

All 29 education sector electors endorse Sam

Ex-CE Chui 'strongly backs' Sam's candidacy



This handout photo provided by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday shows Fernando Chui Sai On – Macau's third- and fourth-chief executive – and potential sixth-term chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai shaking hands on the sidelines of yesterday's meeting with all 29 members of the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee's education sector constituency, at The Chinese Educators Association of Macau on Rua do Campo.

Yuki Lei

Potential chief executive (CE) candidate Sam Hou Fan continues to call on the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee to nominate him, visiting the committee's representatives of Macau's 38 members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and education sector on the premises of the Macau Management Association (MMA) in Zape and The Chinese Educators Association of Macau in the city centre respectively.

Chen Hong, a CPPCC member, said during yesterday's closed-door meeting that all 29 electors from the education sector, including Macau's former chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On, have signed Sam's nomination form, pledging "practical actions" to support his campaign to be elected by the committee on October 13.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sam – the former president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), accompanied by his election campaign representatives, including Macau Legal Promotion

Association President Lei Wun Kong, a CPPCC member, Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) member and Macau Bankers' Association Chairman Ip Sio Kai, as well as General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (commonly known as Kai Fong) President Chan Ka Leong, listened to the views and suggestions of 10 CPPCC members elected by their peers to be members of the Chief Executive Election Committee, including indirectly-elected lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, who is also the vice chairman of Kai Fong.

In concluding the meeting, according to a statement by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday, Ho said that Macau's laws needed to keep up with the times to avoid any negative impact by lagging behind, and that the legal convergence of the systems of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau required a great deal of optimisation work, urging Sam's election manifesto to include improvements in legislative coordination, enhanced interaction and cooperation between the executive and the legislature, as well

as the optimisation of the quality and efficiency of the legislative process, in particular in response to the urgent needs of people's livelihoods.

Also accompanied by Lei, Ip and Chan, Sam listened to the views and suggestions on the future development of education from the 29 members of the committee's education sector constituency yesterday morning.

During the meeting, according to a separate statement by Sam's election campaign office later yesterday, Fernando Chui Sai On, Macau's third- and fourth-term chief executive who is one of the electors of the committee's education sector constituency, endorsed Sam's philosophy of administration of "forging ahead together by upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground" and threw his strong support behind Sam's candidature for the sixth-term chief executive election, pointing out the impact of the city's "sub-replacement fertility" on civil society and the current challenges to the education sector.

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Police arrest suspect after US school shooting

WINDER, United States – Police took a suspect into custody after a high school shooting in the US state of Georgia yesterday, with students evacuated from the scene and local media reporting fatalities.

CNN, citing unnamed law enforcement sources, reported that four people had been killed and 30 wounded. Other outlets reported two deaths.

At least one air ambulance took a patient to hospital, according to footage from the scene.

"At about 9:30 this morning [local time] we received the first call that there was an active shooter on this campus," said police official Jud Smith, standing

outside Apalachee High School in Barrow County.

Smith said there were "multiple injuries," and that a suspect had been taken into custody, offering no further details.

US media earlier reported school authorities had sent a message to parents saying they were enforcing a "hard lockdown after reports of gunfire."

"Law enforcement is here. Please do not attempt to come to the school at this time while officers work to secure the area," it added.

The school is located near the town of Winder, about 70 kilometres northeast of Atlanta, the state capital.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said on X that state agencies were responding to the incident.

School shootings have become a regular occurrence in the United States, where about a third of adults own a firearm and regulations on purchasing even powerful military-style rifles are lax.

This year, there have been at least 384 mass shootings – defined as a shooting involving at least four victims – across the United States, according to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA). At least 11,557 people have been killed in firearms violence in the US this year, according to the GVA. – AFP



Chinese Zhe Cui celebrates her victory at the end of the Powerlifting Women's up to 41 kg final event at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games at La Chapelle Arena, in Paris, yesterday. – AFP

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Xi hosts African leaders, lauds model China-Africa ties ahead of grand summit

President Xi Jinping yesterday lauded the "stellar example" of China-Africa relations as China rolled out the red carpet for African leaders and other guests attending a grand summit expected to further elevate ties.

– Story on p. 7

'Russian spy' whale was shot dead: animal rights groups

Animal rights groups said yesterday that gunfire killed a beluga whale that rose to fame in Norway after its unusual harness sparked suspicions the creature had been trained by Russia as a spy.

– Story on p. 11

Dutch sperm 'superdonor' sues Netflix over '1,000 kids' show

A Dutchman who claims to have fathered 550 children via sperm donations said he was suing Netflix over its hit documentary "The Man With 1,000 Kids", which he described as "sensationalist".

– Story on p. 12

Civic leaders mull enhancing anti-fraud awareness

Yuki Lei

The government-appointed Central District Social Services Consultative Council conveyed yesterday its regular monthly meeting at the Patane Activity Centre, during which several members expressed concern about the Judiciary Police's (PJ) anti-fraud efforts in enhancing public awareness.

Civic leader Mok Chio Kuan urged the Judiciary Police to make better use of their "Young Leaders for Community Safety" and "Junior Anti-crime Pioneers" anti-fraud awareness-raising campaigns, proposing to include the participation of "young leaders" and "pioneers" in their production of crime and fraud prevention videos as well as serving as crime and fraud prevention ambassadors in their respective schools, with the aim of strengthening students' understanding of fraud cases through the interaction and communication between their peers on campus, while enhancing their

awareness of self-protection.

Fellow civic leader Leong Wai Kei urged the Judiciary Police to optimise their anti-fraud programmes on their WeChat account "PJ_Macao", suggesting they include the function of Virtual Private Network (VPN) on their anti-fraud programmes to block suspicious information websites as well as to establish an anti-fraud data-sharing mechanism with their counterparts in the mainland and Hong Kong, so as to detect and identify more suspicious calls and phishing websites.

Wrapping up the remarks by two senior PJ officers during the closed-door meeting, Central District Social Services Consultative Council Deputy Convener Lei Chong In noted during the post-meeting press briefing that the Judiciary Police investigated 96 phone fraud cases in the first quarter of this year, totalling losses of more than 59 million patacas, including



Two senior Judiciary Police (PJ) officers address the government-appointed committee's regular meeting at the Patane Activity Centre yesterday.

— Photo: Yuki Lei

26 million patacas defrauded from 41 students.

Macau has seen an upward trend

in phone and online fraud crimes, Lei quoted the PJ officers as saying, with the number of the two kinds

of fraud cases having increased, respectively, from 119 in 2019 to 407 last year and from 313 in 2019 to 871 last year, mostly involving online-dating, naked chat and fake police scams, as well as concert tickets and credit card fraud.

Regarding the fact that students accounted for nearly half of the victims, Lei quoted the officers as saying that the Judiciary Police are planning to develop a "Fraud Prevention Test" awareness system, in order to alert students' parents to the predicament by registered mail, and to enhance young people's awareness by means of tailor-made publicity through anti-fraud campaign vans and video clips.

In addition, concerning the "PJ_Macao" anti-fraud programme, as cited by Lei, between April and June this year, the programme received a total of about 24,980 hits, adding that between April and May, the usage of the online fraud reporting feature stood at 476 times. ■

Local woman, mainland man nabbed for purchase scams

William Chan

A local woman and a man from the mainland have separately been arrested for cheating two locals out of over 270,000 patacas in purchase scams, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai and Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

In the first case, the suspect, a 38-year-old saleswoman named Pang, had previously sold jewellery to the female local victim. In February, the victim intended to buy a luxury necklace from Pang, who assured her a 20 percent

discount on the purchase.

The victim handed over 292,800 patacas to Pang but never received the necklace. Following the victim's enquiries, Pang refunded 80,000 patacas but then the victim lost contact with Pang, leading her to report the incident to the police.

Pang was arrested in her flat on Tuesday. Under questioning, she confessed to defrauding the victim and told the police that she used the money to settle her personal debts.

In the second case, the 40-year-old suspect surnamed Shen is a construction worker.

According to Lam, a local man reported to the police last week that he had been scammed by Shen. The victim had given 58,000 patacas as a deposit to purchase a luxury watch from Shen but lost contact with him thereafter.

Shen was arrested when he re-entered Macau through the Qingmao checkpoint on Friday. Under questioning, he admitted to the crime and said that he had gambled away all the ill-gotten money.

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



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the mainland fraud suspect being escorted by PSP officers to a police station in Taipa.

Unlicensed rider crashes through roadblock, hits taxi: police

William Chan

A rider who does not have a driving licence has been arrested for crashing through a roadblock and hitting a taxi, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong said at a press conference yesterday.

The 23-year-old male suspect surnamed Tang told the police that he's jobless.

According to Lam, traffic police officers set up a roadblock near the local airport at 2:15 a.m. on Friday. When the officers signalled a motorcycle without its headlights on to stop for inspection, the rider abruptly accelerated, crashing through the roadblock. Subsequently, the police pursued the motorcycle, during which it collided with a taxi. Tang was thrown from the motorcycle but quickly remounted and fled, managing to evade the authorities.

Thanks to CCTV footage, the Public Security Police managed to trace the motorcycle, which Tang rode to a car park in a residential building on the peninsula's Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira. The police apprehended Tang in the



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the male rider being escorted by a PSP officer to the headquarters of the PSP Traffic Department.

residential building's lobby later that morning.

Lam said PSP officers later discovered that Tang has a police record with seven previous offences of driving without a licence.

Under questioning, Tang told the police that due to his lack of a

driver's licence, he feared being arrested again and thus chose to crash through the roadblock.

Tang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). He faces charges of dangerous driving, disobeying a police order and evading responsibility. ■

Police nab resort shoplifter from mainland

William Chan

A shoplifter from the mainland who stole a watch worth 13,000 patacas from a shop at an integrated resort in Cotai was arrested on Sunday, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong said at a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect in his forties is surnamed Wang. He told the police that he's jobless.

According to Lam, during routine stock-taking on August 13, an employee of a Cotai shop

noticed that a watch was missing from the shop. Subsequently, while reviewing the shop's CCTV footage, the shop manager discovered that Wang had stolen the watch the day before. The manager then reported the case to the police.

PSP officers arrested the suspect at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint. He admitted to the crime.

Wang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft charge. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the mainland theft suspect being escorted by PSP officers to a police station in Taipa.

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Macau Weather

MAINLY CLOUDY. SHOWERS, HEAVY AT TIMES. OCCASIONAL THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 5 TO 6, BECOMING FORCE 7 TO 8 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 98%.



26°C~31°C

Source: SMG

No significant changes in new curriculum: DSEDJ

Ginnie Liang

The head of the Education and Youth Development Bureau's (DSEDJ) Curriculum Development and Assessment Division, Cheang Sek Kit, said yesterday that the new curriculum requirements for schools and students of different ages in the new school year have merely been fine-tuned from the previous "curriculum framework", and there were no significant adjustments.

Cheang made the remarks in a phone-in programme hosted by public broadcaster TDM's Chinese-language radio station, Ou Mun Tin Toi, responding to a resident's concern that the implementation of the new requirements would increase pressure on kindergarten children.

Cheang pointed out that kindergartens in Macau currently do not require kids in K1 to write, adding that the bureau has fully researched and consulted schools before implementing new curriculum requirements, so that schools can design courses according to their own characteristics.

DSEDJ Non-Tertiary Education Department Chief Choi Man Chi, who also attended yesterday's phone-in programme, said that the bureau's latest "First Lesson of the New Academic Year" was to teach students about family roles, caring for themselves and their family members, adding that the bureau has also launched the "First Lesson for Parents", which is a short film to demonstrate how to arrange playtime and learning time for kindergarten and primary school children, as well as to adapt to their children's transition to learning life and to encourage parents to be more concerned about their children's use of the internet.

Cheang took the example of the information technology (IT) curriculum for primary school and junior and senior high school students, which have been fine-tuned regarding its subject content, including making it clear that schools have to allocate a certain number of lessons to teach subjects such as artificial intelligence (AI) and computer programming, while at the same time enabling students to master relevant logical thinking. However, Cheang said, there has not been much increase or decrease in the overall curricula.

Choi said that in the run-up to the start of the new school year, the bureau has been strengthening exchanges with school leaders and parents, making early planning for school transport, coordinating with bookshops and school uniform suppliers, and paying attention to students' adaptation to learning and school life.

The new school year for most local schools commenced on Monday. The Macau Federation of Trade Unions (commonly known as Gung Luen in Cantonese) Student Counselling Service Deputy Director Lam Hio Chan told the phone-in programme that children have the ability to adjust their emotions and should be able to adapt to the new school year in a gradual and orderly manner. Lam also said that parents should pay more attention to their children's emotions in adapting to school life, and if the children's negative emotions would persist for a period of time, their parents needed to keep a close eye on the situation and communicate with teachers and counsellors in a timely manner. ■



The Macau Federation of Trade Unions (commonly known as Gung Luen in Cantonese) Student Counselling Service Deputy Director Lam Hio Chan (left), DSEDJ Non-Tertiary Education Department Chief Choi Man Chi (centre) and the chief of the Education and Youth Development Bureau's (DSEDJ) Curriculum Development and Assessment Division, Cheang Sek Kit, attend a phone-in programme hosted by public broadcaster TDM's Chinese-language radio station, Ou Mun Tin Toi, about the start of the new school year yesterday. - Photo courtesy of TDM

No.8 Typhoon Signal may be hoisted tonight: SMG

Ginnie Liang

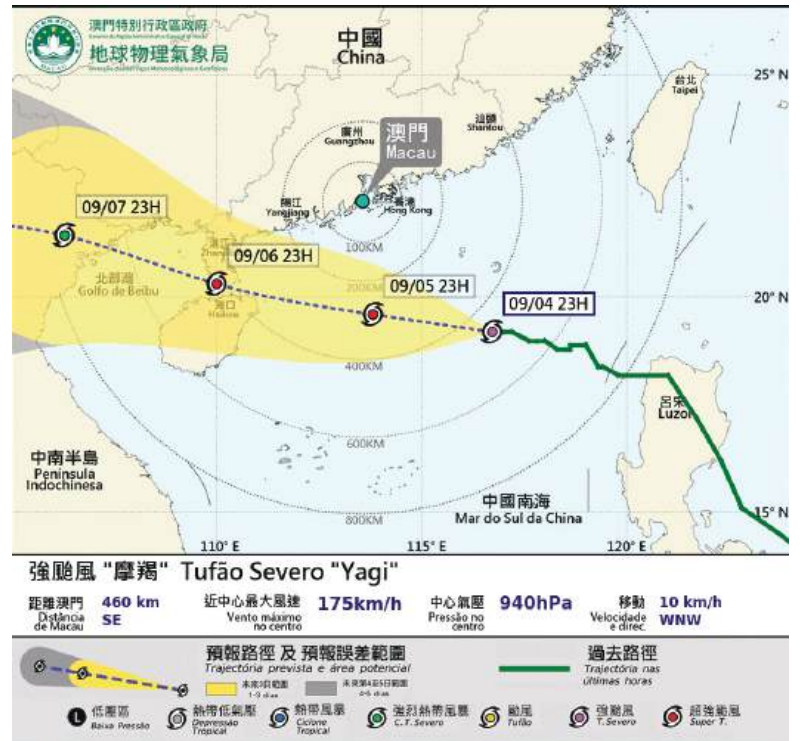
The No.1 standby storm warning signal remained hoisted early today, while there is a "moderate to high chance" that the No.8 Typhoon Signal will be hoisted tonight, and the Blue Storm Surge Warning may be issued today as well, the local observatory forecast last night.

As of 2 a.m. this morning Severe Typhoon "Yagi" had intensified into a Super Typhoon, "Yagi" was located about 460 kilometres southeast of Macau, moving north-westward at about 10 km/h, approaching between the west coast of Guangdong and Hainan Island in the next two days, the observatory said early this morning.

The circulation associated with Yagi will begin to affect the Pearl River Estuary today, SMG said in a statement, adding that winds will gradually strengthen and thunderstorms will become more frequent during the day. It also said that it would consider hoisting the No.3 Signal early today.

The bureau forecast that Yagi may pass within about 300 kilometres south of Macau tomorrow, with frequent heavy showers and thunderstorms, so there is a possibility that the Tropical Cyclone Signal No.8 will be hoisted tonight.

The bureau also said it expected low-lying areas in the Inner Harbour



This graphic provided by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) at 10:50 p.m. yesterday shows the projected trajectory of Tropical Storm Yagi moving westwards towards the South China Sea.

to be flooded with about half a metre or less tomorrow, adding that if Yagi takes a more northerly path or intensifies significantly, flooding may be slightly more pronounced and a Yellow Storm Surge Warning could not be ruled out.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's observatory, which hoisted the No.3 tropical storm warning signal at 6:40 p.m. yesterday, forecast

that the winds in Hong Kong will rise further later today, saying it was possible that the observatory may need to hoist a higher tropical cyclone warning signal in the afternoon or tonight.

Macau's observatory said that it was closely monitoring the track of Yagi, urging the public to pay attention to the bureau's latest weather information. ■

MNN to host Mid-Autumn Festival bash on Sept 15

Rui Pastorin

Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) said in a statement earlier this week that the "Mid-Autumn Festival at Macau New Neighbourhood" (MNN) will take place at the area in Hengqin on September 15.

The event will mark the festive season with people from Hengqin and Macau in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the New China and the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, according to the statement.

To be held from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., the celebration will feature a giant Moon installation with a jade rabbit at the MNN Lotus Square, while several Chinese-style lantern installations will also be put up, according to the statement.

A "poetry forum" will also be set up.

The lantern installations and "poetry forum" will remain there until September 18, the statement added.

Free workshops, for which registration is open until next Tuesday, will also be available, with workshops on making scented wax tablets, Moon lamps and jade rabbit lanterns, each limited to 25 participants. A lucky draw will take place if registrants exceed the limit. For registration, visit: <https://reurl.cc/1bGmGm>

Moreover, the event will also have live performances by singer-songwriter Vivian Chan Wai Man (陳慧敏), known in both the Macau and Hong Kong music scenes, the statement said. ■



This poster provided by Macau Urban Renewal Limited earlier this week promotes the upcoming "Mid-Autumn Festival at Macau New Neighbourhood" event at MNN in Hengqin.

All 29 education sector electors endorse Sam

Continued from p.1

As cited by both statements, in introducing his declaration of candidacy at the two meetings, Sam vowed to give full play to the unique advantages of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle, to take more pragmatic measures in the development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, to proactively and accurately respond to the nation's strategies, to take full advantage of Macau's strengths by enhancing

the "One Centre, One Platform and One Base" development, and to make greater contributions to Macau's integration into the nation's development as well as to create a "highland for Macau's international high-end talents", polishing the city's "golden business card" as an international metropolis so that it can shine even brighter while making greater contributions to integrating Macau into the overall situation of the nation's development.

In line with the Chief Executive Law, Sam shall submit documents by next Thursday showing that he has been endorsed by at least 66 of the 400 members of the Chief Executive Election Committee, or 16.5 percent of the electors, in order to be able to formalise his candidature. The committee comprises 120 electors from the industrial, commercial and financial sectors, 26 from the cultural, 29 from the education, 43 from the 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.

No-other potential candidate has so far come forward to canvass the 400 electors to support his or her candidature for the top post of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Observers have said they expect Sam to be the only candidate.

Current Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced on August 21 that he would not seek a second five-year term "for health concerns". ■



Sold-out 'Slava's Snowshow' to be staged at CCM

Rui Pastorin

"Slava's Snowshow" is set to take audiences back to their childhood through four sold-out shows at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Grand Auditorium from Friday to Sunday.

The stage spectacle was created by Russian performance artist and clown Slava Polunin, who has been "praised as the most celebrated living clown", according to a statement on the CCM website. The show made its world premiere in 1993 and has been performed in different parts of the world, winning over 20 prizes including an "Olivier for Best Entertainment".

The around one hour and 40-minute show, which uses clowning and body language, features a group of green clowns and a yellow clown, which is the main role.

Francesco Bifano, who plays the yellow clown, and Artem Zhimo, who plays the main green clown, spoke with the media about the show during yesterday's meet-the-press event at CCM.

Answering a question by the Post, Zhimo said that the show tells "a story about life in general" and features a hero who is at the end of his life. It shows moments like the beginning of his life as he finds himself and things such as love, friendship, happiness and childhood that he experiences throughout his life.

Francesco added that the show's story can be read as if looking at different pictures, noting the following example: "You go into a gallery, you see a tableau. You

can read the story, but also the story you read is different from the story I read".

How each show might be performed may vary depending on how it is set to be presented. "This we normally decide five seconds before going on stage", being spontaneous and having improvisation, Bifano told the Post. The worst thing that one can do is to perform the show like it's not improvised, he added. "If you play it like yesterday, it's like [a] catastrophe", noting that a show can be performed as well as it were the day before yesterday, but just in a different style.

Featuring a raft of special effects and visual moments, Zhimo told reporters that the main part of the show is its "soul". "This is a relationship between actors who are on stage" and it is a show that can open the different feelings of audiences who can laugh or even cry a bit. It will allow them to feel different things like happiness, sadness, loneliness and friendship. "It's like a big spectrum of emotions".

It can also be like "poetry of different moments of life", according to Bifano, who also likened it to being a metaphor of "what we are living in our life" and its important moments. It's funny and has unexpected, surprising and romantic moments.

He noted that perhaps the most important thing of the show is that for many people, it's kind of a moment where one can touch a childhood feeling that may have been forgotten with time.

When audiences watch it, each person can see their



Artem Zhimo (left) and Francesco Bifano (centre) pose with a fellow performer playing a green clown in the upcoming Slava's Snowshow play during a meet-the-press event yesterday at the Macau Cultural Centre's Grand Auditorium.

— Photos: Rui Pastorin

own show, Bifano added, noting: "It's all about you, it's about each person. So everybody is looking at their own show".

Meanwhile, asked about their expectations for their Macau show, the performers also told the Post that they liked the city. "It's a good place to come back [to one day], I think", noted Zhimo. He also said he hoped that audiences will also want them to return to watch "Slava's Snowshow" here in the future again.

Bifano added that he expects to see something in the eyes of the public by the end of the show and leave an impression on them. "I'm very happy for those who will come and see the show for the first time", Zhimo said, noting that the show was a "must see".



These undated handout photos provided by the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday shows various performances of Slava's Snowshow.



Undeveloped plot near Barrier Gate earmarked for hotel

Tony Wong

A plot in Toi San district, near the Barrier Gate border checkpoint, the proposed legal development conditions for which were discussed in a regular meeting of the Urban Planning Council (CPU) yesterday, will be earmarked for a hotel project.

In Cantonese, the district, a northern part of the peninsula, is known as Toi San, while in Portuguese it is known as Tamagnini Barbosa.

The meeting was chaired by Lands and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) Director Lai Weng Leong, where the proposed legal development conditions for several plots were discussed. The meeting, held on the DSSCU premises, which lasted about one hour, was open to the media.

The legal development conditions for particular plots, for both public and private projects, are drafted by DSSCU officials.

The proposed legal development conditions must be discussed and approved by the government-appointed Urban Planning Council, a consultative body tasked with advising the government on its urban planning policies, to become formally valid, after which the respective plots must be developed in compliance with their development conditions.

The plot earmarked for the new hotel project is located on the corner of Travessa do Canal das Hortas and Rua da Fábrica, situated in the northern part of Toi San district,



This photo taken yesterday shows an undeveloped plot in Toi San district, which is currently being used as an open-air private carpark and will be earmarked for a hotel project, with the grey high-rise next to the plot being a budget hotel, Jin Jiang Inn, which opened in 2019. — Photos: Tony Wong

near Dr Sun Yat-sen Municipal Park and its adjacent Barrier Gate border checkpoint at the peninsula's northern tip.

According to the proposed legal development conditions discussed and approved during yesterday's meeting, the plot earmarked for the hotel project covers 1,548 square metres, but the land concession's developer will be required to relinquish a part of the plot to be used for a public street, covering 210 square metres, while the government will grant an area next to the plot to the developer for the project, covering 109 square metres.

After the land swap, the site that can be used for the development project will cover 1,447 square metres.

As seen by the *Post* on site yesterday, the plot is currently being used as an open-air private carpark.

The plot's legal development conditions propose that the plot must be solely used for a hotel project. It is not allowed to be developed into a mixed-use complex consisting of both hotel guestrooms and residential flats. During yesterday's meeting, a number of councillors asked about this requirement.

In reply, Leong Io Hong, who heads the DSSCU Urban Planning Department and attended the meeting, noted that the government's current urban planning policy is that it will not further increase the population density of the densely populated northern district. Consequently,



This photo taken yesterday shows the Jin Jiang Inn, with its adjacent plot earmarked for a new hotel project (right).

DSSCU officials have drafted the plot's legal development conditions clearly ruling out the plot's mixed-use purpose, Leong said.

In addition, Leong said, the plot's concessionaire has told the government that it is planning to develop a project restricted to hotel guestrooms.

According to its legal development conditions, the project is subject to a construction height limit of 75 metres.

A high-rise budget hotel, Jin Jiang Inn, was built next to the plot and opened in 2019.

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

Meanwhile, yesterday's meeting

also discussed and approved the proposed legal development conditions for a plot next to the sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing estate in Coloane, which will be earmarked for a development project comprising residential buildings, retail outlets, office buildings and hotels.

The site is an undeveloped plot located between Avenida da Harmonia and Estrada de Seac Pai Van.

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

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

The plot covers 9,045 square metres, but the land concession's developer will be required to relinquish a part of the plot to be used for a public street, according to the plot's legal development conditions.

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

According to its legal development conditions, the project is subject to a construction height limit of 90 metres. ■

VP Han meets with Putin

VLADIVOSTOK — Vice President Han Zheng met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East city yesterday.

Han conveyed President Xi Jinping's warm regards and best wishes to Putin, saying that at this new historical starting point of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral ties, China-Russia relations in the new era continue to operate at a high level under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state.

Han said China is full of confidence in the prospects of cooperation between the two countries. China highly values the role and influence of the Eastern Economic Forum, actively supports and participates in the development and cooperation of Russia's Far East region and stands ready to share development opportunities with Russia, so as to benefit the two peoples with more achievements and promote common development and revitalization.

Putin welcomed Han to Russia



Vice President Han Zheng (left) shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vladivostok, Russia, yesterday. — Xinhua

for the 9th Eastern Economic Forum and asked him to convey his cordial greetings and best wishes to Xi.

Noting that Russia-China relations are in the best period in history, Putin said Russia highly

values bilateral cooperation in various fields such as economy, trade, culture and local exchanges and looks forward to exploring more new development opportunities with China. — Xinhua

Macau wins Best Convention City (Asia) again: IPIM

Tony Wong

The government's Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) said in a statement yesterday that Macau has once again won the Best Convention City (Asia) title, granted by M&C Asia Stella Awards, after winning it last year.

The statement also said that Asia's top MICE conference and business matching event, M&C Asia Connections, was held in Macau for the first time, on Tuesday and yesterday.

MICE is the acronym of meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions.

According to the statement, the M&C Asia Stella Awards ceremony was held during the two-day event here.

The IPIM statement said that Macau having won the Best Convention City (Asia) title again highlights the fact that the city's high capacity to organise and hold MICE events has been constantly consolidated and strengthened, and is now internationally recognised.

The statement noted that the M&C Asia Connections event is organised by Northstar Meetings Group headquartered in Singapore. ■



This handout photo released by the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) yesterday shows the M&C Asia Connections event held in Cotai in Macau yesterday.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 1.1 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday, with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 194.15

points, or 1.1 percent, to close at 17,457.34 points.

While the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell

1.12 percent to end at 6,133.98 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 0.39 percent to 3,482.84 points. — Xinhua