanges and industry cooperation". The

bureau is encouraging local industries to use the pavilion at the fair to promote Macau's cultural and creative brands, products and services in the mainland and increase their popularity and recognition.

Those eligible can apply for both the exhibition and the parallel product promotion session, the statement added.

Participants are to be chosen based on factors such as experience in the cultural and creative industries and the originality and uniqueness of their products.

The application form, regulations and more details can be found on <https://psce.pw/6cd5kb>, which is where submissions can also be made, according to the statement.

The statement added that the forms can also be submitted to doreen.soidea@gmail.com

For enquiries, call 2875 2929. ■

Non-local man hangs himself at home

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) received a report from the Fire Services Bureau (CB) and the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday at 5:23 a.m. stating that a man committed suicide by hanging himself in a flat in Rua Um do Bairro Iao Hon, the Judiciary Police said in a statement.

The deceased was a middle-aged non local male, the statement said.

According to the man's roommate, the man was seen going to his bedroom alone to rest and there was nothing unusual at 3 a.m. yesterday. However, when the roommate

attempted to open the toilet door at around 5 a.m., the roommate discovered that he had hanged himself in the bathroom. The roommate then reported the case to the police.

After examining the body, no other suspicious injuries were found, and no suicide note was discovered. The statement said that a post-mortem examination will be performed.

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. ■