

# Sam Hou Fai continues to woo electors for nomination signatures

Yuki Lei

The election of Macau's new chief executive (CE) under its amended CE election law will be held on October 13, and Sam Hou Fai, the former president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), the only person to have declared his candidacy, has met with electors of the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee, including the 12 local National People's Congress (NPC) deputies, representatives of the committee's cultural, social services, professional, industrial and commercial sectors, as well as members of the Legislative Assembly (AL), to listen to their views and suggestions on Macau's future development.

According to a recent statement by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office, as early as on August 30, Sam – the potential sixth-term chief executive candidate – started sending 400 letters drafted and signed by him to all electors to seek their nominations.

The 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee consists of 120 electors from the industrial, commercial and financial sectors, 26 from the cultural, 29 from the education, 43 from the



This handout photo provided by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday shows potential chief executive candidate Sam (fifth from left) posing with his campaign representatives during their visit to the industrial, commercial and financial sector's constituency yesterday, at the Macau Chamber of Commerce (MCC) Building in Zape.

professional and 17 from the sports sectors, as well as 59 electors from the labour, 50 from the social services and six from the religious – Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist and Taoist – sectors, including Macau's 12 deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) who are ex-officio members, as well as 12 representatives of Macau's 38 members of the National Committee

of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), 14 of the 33 members of the Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) and two of the city's municipal organs.

Sam, accompanied by his election campaign trustee Lei Wun Kong, president of the Macau Legal Promotion Association; office head Ip Sio Kai, a member of the Macau Legislative Assembly

(AL) and chairman of the Macau Bankers' Association and a member of the National Committee of the CPPCC; and deputy office head Chan Ka Leong, president of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (commonly known as Kai Fong), paid a visit to the industrial, commercial and financial sector's constituency yesterday at the Macau Chamber

of Commerce (MCC) Building in Zape, during which Sam introduced his "candidature philosophy" to 98 electors, including Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM) Chairman Chui Sai Cheong and President Frederico Ma Chi Ngai – both being members of the 14<sup>th</sup> National Committee of the CPPCC.

According to a statement by Sam's election campaign office yesterday, Sam underlined during the meeting the importance of the continuous innovation of Macau's economic development and proposed to focus on the government's "One Centre, One Platform and One Base" policy, to promote the appropriate diversification of the local economy and the development of new-quality productivity, to support the transformation of traditional industries and the innovation of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while encouraging the commercial, industrial and financial sector to adopt more practical measures to actively promote the construction of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Co-operation Zone in Hengqin in order to create a "highland of international talents" in Macau.

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## Shandong school bus crashes into crowd, kills 11, incl 5 students

BEIJING – A school bus ploughed into a crowd of people outside a middle school in Shandong Province yesterday, killing 11 parents and students, state media reported.

State broadcaster CCTV said the driver "lost control" of the vehicle as it approached the school in Tai'an city at 7:27 a.m.

The bus ran into a group of parents and children on the side of the road, according to CCTV.

"As of now, [the incident] has caused the deaths of 11 people, of whom six were parents and five were students," the broadcaster reported in an update just after 11:30 a.m.

It said one other person was in a "critical" condition, while the vital signs of another 12 people were "stable".

Photos and videos circulating on social media showed people in blood-soaked clothes lying in the road near a hulking grey bus.

Several adults knelt over children sprawled unmoving on the ground, while other people could be heard screaming in the background.

"They're all dead, it's so heartbreaking," a woman's voice could be heard saying off-camera in one clip of the aftermath of the crash.

"I'd have been killed too if I'd stood there, but luckily I ran away fast," she said.

The driver was being held by local police and the cause of the incident was "under investigation", CCTV said.

Many public schools in the Chinese mainland have reopened for the new academic year this week. – AFP



Lin Ximei (front, centre) of China cries after winning the women's individual BC4 gold medal match of boccia against Cheung Yuen (right) of Hong Kong at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in Parison Monday. (More on Paralympics on pages 14 & 16) – Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

### Xi, Nigerian president announce elevation of bilateral ties

President Xi Jinping and Nigerian President Bola Tinubu held talks yesterday and announced the elevation of China-Nigeria ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. – Story on p. 8

### UN wants independent probe after Israeli hostages 'summarily executed'

UN human rights chief Volker Türk called yesterday for an independent investigation into reports that Palestinian armed groups summarily executed six Israeli hostages. – Story on p. 11

### Brazil's top court confirms X suspension

Brazil's Supreme Court has ratified the decision by one of its judges to suspend Elon Musk's X social network for alleged judicial transgressions. – Story on p. 12

# Xi'an – where antiquity & modernity meet



A fact-finding visit to Xi'an, one of China's Four Great Ancient Capitals (alongside Beijing, Nanjing and Luoyang) by an 18-member Portuguese- and English-language media delegation between Friday night and Sunday afternoon, of which I had the honour and pleasure to join, has reaffirmed my long-held view that the city of 13 million residents is one of the world's prime examples of a site where antiquity and modernity meet in a strikingly congruent manner.

The visit was splendidly organised by the Macau-based Commissioner's Office of the Foreign Affairs Office. It was the second part of a two-city tour which started with a visit to Xiong'an New Area near Beijing on Thursday.

We travelled from Xiong'an to Xi'an by one of the nation's globally admired high-speed trains at a velocity often exceeding 300 km/h. As I am one of those travellers who seem to go into starvation mode soon after the start of the journey, our delegation, appropriately enough, ordered dinner that was promptly – and inexpensively – delivered to our train at one of its various stops during the over 1,000-km-long ride. Moreover, I joined several of my fellow delegates to enjoy Costa Coffee in the train's restaurant

bar. High-speed train travel in the Chinese mainland is a tourist attraction per se. It's an experience you shouldn't miss.

This was my second trip to Xi'an, which I had visited as a member of a Macau media delegation over three decades ago.

Needless to say, Xi'an has changed tremendously since my last visit. As any other Chinese city, county and village it has undergone a rapid modernisation drive since the launch of the country's reform and open-door development drive in 1978.

However, Xi'an has NOT changed beyond recognition, as its urban planners have been able to harmonise the city's heritage preservation with its modernisation endeavour. Of course, this requires – as we can also see in Macau – a fair amount of situational awareness and cultural sensitivity. The aim of maintaining harmony in urban development should be understood as an ongoing process that requires continual evaluation and follow-up adjustments.

Li Anjun, the deputy director-general of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Government (Xi'an is the capital city of Shaanxi, one of the foremost sources of Chinese civilisation), highlighted Xi'an's ancient heritage and incessant modernisation effort in a speech during a dinner hosted by his office in our honour. He also underlined Xi'an's crucial role in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) overseen by President Xi Jinping.



Li Anjun, deputy director-general of the Foreign Affairs Office of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government (9<sup>th</sup> from left), poses with members of the Macau Portuguese- and English-language media delegation and other mainland officials including Macau-based Foreign Affairs Ministry's Commissioner's Office senior official Gao Yuan (10<sup>th</sup> from left) and the delegation's team leader Harald Brüning (8<sup>th</sup> from left), director of The Macau Post Daily, at the Tang Paradise theme park in Xi'an on Saturday.

– Photos: Maria Cheung Ut Ment

Both Xi'an and Macau are integral parts of the initiative – Xi'an by land, Macau by sea.

For me, due to my academic background in political economy, our visit to the China-Europe Freight Train (Xian) Assembly Centre was a highlight of the visit.

A recent article by Xinhua News Agency points out that Xi'an... has become a key hub of the BRI and the China-Europe freight train service. As the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, Xi'an has become a vital node linking Asia and Europe."

Despite its location in the nation's heartland, Xinhua underlined, Xi'an has become a critical assembly centre: "In just 10 years since the Xi'an route was launched in 2013, the number of trains operated by the city has grown significantly, from 46 in the inaugural year to over 5,300 in 2023."

That's what I would call tangible progress.

Currently, Xian operates 18 regular international freight train routes, including destinations in Almaty in Kazakhstan, Tashkent in Uzbekistan and Hamburg in Germany, according to Xinhua.

Officials at the colossal freight train station told us that with a designated annual container throughput of 5.4 million TEUs and a capacity of 66 million tonnes, the station ranks among the world's first-class inland ports, i.e., a facility located away from the coast that serves as a freight transportation hub.

Xi'an's pivotal role in fostering merchandise trade between China and Europe cannot be exaggerated, as it is vital to both sides. Within this context, I can only deplore the recent decision by the European Union to impose punitive tariffs on electric vehicle (EV) imports from China. Brussels' crackbrained decision flies in the face of the – supposedly – global commitment to promoting environmentally-friendly products, EVs in particular.

Our visit to the Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses

is a must for not only any first-time visitor to Xi'an. I found it as amazing this time as on my first visit as a news correspondent in 1991. Referred to as the 8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World, the necropolis dates back to 210-209 B.C.E. The Terracotta Army is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China. The figures were buried with the emperor with the aim of protecting him in his afterlife. They were discovered by farmers in 1974.

We were also given the opportunity to watch "The Resurrected Legion" play – a 6-episode historical documentary about the terracotta warriors and their emperor at a purpose-built, multi-stage theatre. The soul-stirring performance by nearly four dozen actors and hundreds of extras – all of them martial arts students – left some of us shedding some tears.

And we even gained entry to paradise, well, a heritage theme park called "Tang Paradise" which, as its name suggests, offers visitors a bucolic display of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The park, which opened in 2011, is a modern reconstruction of an ancient site – another example where antiquity meets modernity in Xi'an. It includes a host of fine-dining restaurants. Germany's then chancellor, Angela Merkel, celebrated her 56<sup>th</sup> birthday at the park during an official visit to China in 2010. During her visit, Merkel was visibly delighted by the fact that German specialists were involved in efforts to preserve the colourful drawings that adorn the terracotta figures.

We also visited the Xi'an National Archives of Publications and Culture (NAPC), which opened in 2022, based on a decision by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) under General Secretary Xi. The NAPC headquartered in Beijing includes three branches – Xi'an, Hangzhou and Guangzhou.

According to the CPC Central

Committee's bimonthly magazine *Qiushi* ("Seeking Truth") last year, "the NAPC represents a foundational project for China's development as a great civilisation and a landmark cultural initiative that will benefit generations to come."

Senior officials of its Xi'an branch gave us a detailed tour of the custom-made edifice, which uses state-of-the-art technology to preserve the documents catalogued and stored there.

As I am a passionate admirer of libraries and bookshops, wherever they are, I felt at home in the sprawling building erected close to 1,500-metre-high lush mountains.

Our lightning visit to the two starkly different cities has reaffirmed my belief that China, as the world's most ancient nation in existence, is on the right path towards its future, without neglecting its millennia-old history. As exemplified by Xi'an, antiquity and modernity should be seen as different aspects of the same reality. While history can't repeat itself, for the obvious reason that past, present and future can never be exactly the same because of the ever-changing conditions of our existence, we should, however, learn from it, namely by studying humanity's plenty of successes achieved and scores of failures suffered over tens of thousands of years. The more we know about the past, the better we will be able to tackle the present and prepare ourselves for the future. What matters most, of course, is the present. I was happy to see during our trip that despite all the tumultuous challenges that our battered world is facing right now, present-day Chinese are enjoying their best living conditions ever. I am upbeat about their future.

– Harald Brüning

More pictures on p.4

P.S. This is the second part of my editorial about last week's trip to Xiong'an and Xi'an. The first part appeared on Monday.



Li Anjun, deputy director-general of the Foreign Affairs Office of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government, addresses Macau's Portuguese- and English-language media delegation during a welcome dinner in Xi'an on Saturday.

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MACAU POST

## Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.**  
**CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.**  
**A FEW SHOWERS.**  
**POSSIBLE THUNDERSTORMS LATER.**  
**HAZE DURING THE DAY.**  
**FORCE 2 TO 4**  
**NORTHERLY WINDS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
**WILL RANGE**  
**BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.**



26°C~34°C

Source: SMG

# Sam Hou Fai continues to woo electors for nomination signatures

Continued from p.1

According to previous statements by the local government, the central government has positioned Macau as “One Centre, One Platform and One Base,” i.e., to become a “World Centre of Tourism and Leisure”, “China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform”, and “Exchange and Cooperation Base with Mainstream Chinese Culture and Coexistence of Different Cultures”, aiming to bolster the city’s economic diversification and sustainable development.

While meeting with 48 electors from the social services sector at the Kai Fong headquarters in Toi San district, including Kai Fong Chairwoman Ng Siu Lai – a local NPC deputy – yesterday, Sam, according to a separate statement by his election campaign office, introduced his election campaign manifesto, stressing that the original aspiration of creating a better tomorrow for Macau and enabling the general public to live a better life is one of the fundamental driving forces for his candidacy and that he would strengthen



This photo provided the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday shows Sam (fifth from left) posing on the sidelines of yesterday’s meeting with representatives of the social services sector, at the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (known as Kai Fong in Cantonese) headquarters in Toi San district.

the nation’s “barrier” to protect its security, promote the spirit of patriotism and loving Macau, foster comprehensive progress in social undertakings, and continue to

improve people’s livelihoods, making people’s aspirations for a better life the greatest pursuit of his administration.

As quoted by yesterday’s statements, Chui

said in his speech he was confident that Sam was “competent enough” for the post of chief executive and called on his fellow electors to nominate him, while Ng said she believed that with his many years of experience in serving Macau, Sam would be able to lead the government and Macau to cope with different challenges, unite the strengths of all sectors of the community, better promote the appropriate diversification of Macau’s economy, seize the opportunities brought about by the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the Guangdong Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, comprehensively enhance Macau’s competitiveness, and better integrate Macau into the overall development of the nation.

On Monday, Sam met separately with 36 members of the professional sector, 17 lawmakers and 11 local NPC deputies, on the sidelines of which Sam pledged that he would endeavour to enhance the effectiveness of governance and implement the “One Country, Two Systems” unwaveringly, if succeeding in his election bid. ■

## Local, Thai musicians to perform in jazz septet

Interview by William Chan

The “FanFan Cheung Septet” will be performing at the Macau Cultural Centre’s (CCM) Small Auditorium tonight, local drummer Fanfan Cheung (張家瑋) told the Post in an online interview last week.

Cheung holds a master’s degree in jazz performance from Silpakorn University’s Faculty of Music in Bangkok. She plays a range of styles including modern jazz, traditional jazz, neo-soul, R&B, and Thai pop.

The gig, organised by the Macau Jazz Promotion Association (MJPA), is part of the association’s Macau Jazz Upcomer Concert series, which introduces local musicians, who studied abroad and have returned to Macau, to the public. The series has already promoted several young musicians playing jazz, with Cheung being the latest.

The performance features five Thai musicians alongside Cheung and local trombonist Gregory Wong. Cheung noted, “The Thai musicians invited are collaborators I worked with frequently during my stay in Thailand. We all attended the same university, so we are deeply familiar with each other’s musical styles.”

Cheung pointed out that the septet aims to create an experience for the audience that highlights the interplay between vocals, horns, and harmonic instruments, promising a rich and diverse musical offering. “This concert will showcase a variety of modern pieces, encompassing genres such as modern jazz, ballads, Latin, swing, neo-soul, and funk,” she added.

She highlighted a composition with a complex rhythm that she composed, saying, “I composed this piece during my studies, incorporating different rhythms and structures to create complex rhythmic patterns. The intertwining long melodies and fragmented rhythms offer a unique auditory journey.”

As to why she chose to study in Thailand, she noted, “What attracted me most is Thailand’s unique jazz aesthetic developed from their long-standing and vast jazz industry. They excel at modern jazz styles, and the high-level performance atmosphere coupled with the friendly, simple local culture deeply appealed to me.”

After completing her studies, she chose to return to Macau for her musical growth. “Upon my return, I connected with like-minded individuals who shared my passion for jazz and aspired to foster its growth. Their dedication motivated me to remain here and contribute what I can. I hope that Macau’s jazz scene continues to thrive, enriching the local music landscape,” she said.

Tickets are priced at 180 patacas. To purchase, visit: [www.macaoticket.com](http://www.macaoticket.com)

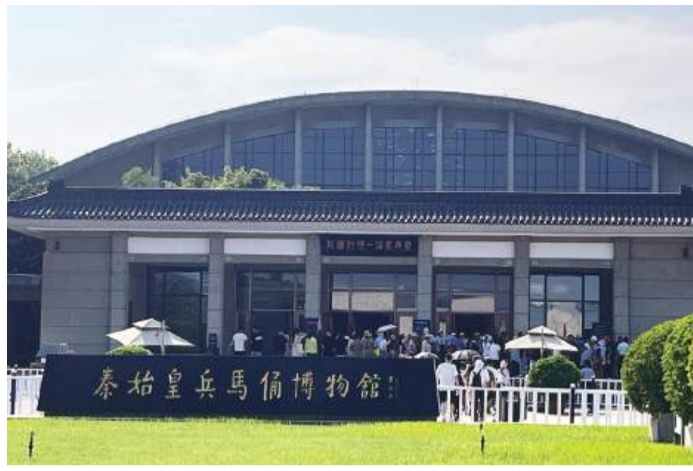


This file photo shows Fanfan Cheung playing the drums.

張家瑋 七重奏  
澳門爵士新秀音樂會  
FanFan Cheung Septet  
Macau Jazz Upcomer Concert  
適合6歲或以上人士觀看 SUITABLE FOR 6 YEARS OLD OR ABOVE  
澳門文化中心小劇院  
Macau Cultural Centre Small Auditorium  
4/8/2024 7:45pm  
票價/Tickets: 澳門元/MOP 180  
票務/Ticketing:  
澳門票務網 Macao Ticket Online  
(853) 2855 5555 / www.macaoticket.com

The “FanFan Cheung Septet” rehearses at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday. – Photos provided by Mars Lee





# Xi'an – where antiquity & modernity meet



All photos taken by Maria Cheang Ut Meng on Saturday and Sunday.

## 4 casino loan sharks arrested for usury

William Chan

Four men from the mainland who provided a gambler with a loan of HK\$1 million have been apprehended, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Lou, while on patrol in a Cotai casino's VIP room on Monday, Judiciary Police officers noted what appeared to be loan-sharking activity involving four men who were surrounding a man, and frequently taking casino chips from him.

Under questioning, the police discovered that the male victim had requested a loan of HK\$2 million from one of the suspects surnamed Li, who agreed to lend HK\$1 million to the victim under unspecified conditions.

Lou noted that Li was the money lender, with the other three suspects serving as lookouts. Upon police intervention, it was discovered that the victim had already handed over HK\$100,000 as "interest" to the loan sharks.



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: William Chan

Police seized HK\$512,000 in casino chips as evidence from the victim, as well as over HK\$1.25 million in cash and chips from the quartet. Under questioning, the suspects refused to cooperate.

The suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing usury charges. ■

## 37<sup>th</sup> 'Books and the City' magazine out now

Rui Pastorin

The 37<sup>th</sup> issue of the free trilingual "Books and the City" magazine is now available, with the latest edition themed on the "Power of Pleasure Reading in the Community", the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement yesterday.

The magazine is published by the Public Library of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

According to the statement,

3,000 copies of the free magazine are available at public libraries, higher education institutions, various bookshops and cultural and art facilities, as well as online.

The latest issue's theme delves into the various projects aimed at facilitating a citywide reading culture, the statement said. Readers can find introductions to the "Worker Bookhouse", which is especially designed for employees, the "Literary Salon" for regular literary gatherings on a rooftop, and "The MODSA Book Crossing Box Project", which is organised by overseas design students and found in different leisure spaces, the statement added.

Moreover, the "Library Handbook" reviews this year's "Macao Library Week", while the "Author's Say" section introduces an illustrated book entitled "Jogos e brincadeiras de Macau" ("games and pranks in Macau") by J.J. Monteiro.

New books and magazines are featured in the "New Launch" section, while readers can also find 10 brief book reviews in the issue, the statement said.

More details and the magazine's online version are on [www.library.gov.mo](http://www.library.gov.mo). ■



This image provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday shows the front cover of the 37<sup>th</sup> issue of the "Books and the City" magazine.

## Overall flu vaccination rate rises 19 pct: SSM

Yuki Lei

About 175,000 residents received their seasonal influenza jabs between September last year and August 18 this year, an increase of 19.1 percent over the same period of last year, among which, the vaccination rate of children under the age of three has reached 56.9 percent, while the vaccination rate among kindergarten, primary school and secondary school students stood at 81.3 percent, 78.7 percent and 67.3 percent respectively, with the rate among senior citizens living in residential care homes having reached 91.6 percent, according to the Health Bureau (SSM).

The government-appointed Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council held yesterday its regular meeting at the Seac Pai Van Community Complex in Coloane, during which three senior SSM officials, including Wong Weng Man, chief of the SSM Health Promotion Division, briefed 16 members about the newly-launched "Healthy Macau Blueprint".

Quoted by the council's deputy convener Ng Hong Kei during yesterday's post-press briefing, the officials expressed their concerns at the meeting about the "relatively" low vaccination rate of tetanus, pertussis and measles among adults, urging "all adults to pay close attention to whether they have been vaccinated or not".

The officials, according to Ng, once again reminded members of the public that 15-valent



Three Health Bureau (SSM) officials, including Wong Weng Man (centre), chief of the SSM Health Promotion Division, address yesterday's regular meeting held by the government-appointed Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council, at the Seac Pai Van Community Complex in Coloane. — Photo: Yuki Lei

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV15) jabs are now available at local health centres and stations, providing parents of children aged under two with more choices among PCV15 and 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13).

In terms of the "Healthy Macau Blueprint" which sets out in detail 20 specific objectives and 52 assessment indicators in various areas, such as health risk factors, mental health, chronic diseases and infectious diseases, to be achieved by 2030, Ng quoted the officials as noting that the bureau would, in the next few years, cooperate with community doctors, community

medical facilities and medical centres through various means, such as the government's Heathy Entrepreneur Programme, and even with family doctors, to merge private and public resources to bring the city's entire health management to the whole community, building up a more comprehensive health management network, adding that the bureau expected to set up a "Healthy Macau" concept with the joint efforts by the public and the community as a whole.

According to the bureau, 17 enterprises have so far participated in its Healthy Entrepreneur Programme, covering 100,000 employees. ■

## Police nab 3 local men for drunk-driving

William Chan

Three local men have been arrested separately for drunk-driving, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lam identified the suspect in the first case as a 32-year-old man surnamed Lei who works as a salesman

According to Lam, on Friday at around 4 a.m. a police officer discovered a car that had stopped in Avenida do Hipódromo, blocking traffic, with Lei sleeping in the driver's seat reeking of alcohol.

A breathalyser test showed Lei's alcohol concentration to be 1.57 grams of alcohol per litre of blood. Lei admitted to drinking the night before and falling asleep while driving.

Lam identified the suspect in the second case as a man surnamed Gou in his thirties. He works as a clerk.

According to Lam, the police received a report about a car accident in Avenida Wai Long in the wee hours of Friday. Police officers who arrived at the scene discovered that the car had

crashed into concrete barriers. A breathalyser test showed Gou's alcohol concentration to be 1.82 grams of alcohol per litre of blood. Gou admitted to drinking in a bar earlier that day

The suspect in the third case is a man surnamed Ho in his forties. He told the police that he's self-employed.

According to Lam, while the police were conducting spot checks in Taipa in the early hours on Sunday, they discovered a car that had stopped at a roundabout nearby. The police officers

approached the driver, Ho, and found that he had a strong smell of alcohol on him. A breathalyser test showed his alcohol concentration to be 1.52 grams of alcohol per litre of blood.

Under questioning, Ho told the police that he was waiting for his friend at the roundabout and admitted to drinking during dinner the night before.

The three suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing drunk-driving charges, according to Lam. ■



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting one of the drunk driving suspects to the Traffic Police Headquarters.

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.23 pct lower

HONG KONG – The Hong Kong stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.23 percent to close at 17,651.49.

The Hang Seng China

Enterprises Index dipped 0.13 percent to end at 6,203.55 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 0.29 percent to close at 3,496.49 points. — Xinhua

# NBA stars meet Macau Special Olympics' young athletes

Rui Pastorin

Macau Special Olympics' (MSO) young athletes were yesterday able to meet NBA stars who visited the Ngai Chun Service Complex at Seac Pai Van in Coloane as part of the Sands Cares community outreach programmes.

The one-day, Sands China-organised event featured Phoenix Suns President, General Manager and former NBA player James Jones; Suns legends Rex Chapman and Cedric Ceballos; and Jusuf Nurkić, who is from Bosnia and is the team's Starting Centre. They learnt more about MSO's services and centre and took part in activities such as assisting in a health check-up event and viewing ceramic artworks by MSO artist Che Kin Seng.

Speaking with the *Post* prior to the event, MSO's CEO Hetzer Siu Yu Hong said the event aimed to create a platform for athletes to have fun and share happiness with people with intellectual disabilities.

Aside from showing the visitors around the community centre and introducing its services, Siu said that the event also aimed to help the visitors better understand the situation of those with intellectual disabilities and show them their talents through their artworks and products, among others. He noted that even if they are disadvantaged, they still have skills that can help them get a job and pursue a career, according to Siu.

Siu also told reporters that yesterday's event showed that social welfare in Macau is "quite



Suns legends Cedric Ceballos (2nd row, left to right), Rex Chapman, Phoenix Suns' Starting Centre Jusuf Nurkić, Phoenix Suns President, General Manager and former NBA player James Jones, and the team's mascot "Go the Gorilla" pose with Macau Special Olympics' young athletes and their souvenirs at Ngai Chun Services Complex at Seac Pai Van yesterday. - Photo: Rui Pastorin

good", adding he believed that the event let NBA stars and people from other parts of the world know what the "social welfare level is in Macau".

Meanwhile, the NBA stars told reporters after the event that this was their first visit to Macau. Jones remarked that people in Macau are "extremely hospitable" and noted that a lot of its culture, sights, food and architecture are really well-balanced and unique. "You can't find very many places in the world that are like this".

Chapman added: "Macau has just been fantastic. It's more tropical than I thought it would be, but a beautiful place, beautiful people and the food has been absolutely fantastic". He said that being around the MSO athletes yesterday was also amazing.

On the event and MSO facility,

Ceballos also told reporters: "You really can't have a bad day being around individuals so special. They just brighten up your day. The fact that we're able to turn that around to them is just huge. I think they inspire us, motivate us to be just as well, great, polite and as nice as they are so it's been great."

Nurkić echoed the same sentiments, adding: "I think it's really important that they are part of our lives because they should be. They are the honest people of this planet."

Moreover, in response to a question by the *Post* on his advice on improving in and staying consistent in basketball, he advised: "Whatever you wanna do, no matter if it is basketball or life or something that they wanna do in their careers, just take it seriously and do your best and everything else will guide you through". ■

# No.3 signal may be hoisted tonight: SMG

Ginnie Liang

The local observatory hoisted the No.1 standby storm warning signal at noon yesterday, which will remain in force until the No.3 tropical cyclone signal might be hoisted tonight or tomorrow morning, as Tropical Storm "Yagi" has entered the South China Sea and is forecast to further strengthen and gradually move towards the South China coast between today and tomorrow.

The Yellow Rainstorm Warning Signal was also hoisted at 11:35 p.m. last night, while the Thunderstorm Warning Signal was hoisted at 11:15 p.m.

Yagi, according to the weather station, is forecast to cross the north of the South China Sea in a west-northwest direction, moving between the Leizhou Peninsula and Hainan Island, with a chance of it becoming a strong typhoon.

The national observatory forecast yesterday that Yagi will make landfall between eastern Hainan and western Guangdong Province on Friday as a strong typhoon.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's observatory, which hoisted the No.1 standby storm warning signal at 5 p.m. yesterday, forecast that the weather will take a turn for the worse later this week along the coast of Guangdong, with strong winds and showers, large waves and swells.

Macau's observatory said that

it is closely monitoring the track of Yagi, urging the public to pay attention to the bureau's latest weather information.

A separate statement by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) yesterday urged members of the public and contractors to take precautionary measures for buildings and construction sites as early as possible, especially for scaffolding and cranes, which should be subject to detailed inspections and reinforcing measures by professionals, and members of the public are also advised to avoid approaching the areas of construction during typhoons.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) also urged people in charge of heritage buildings, especially those located in low-lying areas, to take proper measures against winds and floods in order to protect the safety of heritage buildings, according to a separate IC statement yesterday.

Another statement issued yesterday by the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTM) and the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) appealed to business operators, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) located in low-lying areas to make proper preparations and take precautionary measures against flooding and rainstorms in order to avoid loss of goods and equipment. ■



This graphic provided by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) at 11 p.m. yesterday shows the projected trajectory of Tropical Storm Yagi moving westwards towards the South China Sea.

# 20 MPU students become 'Fraud Prevention Ambassadors'

Ginnie Liang

Twenty students from the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) were chosen as the first batch of "Fraud Prevention Ambassadors" yesterday in the "On-campus Anti-scam 'Vaccination' Programme" launched by the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the local education sector, according to a PJ statement yesterday.

The programme's ceremony was held on the MPU campus yesterday, jointly officiated by MPU Vice-Rector Lei Ngan Lin,

and PJ Deputy Director Sou Sio Keong. The event was witnessed by guests, teachers and students, the statement said.

During yesterday's ceremony, 20 MPU students took their oath, pledging to take up the responsibility of "Fraud Prevention Ambassadors" to promote fraud prevention on campus with rational thinking and a positive attitude, and to work together with their teachers and classmates to help build a safer campus network, the statement said.

The programme, with the aim of enhancing university and college students' awareness of the risk of falling victim to online scams, is presenting a "Crime Prevention Week" held by MPU until Friday with anti-deception publicity booths set up on campus and PJ officers to go into classrooms introducing the latest modus operandi of telecommunication network frauds and ways to prevent such frauds, the statement said.

Through interactive exchanges in the series activities, the programme aims to enhance students' understanding of online fraud cases, as well as their awareness of fraud prevention and their ability to identify fraud cases, the statement said.

The Judiciary Police will continue to study and adjust various prevention strategies in response to the trend of telecommunication network fraud crimes, and maintain close contact and cooperation with the education sector, so as to enhance students' anti-fraud awareness, the statement pointed out. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday shows PJ officers interacting with students on the Macao Polytechnic University (MPU) campus in Zape during the ongoing "Crime Prevention Week" series activities.

# Car crashes into mini-coach, 9 hurt

Yuki Lei

A car and a mini-coach collided in Coloane yesterday, resulting in five men and four women being admitted to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre with multiple injuries.

The accident happened in Rua das Acácias Rubras, according to a statement by the Fire Services Bureau (CB), at about 5 p.m.

yesterday, when a local male driver was suspected of failing to give way crashed into a mini-coach. The CB statement noted that both local male drivers passed a breathalyser, adding that the nine victims, comprising local residents and South Korean passport holders aged between 20 and 70, remained conscious upon arrival in the hospital. ■

## Gaming operators play 'big role' in hiring people with intellectual disabilities

Rui Pastorin

Macau Special Olympics (MSO) Chief Executive Officer Hetzer Siu Yu Hong told reporters yesterday he believed that gaming operators play a "big role" in hiring people with intellectual disabilities.

Siu made the remarks on the sidelines of an event organised by Sands China at MSO's Ngai Chun Services Complex at the Seac Pai Van housing estate in Coloane.

Siu stressed that gaming operators hire a good number of people with disabilities. He said that only corporations "have some drive and motivation to hire more people", adding he thought that until now, we can see that only the gaming operators can hire a great number of people with disabilities.

Siu told reporters as far as MSO is concerned, it has over 10 people with intellectual disabilities who were employed by big companies this year.

"We hope that in the future, we have more support to get the



Macau Special Olympics (MSO) CEO Hetzer Siu Yu Hong speaks with reporters after yesterday's Sands China organised event at MSO's Ngai Chun Services Complex at the Seac Pai Van housing estate in Coloane.

— Photo: Rui Pastorin

people with intellectual disabilities on a career path and get a job", Siu added. ■

## 10 sick trees face the axe: IAM

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said in a statement yesterday that 10 trees are being removed in various districts in the city as they are in danger of falling or are in critical condition.

According to the statement, the trees that will be removed are on Estrada de Choc Van in Coloane, Estrada Almirante Marques Esparteiro in Taipa, Miradouro de D. Maria II, Guia Hill Municipal Park, the leisure area on Rua da Boa Vista, the Ecological Trail Garden of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, and the wetland off Avenida da Praia, due to severe leaning, infection with phellinus noxiu and withering.

According to Wikipedia, phellinus noxius is a type of root fungi that will kill the roots and cause the infected trees to wither, and the fungi will also rot through the decayed wood tissue which makes the roots and trunks become fragile.

Therefore, the bureau has

decided to remove the trees within the next few days in order to avoid causing casualties and property loss. It also urged residents to follow its officials' instructions when the trees are felled, and to avoid getting close to the affected area even before their removal.

Besides, the bureau will continue pruning trees with a dense canopy to reduce the weight of the crown, as well as remove other diseased plants and roots near the trees, as Macau is still experiencing its rainy and typhoon seasons.

The bureau urged the public to avoid entering forested areas or standing under trees during windy and rainy weather or days afterwards, in order to prevent the risk of being hit by falling branches.

If anyone finds a tree displaying any abnormalities, they should call the bureau on 2833 7676 or report the issue on the IAM website: <https://app.iam.gov.mo/iamconnect>. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows a heavily leaning Chinese hackberry tree on Estrada Almirante Marques Esparteiro in Taipa.

## Govt repossesses illegally occupied plot next to Macau Science Centre

Tony Wong

The Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) said in a statement that its officials, in conjunction with officials from several other government entities, repossessed yesterday an illegally occupied plot of land located on the waterfront next to the Macau Science Centre (MSC) in Nape.

The plot, covering 13,702 square metres, is located next to the roundabout near the Macau Science Centre, and between the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) and Macau Fisherman's Wharf complex.

According to the statement, various items had been left on the plot, such as containers, metal supports, and mechanical equipment. In addition, a structure had been set up and vehicles had been parked on the plot, the statement said.

The statement underlined that DSSCU officials had ordered the occupants to clear all the items and return the plot to the government by a specified date.

As the occupants had still not cleared the items and returned the plot to the government after the deadline, the statement said, DSSCU officials, in collaboration with officials from several other government entities, took action



This handout photo released by the Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) yesterday shows the illegally occupied plot near the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape.



This DSSCU photo shows government officials repossessing the plot near the Macau Science Centre (MSC) yesterday.

and repossessed the plot yesterday.

The statement also said that the plot will be transferred to the

relevant public entities to carry out a project, on which the statement did not elaborate. ■

## Man, 73, critical with Legionnaires' disease, this year's 7<sup>th</sup> case

Tony Wong

Macau recorded this year's seventh case of Legionnaires' disease yesterday, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night.

According to the statement, the patient is a 73-year-old local man inflicted with chronic diseases who normally lives in the mainland. He came down with a fever and dyspnoea (difficulty in breathing) on Saturday last week.

After returning to Macau from the mainland on Sunday, the statement said, the man immediately sought treatment at the emergency department of the public Conde de

São Januário Hospital Centre where he was diagnosed with pneumonia and Legionnaires' disease, and he also tested positive for the influenza A virus.

The statement said that the man has been put on a ventilator and transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Last night's statement said that the patient was in a critical condition.

None of his family members living with him had come down with similar symptoms, the statement said.

The statement also said that the patient had not received a seasonal influenza jab.

The public hospital reported the case to the Health Bureau yesterday.

The statement noted that people can be infected with Legionnaires' disease after inhaling mist contaminated with Legionella bacteria released by artificial water systems such as central air-conditioning systems' cooling towers, jacuzzis, fountains, and household respiratory medical devices.

The statement underlined that people normally will not be infected with the disease after drinking water contaminated with the bacteria.

The statement noted that antibiotics are effective in treating Legionnaires' disease provided that they are taken early after the onset of the illness. ■

## Uncertain weather delays start of 32<sup>nd</sup> int'l fireworks contest: MGTO

Tony Wong

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Macau International Fireworks Display Contest, originally scheduled for Saturday with pyrotechnic shows from Russia and France, will be postponed due to the uncertainty of the weather, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced in a statement last night.

The statement said that details of the respective arrangements resulting from the postponement will be announced in due course.

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) said last night that there is a relatively high probability of hoisting the No.3 Signal tomorrow.

This year's firework display contest comprises companies from 10 countries.

In addition to the first two firework shows by Russia and France initially scheduled for this Saturday, this year's firework display contest is scheduled to be held on four other

days, namely September 14 and 21 and October 1 and 6, with each day to have two firework shows, at 9 p.m. and at 9:40 p.m. respectively.

According to the MGTO schedules announced last week, the two shows on September 14 will be staged by Canada and Thailand, the two on September 21 by Spain and the Philippines, the two on October 1, National Day, by China and Italy, and the two on October 6 by Japan and Portugal. ■