

Sam submits 3 more nominations, now 96.5 pct of CE electors backing him

Tony Wong

After submitting three more nominations yesterday, potential chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai has garnered nominations signed by 386 electors of the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee, representing 96.5 percent of the total, according to a statement by his election campaign office yesterday.

The chief executive candidacy nomination period started on August 29 and ended yesterday.

Sam submitted 383 nominations obtained from members of the committee to the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE) on Tuesday morning, i.e., two days before the deadline, at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo where he was accompanied by lawyer Lei Wun Kong, the trustee of his election campaign, lawmaker Ip Sio Kai, the election campaign office's head, and educator Chan Ka Leong, the office's deputy head.

The three more nominations endorsing Sam's candidacy were submitted by Lei yesterday, according to yesterday's statement.

The statement said that Lei



Potential chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai's election campaign trustee Lei Wun Kong (right) yesterday submits three more nominations endorsing Sam's candidacy to a staff member at the electoral affairs counter in the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo. – Photo: Sam's election campaign office

submitted Sam's three new nominations to a staff member at the electoral affairs counter in the Public Administration Building yesterday, raising the number of nominations endorsing Sam's candidacy to 386.

Once reviewed and approved by the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE), Sam will be the only candidate for the Chief Executive Election on October 13, as no other candidate can garner

at least 66 nominations from the 400-strong Chief Executive Election Committee, each member of which can only endorse one candidate.

Current chief executive Ho Iat Seng garnered 379 nominations



from the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee when running his chief executive candidacy in 2019, representing 94.75 percent of the total.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission told public broadcaster TDM yesterday that a total of 11 people had collected nomination forms during the chief executive candidacy nomination period, but only one of them had submitted nominations to the commission, i.e., Sam.

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President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), gestures while visiting a local community in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, on Wednesday. – Xinhua (Story on p.7)

Car blast kills 4 in Israel city: medics, police



JERUSALEM – Four people were killed and eight injured when a vehicle exploded in the central Israeli city of Ramla yesterday in an apparent gangland hit, medics and police said.

Liad Aviel, spokesman for the Asaf Harofe Medical Center in central Israel, said it “mourns the deaths of four individuals injured in the Ramla incident”, adding that six other casualties were receiving treatment there.

The Israeli police said it had launched an investigation into the cause of the explosion which was suspected to be linked to “a criminal conflict between crime families in the Arab neighbourhood”.

Israel's emergency medical service Magen David Adom said the vehicle “exploded while parked on the sidewalk near a store and residential building” in Ramla.

“As a result of the explosion, several passersby were injured by the blast and shrapnel,” rescue worker Benny Cohen said in a statement.

“The burning car was parked next to the store entrance, which prevented people inside the store from getting out.

“We moved the injured we were treating away from the fire scene... The rescued victims were unconscious, and our teams began advanced resuscitation efforts and transported them to hospitals in critical condition.” – AFP

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China welcomes more Global South partners to join BRICS: Wang Yi

China welcomes more like-minded partners from the Global South to join the BRICS family, Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, said in St. Petersburg on Wednesday. – Story on p. 7

SpaceX makes history with first spacewalks by private crew

A pioneering private crew made history yesterday by performing the first commercial spacewalk, with NASA hailing it as “a giant leap forward” for the space industry. – Story on p. 11

Pablo Marçal: Brazil's anti-woke newcomer jolts São Paulo mayor race

Brazil's breakout right-wing sensation Pablo Marçal is a fiery 37-year-old influencer who rails against the “woke” agenda, and has stirred up the mayoral race in the megalopolis São Paulo. – Story on p. 12

Sam submits 3 more nominations, now 96.5 pct of CE electors backing him

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Sam meets with executives of 6 integrated resort operators

Meanwhile, Sam yesterday met with top executives of Macau's six integrated resort operators, his election campaign office said in a separate statement yesterday.

The meeting was held at Sam's election campaign office in Nam Tung Commercial Building in Nam Van.

During the meeting, Sam was accompanied by Lei, Ip and Chan.

The top executives who attended yesterday's meeting briefed Sam about their companies' respective efforts on developing non-gaming attractions, disseminating Chinese culture and art, protecting local employees' jobs, strengthening staff training, and supporting local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

According to the statement, the top executives also said that under the local government's leadership, their companies expect to continue enhancing their service quality, expanding the sources of customers



This handout photo provided by the Sam Hou Fai Election Campaign Office yesterday shows Sam (front, centre) posing on the sidelines of yesterday's meeting at his campaign office in Nam Van with top executives of Macau's six integrated resort operators such as Wynn Resorts (Macau) President Linda Chen Chih-ling (from left to right), Melco Chairman Lawrence Ho Yau Lung, MGM China Chairwoman Pansy Ho Chiu-king, Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai, Galaxy Vice Chairman Francis Lui Yiu Tung, and SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu-fung.

from foreign countries, and consolidating Macau's brand as a tourism and leisure city. Sam acknowledged the six integrated resort operators' contributions to Macau's economic development, adding that his administration

During the meeting, the statement said,

would ensure the continuation of the gaming sector's healthy and sustainable development, contributing to Macau's appropriate economic diversification.

Meanwhile, Lei, Ip and Chan met with representatives from the Macau Leisure Tourism Services Innovation Association at Sam's election campaign office yesterday, according to another statement yesterday.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sam met with representatives from the Association for the Joint Effort of Building a Good Home, a subgroup of the Macau Women's General Association (known as Fu Luen in Cantonese), according to another statement yesterday.

The association representatives who attended Wednesday's meeting with Sam included lawmakers Wong Kit Cheng and Cheung Kin Chung.

The representatives raised opinions on topics such as legal reform, urban planning and housing, measures aiming to boost the city's birth rate, tourism, education, the training of highly-qualified professionals, and senior citizens' retirement. ■

SJM implements heat prevention, cooling methods for staff

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts said in a statement earlier this week that it is strengthening measures to protect staff from extreme heat, with the company implementing heat prevention and cooling measures in line with the Labour Affairs Bureau's (DSAL) initiatives to ensure the health and safety of the staff who work outdoors.

The statement noted that among the measures implemented for staff who work outdoors as the weather remains hot include providing those who work at SJM's outdoor shuttle bus stations with portable waist fans, sunshade equipment, heat-resistant clothing, cooling sleeves, sufficient drinking water and energy drinks, ensuring that they "remain comfortable in the intense heat".

SJM also promotes occupational safety and health messaging on heatstroke prevention, noting that staff are regularly reminded to take precautions against the heat, while reasonable shift rotations are also implemented.

The statement added that staff at the shuttle bus outstation expressed their gratitude for SJM's various heatstroke prevention measures, altogether demonstrating "SJM's emphasis on the physical and mental health of employees".

"SJM will continue to pay attention to weather changes and continuously optimise occupational safety and health measures to better cope with the continuous extreme hot weather", the company said in the statement. ■



This undated handout photo provided by SJM Resorts earlier this week shows a staff member provided with a raft of items to protect herself from Macau's extreme heat.

2 Tanzanian women caught for beating, robbing love rival

Ginnie Liang

Two Tanzanian women were arrested for beating and robbing a woman who they claimed was having an affair with the boyfriend of one of them, the entire altercation was filmed by a third woman, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

The two arrested Tanzanian suspects, aged 24 and 30, told the police that each of them runs a clothing business.

PJ officers received a report on August 24 at around 6 a.m. by the

victim who said that she had been beaten and robbed by three women at a bus stop outside a casino in Taipa at around 4 a.m. that day.

She told the police that she suffered a bleeding head injury and was robbed of her handbag containing 2,000 patacas in cash and a mobile phone valued at HK\$13,000.

The victim told the police that the dispute started when one of the three women claimed that the victim was having an affair with her boyfriend and attacked the victim along with two other women, one

of whom filmed the incident in its entirety.

PJ officers identified the suspects and arrested two of them in a residential unit in the central district on Wednesday. Both refused to cooperate.

The Judiciary Police are investigating the whereabouts of the fugitive as well as the stolen money and the phone, the spokesperson said, adding that the two suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of robbery and illegal recording. ■

Duo nabbed for cheating 'friend' out of HK\$4.35 million in currency exchange deal

Ginnie Liang

A 42-year-old mainlander was arrested for scamming a local woman out of HK\$4.35 million in a purported currency exchange deal, with the connivance of a 43-year-old local shop owner who transferred the victim's money to a mainland bank account, a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said in a special conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the mainland suspect, surnamed Li, who told the police that he works as a chef, has been a friend of the female victim for several years through business relations, while the shop owner is a local man surnamed Wong.

According to the spokesperson, on Tuesday Li told the victim that a "VIP customer" was going to exchange a great amount of money, proposing that she give him HK\$4.35 million, promising her a "profit" of HK\$24,500.

The victim was persuaded by Li to take part in the deal and took the money, accompanied by him, to the lobby of a casino resort in Cotai to hand over the cash to another man, which the PJ spokesperson identified as Li's accomplice, who

casino so that he could give the cash to the purported "VIP customer".

Afterwards, the victim lost contact with both Li and his accomplice, after which she suspected that she had been deceived by them, so she reported the case to the police.

Upon investigation, PJ officers discovered that Li's accomplice had transferred HK\$2.4 million through Wong's shop in the casino resort and then left Macau.

The police later arrested Li. The spokesperson said there were strong indications that he defrauded his "friend".

PJ officers retrieved a HK\$2.4 million of the ill-gotten cash

from Wong's shop, while Wong confessed to receiving a HK\$90,000 "commission" for transferring the funds, the spokesperson said.

Li and Wong refused to cooperate with the PJ officers, the spokesperson said, adding that the police were still tracing the whereabouts of the rest of the defrauded money and the whereabouts of other possible suspects in the case, including Li's accomplice.

Li was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of fraud involving a considerably large amount of money, while Wong faces a charge of possession of stolen goods. ■



Evidence seized from the fraud suspect such as two smartphones and cash is displayed at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters yesterday. - Photo: Ginnie Liang

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Macau POST

Macau Weather

VERY HOT.
FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.
ONE OR TWO SHOWERS LATER.
LIGHT WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 95%.



27°C~33°C

Source: SMG

Top-ranked paddler Wang advances to quarters at WTT Champions Macao

World No. 1 Wang Chuqin of China defeated his compatriot Xu Yingbin 11-7, 12-10, 11-9 yesterday, advancing to the men's singles quarterfinals at the 2024 World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao.

Wang said that his mindset was the key to his win. "He [Xu] didn't put too much pressure on me at the start, so I gradually found a good rhythm in the match," Wang said.

The afternoon session saw world No. 7 Lin Gaoyuan of China stunned by Chinese Taipei teenager Kao Cheng-Jui 1-3. Kao said that the result went beyond his expectations, and he will continue to

do his best in the next round. China's youngster Lin Shidong went the full distance to upset world No. 8 Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan.

On the women's side, China's Chen Xingtong came from behind to defeat Swedish defensive player Linda Bergstrom, advancing to the last eight with a 3-1 victory. World No. 4 Wang Yidi of China smashed Brazil's Bruna Takahashi in straight games in the evening.

The WTT Champions Macao runs until Sunday, with the men's and women's quarterfinals scheduled for today.

- Xinhua



Wang Chuqin of China competes during the men's singles round of 16 match with China's Xu Yingbin at the 2024 World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao yesterday. - Xinhua

Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum concludes with growth figures



Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) President Vincent U U Sang (from left to right), International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) Officer-in-Charge Mohammed Nurudeen Iddrisu and Global Green Supply Chains Initiative (GGSC) Secretary General Luo Xinjian brief the media during yesterday's press conference at MGM Cotai about the two-day international timber forum. - Photo: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

The Global Legal & Sustainable Timber Forum (GLSTF 2024) concluded yesterday, with this year's event involving around 800 participants from over 40 countries and regions, an increase of some 15 percent over last year's inaugural event, Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute President Vincent U U Sang noted in his speech during a press conference at MGM Cotai.

The two-day forum was organised by the Secretariat of the Global Green Supply Chains Initiative (GGSC) in conjunction with Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

U also remarked that that the number of international organisations participating in the

event doubled from last year.

Moreover, in terms of participants from the Greater Bay Area (GBA), he noted that last year, the Doors Association of Guangdong organised a 40-person delegation to participate in the event in Macau, and doubled it to 80 this year. The event also saw an increase in local participation this year.

U added that the ITTO held overseas promotional activities leading up to the event, with many potential participants mentioning the forum before it was introduced, indicating a growing interest in the event in Macau.

U pointed out that the organisers will strengthen their promotional efforts "on both the supply and demand sides of the timber industry and actively invite representatives

from large timber organisations in Southeast Asia, South America and Africa to participate in the event".

Meanwhile, ITTO Officer-in-Charge Mohammed Nurudeen Iddrisu briefed the media that one of the major achievements in the forum was the Action Framework for Promoting Legal and Sustainable Timber Supply Chains. The framework will "identify and implement a series of concrete and practical actions in various fields of the timber industry to build legal and sustainable timber supply chains"

GGSC Secretary General Luo Xinjian also noted that the forum achieved "fruitful results" and that the achievements are of milestone significance to the sustainable development of the global forest industry. ■

慶祝中華人民共和國成立75周年、澳門回歸祖國25周年
Celebração do 75.º Aniversário da Fundação da República Popular da China, e do 25.º Aniversário do Regresso de Macau à Pátria
Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region



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二十五周年紀念
Celebração do
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Especial de Macau

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32.º Concurso Internacional de Fogo-de-Artifício de Macau

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This handout photo taken on Tuesday and provided by Sands China on Wednesday shows the brand-new, purpose-built Aoyi Primary School in Jiangxi Province's Xiushui County.



Sands China unveils company-funded Aoyi Primary School

Rui Pastorin

Sands China said in a statement on Wednesday that its senior executives led 20 Sands Cares Ambassadors to Jiangxi Province's Xiushui County on Tuesday for the handover and unveiling ceremony of Aoyi Primary School, for which construction was jointly funded by the integrated resort (IR) operator and China Civil Engineering Construction Company (Macau) Ltd. (CCECC).

Aoyi is a town located in Xiushui County. The area is characterised by its rural landscape, agricultural activities, and local culture.

According to the statement, the school was previously located at the bottom of a hill and had limited space, with "an insufficient number of functional classrooms and sports facilities that failed to meet standards, potentially endangering students, particularly during storms".

The primary school's new location covers around 3,900 square metres in Xiushui's Huanggang town, including a construction area of about 1,700 square metres, the statement noted. It allows school-aged children in surrounding villages and towns "critically needed access to education", the statement pointed out.

Sands China Ltd Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "The Aoyi Primary School construction project represents our proactive response to the

national rural revitalisation strategy and serves as a crucial step in aiding the Macau Special Administrative Region government's efforts in rural revitalisation in Jiangxi's Xiushui County.

He added: "We firmly believe that by improving the foundational educational resources there, we can not only create a more conducive learning environment for local children but also establish a robust groundwork for the county's long-term economic and social development, which holds profound significance."

CCECC Assistant General Manager and CCECC Hong Kong and Macau Branch's Managing Director Yang Song added: "I hope that Aoyi Primary School will continue to excel, further nurturing the profound bond between Macau and Xiushui, and playing a role in fostering more outstanding individuals for our nation!"

The Sands China delegation toured the school after the ceremony, with its "ambassadors" also presenting items including gift packs of school stationery and sports equipment. They also interacted with students in the new campus' classrooms and playground, while the trip also included a visit to students' families in a village in the nearby mountains, where gift packs containing food items and household essentials were also given out.

Moreover, a visit the Qiushou Uprising Xiushui Memorial Hall also took place on Monday.

Wynn unveils Asia's 1st De Tomaso P72 at Hypercar Exhibition

Rui Pastorin

Wynn Resorts said in a statement on Wednesday that the De Tomaso P72* was revealed for the first time in Asia at the "Wynn Signature – 2024 Hypercar Exhibition", and will be on display until October 13.

The hypercar is being showcased at Wynn Palace's South Atrium, the statement noted.

The statement said that the De Tomaso P72 features a 5.0L Supercharged V8 engine and delivers an impressive 750 horsepower and 900Nm of torque. The hypercar "strikes the perfect balance between raw power and usable performance". Its carbon-fibre chassis the P72 features "a design with perpetual beauty" and a proper manual transmission.

"Wynn Signature – 2024 Hypercar Exhibition" is currently held at both Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, showcasing 30 of the "world's rarest, ultra-luxury hypercars valued at HK\$1.5 billion", with many shown in Macau for the first time.

The statement added that both properties offer a raft of activities and events to complement the exhibition. Moreover, the statement said that "Wynn's Anniversary Extravaganza: High-Speed Thrills Grand Lucky Draw!" is being held in celebration of Wynn Macau's 18th anniversary and Wynn Palace's 8th anniversary, with the company giving away a racing track-paddock experience worth 388,888 patacas for its grand lucky draw prize.

* The De Tomaso P72 is a sports car manufactured by the Italian automobile manufacturer De Tomaso. Based on the underpinnings of the Apollo Intensa Emozione, the P72 is designed as an homage to the De Tomaso P70 prototype racing car. – Source: Wikipedia



This undated handout photo provided by Wynn Resorts on Wednesday shows the De Tomaso P72 displayed at the South Atrium of Wynn Palace in Cotai.

Andaz Macau to hold gastronomic bazaar tomorrow

Rui Pastorin

In celebration of its one-year anniversary, Andaz Macau in Cotai will be holding the "Sino-Luso Gastronomic Bazaar" at its all-day dining destination Andaz Kitchen tomorrow, giving guests an opportunity to "experience a wide range of authentic regional delicacies from Portugal and the Chinese mainland, along with handpicked wines and spirits, and live music", Galaxy Macau said in a statement yesterday.

The hotel opened on September 15 last year. Andaz, according to the statement, means personal style or manner in Hindi and Urdu.

The statement said that the bazaar caps a "hugely successful" year for the hotel, which has over 700 rooms and suites, and has won The Best Hotels in Macau Top 5 in the Travel + Leisure Luxury Awards Asia Pacific 2024 and Best New Hotel in China in the TTG China Travel Awards, among others.

At the restaurant, guests can savour a variety of culinary delights from the northern Portuguese regions of Trás-os-Montes ("Behind the Mountains") and Douro; the central Portuguese regions of Beira and Estremadura; southern regions of Alentejo and the Algarve as well as from the islands of Madeira and Azores, according to the statement.

Moreover, regional signature dishes from northern, western and southern China will be served by chefs from some of Galaxy Macau's most popular restaurants including Bei Shan Lou, Spicy Sichuan and Pak Loh Chiu Chow Restaurant, the statement added.

Poncha* from Portugal's Atlantic Ocean Autonomous Region of Madeira and wines from famous Portuguese regions and Ningxia will also be available.

Entry to the bazaar, open from noon to midnight, is free, with visitors able to buy tokens in exchange for dishes and beverages, the statement said. A token is priced at 38 patacas, while multiple token packages are available at 168 patacas for five tokens, 328 patacas for 10 and 628 patacas for 20.



This undated handout photo provided by Galaxy Macau yesterday shows some of the dishes on the menu at Andaz Macau's Sino-Luso Gastronomic Bazaar.

*Poncha is a traditional alcoholic drink from the island of Madeira, made with aguardente de cana (distilled alcohol made from sugar cane juice), honey, sugar, and either orange juice or lemon juice. Some varieties include other fruit juices. – Source: Wikipedia

No more 3G services from June next year: telecom chief



Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) Director Derby Lau Wai Meng speaks during yesterday's press conference at the bureau's headquarters in the city centre. — Photo courtesy of TDM

Staff Reporter

Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) Director Derby Lau Wai Meng said yesterday that there will be no more 3G services in Macau from June next year.

Lau made the remarks during a press conference at the bureau's headquarters in the city centre about the bureau's issuance of new stamps.

Lau noted that the current 3G licences of the city's current telecom operators are slated to expire in June next year. Lau noted that the telecom operators were required to apply for the renewal of the licences

one year before their expiration, but none of them had done so. Consequently, she said, Macau's 3G services are slated to cease in June next year.

Macau currently has three telecom operators running mobile telecommunications services, CTM, China Telecom (Macau), and Hutchison Telephone (Macau), after SmarTone (Macau) announced last month the cessation of its services in Macau.

However, only CTM and China Telecom are running 5G services in Macau, while Hutchison Telephone is only running 4G services here. ■

HK inaugurates AI lab in innovation, technology drive

HONG KONG – Hong Kong yesterday inaugurated an artificial intelligence (AI) lab in Hong Kong Science Park, as part of a broader effort to help with the city's building of an international innovation and technology hub.

The Lion Rock AI lab of China Merchants Group is aimed at breaking through key technologies, promoting the industrialization and application of scientific research achievements, and accelerating the cultivation of new quality productive forces.

Notably, the lab is committed to building a team of high-level innovative talents who both love Hong Kong and have excellent capabilities, reports said.

In his address, Miao Jianmin, chair of China Merchants Group Limited, said that the "Lion Rock Spirit" of Hong Kong means being diligent, pioneering and enterprising, among others, and is

also an important driving force for the innovation and development of Hong Kong.

The founding of the Lion Rock AI lab precisely aligns with its spiritual connotation, and is expected to guide and usher in breakthroughs in AI-related innovation and technology as well as industrial change, thus contributing to Hong Kong's building of an international innovation and technology hub, Miao said.

Sun Dong, secretary for innovation, technology and industry of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, hailed the lab as Hong Kong's first cutting-edge technology research and development platform, saying that its establishment represents a vote of confidence in Hong Kong's commitment to advancing AI, robotics and relevant industries.

— Xinhua

Woman nabbed for reselling Mark Six tickets

Ginnie Liang

A Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman announced yesterday the arrest of a local woman in her sixties on Tuesday for reselling Hong Kong's Mark Six lottery tickets.

The Public Security Police, according to yesterday's regular police press conference, were tipped off about the illegal sale of Mark Six lottery tickets in Taipa before they took action.

PSP officers dispatched to the scene found a woman selling tickets of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Mark Six Lottery at a newspaper stand in Taipa, where PSP officers seized 68 tickets in total.

Under questioning, the local suspect, surnamed Wong, admitted that she began selling the tickets after she started operating her newspaper stand in July 2022, which "a man" had suggested she do, reselling each Mark Six lottery



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows two PSP officers escorting the local suspect to a police station in Taipa.

ticket with a face value of HK\$47 for 52 patacas (HK\$50.47), which she bought from "the man" from time to time.

Wong has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of operating an illegal gambling business. ■

Newly replaced street signs of poor quality, IAM tells police

Tony Wong

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), which has hired a company to replace worn street signs in the city, has discovered that the newly replaced street signs are of poor quality, failing to meet the project's contractual requirements, according to an IAM statement yesterday.

The statement said that the bureau has preliminarily concluded that the company has committed fraud, because of which it has reported the case to the police.

The statement said that a number of older street signs had been damaged to varying degrees due to exposure to sunlight and precipitation over the years because of which it had hired the company to replace about 400 street signs.

The statement noted that the bureau is still carrying out the final inspection after the company has recently completed the project, adding that IAM inspectors have meanwhile discovered that the newly replaced street signs are of poor quality.

According to the statement, the IAM inspectors have concluded that the company has failed to carry out the project in compliance with the technical requirements listed in its contract.

The bureau has preliminarily concluded that the company has "cut corners" in carrying out the project, the statement said, adding that as the case involves fraud, the bureau has reported the case to the police.

The statement also said that the bureau will start replacing the street signs affected as soon as possible. ■



This undated photo downloaded from the website of the government's Macau Foundation's (FM) Macau Memory shows a street sign on Avenida de Horta e Costa outside the Red Market.

25 MoUs inked at 9th B&R Summit in HK

HONG KONG – A record 25 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the two-day Ninth Belt and Road Summit that concluded in Hong Kong yesterday.

The MoUs, including four between governments and 21 between businesses, involve government bodies and companies from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Kazakhstan.

A highlight of this summit

is a new chapter dedicated to discussions on Hong Kong's role in facilitating green development under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Patrick Lau Hui-ping, deputy executive director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, told Xinhua that green and sustainable development projects have great potential because many Belt and Road (B&R) partner countries are embracing new energy sources. Hong Kong can

leverage its strengths in research and development, green finance and professional services to foster cooperation.

On its sidelines, the summit showcased over 280 investment projects and set the stage for more than 800 project matching meetings. These sessions focused on areas including energy, transportation, urban development, innovation and technology, as well as logistics infrastructure.

— Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.77 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.77 percent to close at 17,240.39 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 0.58 percent to end at 6,017.53, while the Hang Seng Tech Index jumped 0.71 percent to close at 3,475.25 points. — Xinhua