

# Deaf support group urges residents to learn sign language

Yuki Lei

The world commemorates the International Day of Sign Languages today, and in Macau, the Macau Deaf Association (MDA) has organised its annual Multi-Sign Language Promotional Parade with the theme of “Join us to support the right to sign language” with the aim of encouraging residents to learn sign language.

At 2:30 p.m. yesterday, the organiser held an opening ceremony at the Macau Science Centre in Nape, with a multi-sign language theatre and booth games, during which Macau Deaf Association President Wong Kam Sun delivered his opening remarks in sign language, emphasising the fundamental right and importance of sign language as a language: “We hope that Macau can legislate to protect the accessibility needs of the deaf and hearing impaired, and ensure that sign language becomes an integral part of the integration of the deaf into society”.

According to Wong, in order to promote the development of sign language in Macau, his association not only publishes physical materials for local sign language teaching, but also develops various multi-media resources for the promotion of sign language, covering various aspects such as sign language teaching, cultural introduction and news coverage, in the hopes of providing a wealth of resources for residents to learn sign language, so as to enable more people to understand and learn sign language, to promote the understanding of sign language in civil society, and safeguard the right of the deaf to use sign language.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the ceremony, Macau Deaf Association Director Nerissa Lau Sut Man pointed



Macau Deaf Association President Wong Kam Sun delivers a speech in sign language during yesterday's kick-off ceremony of the annual Multi-Sign Language Promotional Parade, at the Macau Science Centre in Nape.

– Photos: Yuki Lei



Hearing-impaired amateur actors perform a theatre play on the sidelines of yesterday's ceremony.

out that there was a growing demand for information and visual accessibility facilities for the hearing impaired, adding that her association received last year the referral of about 10 newborns: “In the past, most of the services targeted at the deaf were to assist them in handling matters such as government applications and medical conditions. However, nowadays, their demand for receiving information is increasing, and not all channels of information are equipped with sign language and subtitles, so there is still a lack of sign language interpreters in terms of the growing demand for their services.

Lau said that the association has come into contact with 800 hearing-impaired persons who know sign language and comprise

different age groups, but there was still a great demand for sign language interpreters because for hearing-impaired students who can only receive learning materials in sign language, the association needs to send its staff members to accompany the students to their classes. Lau also pointed out the need for the government to increase the number of sign language accessibility support facilities in Macau, so as to enable the deaf to lead a smoother life in all aspects of life and society: “What we want to say is that deaf people often need visual accessibility, for example, when we go to see a doctor, if the nurse is just calling out the number of the waiting ticket, it is a very unfriendly behaviour towards a deaf person. However, all these things can be

improved in some ways, including the use of screens and displays. In terms of safety, let's take a fire as an example, if a deaf person goes to the toilet, how will they know about it? I think it's something that we need to pay more attention to for reviews, and in order to face the issue”.

Lau encouraged children in general to know about and learn sign language at an early age, believing that learning sign language is very helpful to overall cognitive development. Lau also said she expected the government to encourage schools to incorporate sign language elements into their extra-curricular classes or regular curriculums, hoping that more people will learn sign language in the near future. ■

## 4 killed, dozens injured in Alabama mass shooting

WASHINGTON – A mass shooting involving several assailants has left at least four people dead and dozens wounded in the US state of Alabama, police said on Saturday.

“We believe that multiple shooters fired multiple shots on a group of people” in the Five Points South district of Birmingham just after 11 p.m., police officer Truman Fitzgerald told local media.

Officers found two adult males and one adult female who was unresponsive on the sidewalk suffering from a gunshot wound, Fitzgerald said. All three were pronounced dead at the scene.

A fourth victim died at a local hospital, he added.

Dozens of people were wounded in the shooting with at least four sustaining life-threatening injuries, Fitzgerald said.

The others had “various injuries”, he added.

Police have not got anyone in custody over the shooting, Fitzman said, urging the public to provide any information that could help the investigation.

Several agencies are involved in the investigation, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Fire rescue services at the scene Saturday night (local time) had cordoned off the area.

This year, there have been at least 403 mass shootings – defined as a shooting involving at least four victims, dead or wounded – across the United States, according to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA).

At least 12,416 people have been killed in firearms violence this year in the United States, according to the GVA. – AFP

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### High tech propels bumper harvests in nation's grain-producing provinces

As the autumn harvest approaches, Li Yucheng smiles at the sight of his thriving paddy fields, where golden ears of rice dance in the breeze and stalks stand tall against the backdrop of fertile black soil.

– Story on p. 7

### Israel, Hezbollah urged to step back from the brink

Israel and Hezbollah threatened yesterday to escalate their cross-border attacks despite a chorus of international calls for both sides to step back from the brink of all-out war.

– Story on p. 10

### Portugal brings deadly forest fires under control

Portugal has brought under control the remaining forest fires it battled last week in the north of the country, rescuers said on Friday.

– Story on p. 12



## Public buses to accept mainland & HK WeChat Pay from tomorrow

Ginnie Liang

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced on Saturday that starting from tomorrow, the city's two public bus operators will accept the payment of fares via the "Bus Payment QR Code" generated via mainland and Hong Kong WeChat Pay platforms, according to a DSAT statement.

Users of WeChat Pay (both mainland China and Hong Kong versions) will be able to take the city's public buses with each trip costing 6 patacas, but without tariff benefits and no free rides if changing buses within less than 45 minutes, the statement noted.

WeChat Pay, run by the nation's tech giant Tencent, is officially known as Weixin Pay in the Chinese mainland (yuan e-wallet).

Since August last year, the city's two public bus operators have accepted the payment of

fares via the "Bus Payment QR Code" generated by any means of payment integrated into "Simple Pay+", namely, Alipay Macau, BOC Mobile Banking Macau, Guangfa Mobile Payment Wallet, ICBC ePay, LusoPay, MPay, Tai FungPay, UePay Macau E-Wallet and BNU Pay, as well as the "UnionPay APP" mobile app.

The statement noted that at present, nearly 92 percent of the fares of public buses are paid by electronic means such as Macau Pass, "Simple Pay+", Alipay (for mainland China and Hong Kong).

The bureau will keep a close eye on the effectiveness of the newly added payment methods, and continue to coordinate the introduction of other payment methods, in order to further facilitate the travelling convenience for residents and tourists, the bureau added. ■



This poster provided by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) on Saturday promotes the newly accepted payment methods for the city's public bus.

## Local man nabbed for sexually harassing primary schoolgirl on bus: police

Yuki Lei

A local man was arrested on Friday for sexually harassing a primary schoolgirl, by putting his hand under the shorts of the under-12-year-old who was on a bus en route to school alone and touching her inner thighs and lower body on three occasions, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai said when he announced the arrest of the 51-year-old suspect during a special press conference on Saturday.

After having been notified by a school in the city centre via their cooperation mechanism about the victim's sexual harassment on Friday morning, the Judiciary Police launched an investigation, according to which, Lou said, the victim caught a bus in Taipa to go the central district at around 7 a.m. as usual, when the suspect surnamed Cheang approached her and sat next to her. During the ride, Lou added, on three occasions, Cheang put his left hand under the victim's shorts and touched the girl's inner thighs and private parts for more than 20 seconds each time, even though the victim had tried to remove the suspect's hand to show her resistance.

Lou noted that the victim was too scared to call out for help and merely left her seat to hide in another part of the bus at that time. However, Lou added, the incident was eventually revealed and reported to the police when the victim got off the bus at the bus stop near her school and, after arriving at her school, cried when she was telling her teacher about the incident. The teacher immediately contacted the girl's parents and the school also notified the Judiciary Police about the case through their cooperation mechanism.

According to Lou, the Judiciary Police arrested Cheang, who



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers, including spokesman Lou Chan Fai (centre) and Youth Concern Group Duty Supervisor Cheong Kim Fong (left), pose during Saturday's special press conference at the PJ headquarters in Zape. – Photo courtesy of TDM

told the police that he works as a residential building's doorman, at his workplace in the northern district within five hours of the incident.

Cheang has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a sexual coercion charge.

### Police encourage sexual assault victims: 'It's not your fault'

In addition, PJ Youth Concern Group Duty Supervisor Cheong Kim Fong said during Friday's press conference that the case had been uncovered thanks to the victim's courage in reporting the incident and the school's immediate notification, which led to the timely intervention of the police, urging sexual coercion victims to remember that "it's not your fault", so stay calm in the face of sexual harassment and call for help if it is safe to do so: "If you are approached, physically touched, or someone attempts to molest or even sexually assault you, you should firmly resist, leave the scene and seek help from parents, teachers, school counsellors and the police as soon as possible. If the incident

occurs on the bus, you should call out to the bus driver and passengers for help while ensuring your own safety".

During the press conference, Cheong also encouraged witnesses to fulfil their civic duty and take the initiative to assist the victim and the police in solving the case as soon as possible.

### 'The girl is now emotionally stable': DSEDJ vice-chief

Meanwhile, addressing a public event on Friday, Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) Deputy Director Wong Ka Ki praised the girl's decision to immediately tell her teacher about the incident, saying that her school's teachers and counsellors have provided appropriate counselling so that the girl was now emotionally stable.

Wong also said that the bureau was "very concerned" about the incident, adding that it will continue to educate schoolchildren to tell people they trust, such as teachers, counsellors and parents, if they are victims of such incidents. ■

## 'Jet rat' steals HK\$39,000 in cash

Ginnie Liang

A mainlander was arrested on Friday for stealing HK\$39,000 from a male passenger on a Beijing-Macau flight, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lou Chan Fai said at a press conference on Friday.

Thieves who steal property while travelling on a plane are colloquially known in Cantonese as "jet rats" ("feigei louhsyu").

The 55-year-old mainland suspect surnamed Li told the police that he owns a B&B (bed and breakfast) hotel, Lou said.

According to Lou, the mainland victim reported to the Public Security Police (PSP) on Thursday that cash totalling HK\$39,000 he had put in his luggage had been stolen.

PSP officers then went to the plane to search the overhead luggage compartment, and found the HK\$39,000 in cash hidden in a

blanket, and intercepted Li on the spot as he intended to put the blanket and the cash into his luggage.

Apart from the HK\$39,000, PSP officers also found 13 non-local currencies, including Hong Kong dollars, yuan, euros, US dollars, Korean won and Thai baht on the

suspect, all of which had been stolen as well.

The Public Security Police later transferred Li to the Judiciary Police, which later transferred him to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing an aggravated theft charge, according to Lou. ■



Evidence seized from the mainland theft suspect such as Hong Kong dollars, yuan, euros, US dollars, Korean won and Thai baht, is displayed at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters on Friday. – Photo courtesy of TDM

### Correction

This is just to apologise for a mistake in our P.6 story on Friday, headlined "Electoral Affairs Commission accepts Sam Hou Fai's CE candidacy". Our print edition's article wrongly stated that "Sam is slated to announce his election campaign manifesto tomorrow." The error occurred during the editing process. In fact, the reporter's original story correctly pointed out that "Sam is slated to announce his election campaign manifesto on Saturday, September 28." We regret the error.

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### Macau Weather

**CLOUDY. SHOWERS, HEAVY AT TIMES. A FEW THUNDERSTORMS. FORCE 4 TO 5 NORTH TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 6 WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 80% AND 99%.**



23°C~26°C

Source: SMG



## 29<sup>th</sup> MIF, 2024MFE to kick off next month

Rui Pastorin

The 29<sup>th</sup> Macao International Trade & Investment Fair (29<sup>th</sup> MIF) and the Macao Franchise Expo 2024 (2024MFE) will be held concurrently at Cotai Expo at The Venetian Macao in Cotai, with the four-day events set to kick-off on October 16, the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) said in a statement on Friday.

According to the MIF website, the first day will be open to trade visitors while the second day onwards will also be open to members of the general public.

Themed “Economic Diversification and Development Opportunities”, the upcoming MIF will feature thematic business promotion activities and has Shenzhen as its partner city, the statement noted. The activities, the event website notes, will “demonstrate Macau’s “1+4” appropriate economic diversification strategy and opportunities, as well as the new developments in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin”.

Moreover, the statement said that IPIM has arranged for 13 “Macao Ideas” exhibitors to participate in the 29<sup>th</sup> MIF – Macao Ideas Promotion Series: “Macao Premium Goods” Exhibition and Sales Campaign in partnership with New Yaohan’s two supermarkets, showcasing and selling both “Made in Macau” and “Macao Brand” products.

The first of the two activities was held from Wednesday through yesterday at the New Yaohan supermarket in Nam Van, with another four-day session to be held from this Thursday through Sunday at the New Yaohan supermarket in Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, according to the statement.

The statement added that two sessions offline and sales sessions of the Macao Ideas Promotion Series - “Macao Premium Goods” Exclusive Livestream Sales Session will be held on October 17 and 18 during MIF.

More information can be found by visiting [www.mif.com.mo](http://www.mif.com.mo) or [www.mfe.mo](http://www.mfe.mo). ■

## ‘Old Taipa’ to be pedestrianised again, this time for National Day ‘Golden Week’

Yuki Lei

Certain parts of “Old Taipa” will be closed to vehicular traffic once again during the National Day “Golden Week”, to become a temporary pedestrian precinct, the second time after the Chinese New Year (CNY) early this year, Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) Director Tai Kin Ip announced on Friday, adding he expected the number of visitors to the precinct to reach 200,000.

According to Tai, addressing Friday’s joint press conference at Luso International Bank Building in Nam Van about the temporary pedestrianisation of “Old Taipa”, like during the CNY on February 10-18, the junction of Rua de Fernão Mendes Pinto and Rua do Supico, the junction of Rua Correia da Silva and Rua Governador Tamagnini Barbosa, as well as the section between Calçada do Quartel and Avenida de Carlos da Maia, will once again be temporarily pedestrianised from noon to 7 p.m. on October 1-7: “During the National Day break, the foot and vehicular traffic in ‘Old Taipa’ is expected to be relatively busy. After collecting and listening to the views of Taipa residents, community and business associations, as well as analysing in-depth the situation of the implementation of the temporary pedestrian precincts during this year’s Chinese New Year, the government decided to cooperate with Taipa’s community associations once again [in carrying out the pedestrianisation project]”.

A joint statement and press conference by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau, Transport Bureau (DSAT), Public Security Police (PSP), Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) quoted Tai as saying that the temporary pedestrian precinct set up during



This undated handout photo provided along with a joint statement by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED), Transport Bureau (DSAT), Public Security Police (PSP), Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) shows visitors walking around the “Old Taipa” pedestrian precinct during the Chinese New Year holiday in early February this year.

CNY was widely appreciated by the community, underlining that the government’s inter-departmental working group has visited residents and community and business associations in Taipa to listen to the views of residents and business operators in the area, including representatives of four schools, to ensure the smooth implementation of the temporary pedestrianisation project. Concerning the fact that students are slated to go to school on October 3, 4 and 7, Tai pointed out during the press conference that students will not be affected by the pedestrianisation when they go to school in the morning, while they will be slightly affected by the measure when leaving school in the afternoon. Tai also said he believed that foot traffic at the surrounding temporary bus stops can cope with the expected demand for public transport.

The statement noted that a number of bus routes will be adjusted between 11 a.m. and the day’s last bus ride at night, when

four bus stops, namely, “Chuen Yuet Garden”, “Carmo Swimming Pools”, “Rua do Cunha” and “Escola Luso-Chinesa da Taipa” will be temporarily suspended. However, temporary stops will be set up at Avenida Olímpica and the Olympic Sports Centre, as well as at Largo Governador Tamagnini Barbosa and the nearby locations of Taipa Luso-Chinese Primary School for routes 11 and 28A.

According to the press conference, while the pedestrianisation is in effect, vehicles can access Avenida Olímpica en route to the area of Rua do Regedor and Ponte Negra.

According to Tai, with the implementation of the temporary pedestrian precinct during the past Chinese New Year period, the area logged a daily average of 30,000 person-times, an average of 3,000 per hour, with a peak of 4,500 person-times at 2 p.m. Tai said he estimated the average number of people entering the pedestrian precinct to reach 200,000 during the seven-day National Day break. ■



Leong Wa Fong (centre), an executive director of the government’s Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and Polly Yeung (left), retail operations director of STDM, who heads the New Yaohan Department Store, sample a beverage made in Macau at a booth on the sidelines of Thursday’s ceremony of the “Macao Premium Goods” exhibition at New Yaohan’s supermarket in Nam Van. – Photo: Tony Wong

## UM, GDIIST unveil joint lab on cognition, brain-inspired intelligence

Rui Pastorin

A plaque unveiling ceremony has recently been held by the University of Macau (UM) and the Guangdong Institute of Intelligence Science and Technology (GDIIST) for the “Joint Laboratory (Research Centre) of Cognition and Brain-Inspired Intelligence of University of Macau and Guangdong Institute of Intelligence Science and Technology”, according to a UM statement on Friday.

The statement noted that the joint lab will focus on the cognitive and brain-inspired intelligence technologies field, as

well as “explore new cooperation mechanisms aimed at major tasks and goals and innovative models for integrating research and teaching”.

Moreover, the lab’s setting-up marks a “strategic partnership” for both institutions in the cognition and brain-inspired intelligence field, the statement said, using the lab to cooperate on the three key areas of talent cultivation, transfer and transformation, and scientific research. They will cooperate on joint PhD programmes, international industrial development exchanges and cooperation, shared research and technology platforms, as well

as scientific research and applied technology development research in areas such as basic theories of artificial intelligence (AI) and brain cognition, the statement said.

The cooperation arrangement aims to “create a model for industry-academia collaboration in Hengqin and provide technological support for Macau’s economic diversification”, according to the statement.

An academic seminar on cognition and brain-inspired intelligence was also held on the same day, said the statement, which did not say when and where the seminar took place. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the University of Macau (UM) on Friday shows the academic seminar on “Cognition and Brain-inspired Intelligence” taking place recently.





Photo courtesy of Unsplash

## A story about life: a review and recommendation

Rui Pastorin

*"The universe is large, he thought. It contains multitudes. It also contains me, and in this moment I am wonderful. I have the right to be wonderful."*

– Stephen King, "The Life of Chuck"

Imagine that the world is ending. Civil society has begun to collapse, extreme weather disasters are affecting every state, region and country, while food shortages are rampant. There are frequent power shortages, until one day, there just isn't any while the internet goes dark. And at the centre of it all is... a retiring mid-level banker?

Somehow as the world ends, you keep seeing an ad for the banker with the message: "CHUCK KRANTZ - 39 Great Years! Thanks Chuck". It's everywhere from billboards to the Netflix error screen, and you simply cannot wrap your mind around it. Who exactly is Chuck Krantz? And what does he have to do with all of this?

This is just opening act of the masterful US author Stephen King's\* novella\*\* "The Life of Chuck", hooking readers into exploring and reading the story, as well as to later learn about just who this Chuck Krantz is.

The story is among a collection of four previously unpublished novellas written by King titled "If It Bleeds", with the three others being the titular story, "Mr Harrigan's Phone" and "Rat". The collection was published in 2020 and King certainly does not disappoint, though some might favour certain stories over others.

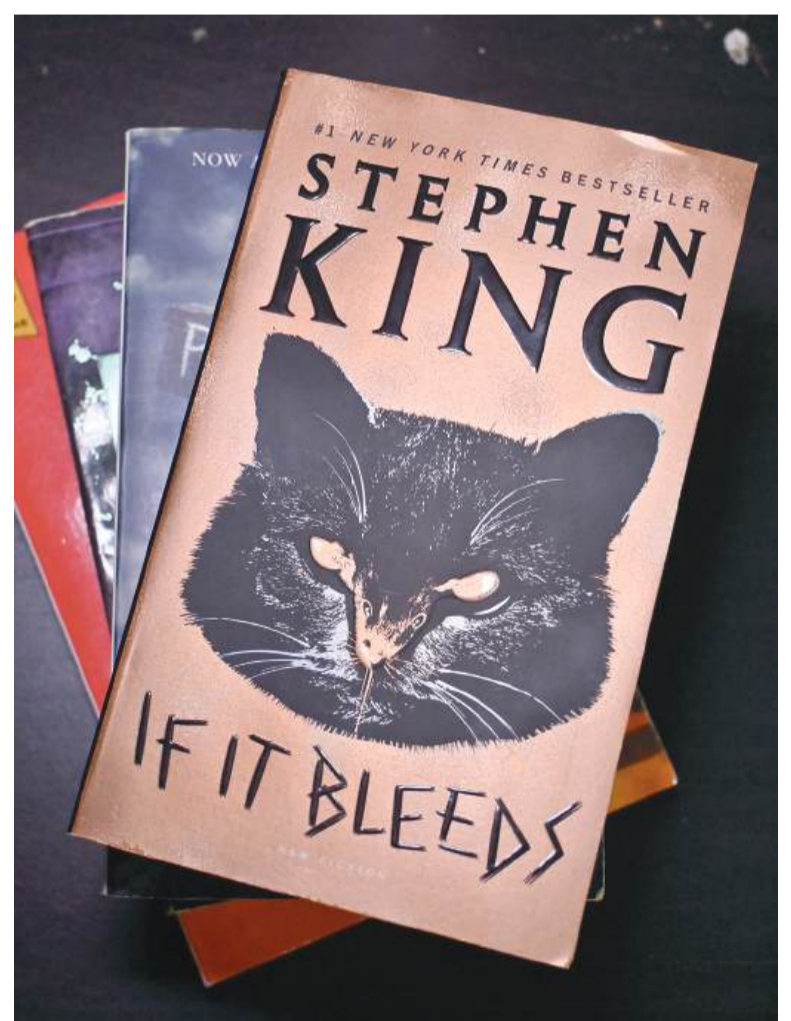
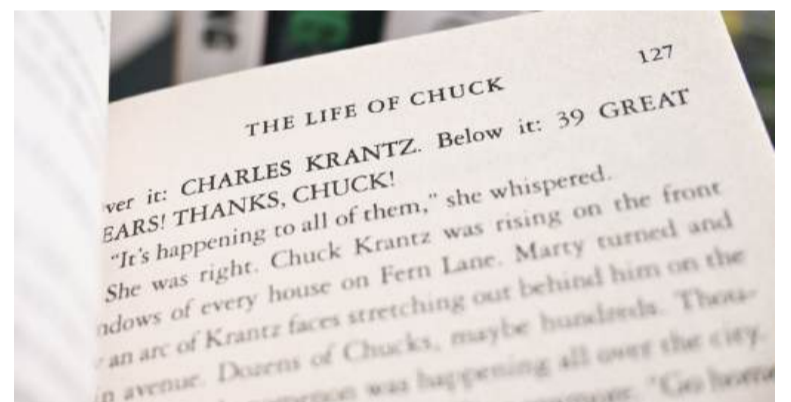
Although some might disagree, I think that "The Life of Chuck" is the best among the collection and if you could only read one, this is what I would recommend the most. It has a concept that I felt was unique while also being presented in a way that is different. At only over 60 pages long, the story consists of three acts, though it goes from act three to one rather than the usual one to three, each being different to the last. King's knack for storytelling is continuously showcased in this novella, again being one of his many works that have long shown that he can write something great beyond the horror genre. More importantly, he shows how much he can do with a shorter form of storytelling.

One thing to note for those interested in reading, however, is that a lot of Stephen King's works are more suitable for adult readers, and in this case, it is no exception. There are still things like the use of swear words or strong language and some mature content, so I would not recommend it to very young readers or to those averse to that kind of content. However, I think it's safe to recommend it to young adults. Moreover, "The Life of Chuck" is by no means a perfect story, with pacing perhaps being an issue in certain parts, particularly around the middle act.

All in all, "The Life of Chuck" is a good story. Though a quick read for most, it proves to be an enjoyable journey long after readers get past the opening act as they learn about who Chuck Krantz is. And figuring out what it all means by the end is also part of what makes the story worth reading again and again.

\*Stephen King (born 1947) is widely known for his horror novels and has been crowned the "King of Horror". He has also explored other genres such as suspense, crime, science-fiction, fantasy and mystery. Though known primarily for his novels, he has written approximately 200 short stories, most of which have been published in collections. -Source: Wikipedia

\*\*According to Wikipedia, a novella is a narrative prose fiction whose length is shorter than most novels, but longer than most novelettes and short stories. A novella, Wikipedia adds, can have a wordcount of between 17,500 and 40,000 words, while some websites also note that it can start from 10,000 or 20,000 words.



These photos taken yesterday show my copy of Stephen King's "If It Bleeds" and the start of "The Life of Chuck".

– Photos: Rui Pastorin



# Govt studying LRT's extension to Qingmao checkpoint

**Tony Wong**

The Public Works Bureau (DSOP) says that the government is planning and studying the feasibility of launching a project to extend the Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line to the Qingmao pedestrian border checkpoint.

The bureau has commissioned a number of construction consultancies to carry out the feasibility study and other respective services.

The ongoing LRT East Line project, which got off the ground last year, is a 7.7-kilometre-long section connecting the Barrier Gate checkpoint at the peninsula's northern tip and the Taipa Ferry Terminal via the Zone A and Zone E1 land reclamation areas. The East Line will cross the sea between Zone A and Zone E1 through an undersea tunnel.

In December last year, the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee in Beijing passed a decision to authorise the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) to exercise jurisdiction over a land and maritime area southeast of Zhuhai's Gongbei checkpoint, enabling the Macau government to

lease the area from Zhuhai so that the underground LRT station to serve the Barrier Gate checkpoint can be built closer to the checkpoint and the LRT East Line can be extended to the Qingmao checkpoint by running under the Barrier Gate.

Afterwards, Macau enacted its local legislation in May enabling the local government to formally administer the area in compliance with the MSAR's laws, after which the area's jurisdiction was transferred from Zhuhai City to the MSAR on May 31.

The V-shaped area covers 3,700.178 square metres, comprising a land area of 1,439.130 square metres and a maritime area of 2,261.048 square metres.

The ongoing LRT East Line project, without the projected extension to the Qingmao checkpoint, is scheduled to be completed in 2028, which the government is aiming to open in 2029.

## 80 metres closer to Barrier Gate

A DSOP statement on Friday noted that with the V-shaped area's



This file photo downloaded from the Public Security Police's (PSP) website yesterday shows the Qingmao checkpoint building in Ilha Verde.

jurisdiction having been transferred to Macau, it can now be used for the expansion of the LRT East Line project. Consequently, the statement noted, the underground LRT station to serve the Barrier Gate checkpoint, i.e., the ES1 station of the ongoing LRT East Line project, can be built closer to the Barrier Gate checkpoint.

The statement said that the ES1 station will now be built 80 metres closer to the Barrier Gate checkpoint, with one of its entrances

and exits to be set up at where the current pick-up and drop-off area for tourist coaches, situated next to the checkpoint and east of the Barrier Gate Plaza, is located.

In addition, the statement said, the ES1 station will also be connected to the Barrier Gate checkpoint building through a pedestrian underpass and a footbridge.

The statement also noted that as the police tactical unit moved its headquarters from a site near the Barrier Gate checkpoint to the Zone

E1 land reclamation area at Pac On in Taipa earlier this year, the government is now planning to relocate the pick-up and drop-off area for tourist coaches to the site of the former police tactical unit headquarters, enabling the project to expand the ES1 station to be carried out.

## Complex geological conditions

According to the DSOP website, the future extended LRT East Line section will also be an underground one. It will run from the ES1 station, travelling under the Barrier Gate checkpoint and its adjacent Dr Sun Yat-sen Municipal Park, before arriving at the Qingmao checkpoint.

The statement also underlined that the extended LRT East Line project can be expected to be difficult because of the complexity of the area's geological conditions.

The statement also said that with the aim of enabling the extension project's planning process to be completed in a shorter time, the bureau decided to launch tenders by invitation for its feasibility study and other respective services. ■

# MUR plans to redevelop Iao Hon dilapidated buildings into 30-storey buildings

**Tony Wong**

Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) says that it is planning to redevelop seven dilapidated residential estates comprising low-rise buildings in Iao Hon district into high-rise buildings with 30 floors each, with the number of flats to remain unchanged.

The government-owned company did not say how many high-rises it plans to build there.

The dilapidated Iao Hon Estate, which was built in the 1970s, comprises seven groups of low-rise buildings. The neighbourhood currently comprises 46 buildings consisting of around 2,500 flats, after four buildings were demolished in 2009.

The site where the four demolished buildings was situated has been converted into a temporary sitting-out area.

The government said in August that it will build a sandwich-class public housing high-rise on the site.

An MUR statement on Friday underlined that the company is pushing forward its Iao Hon Estate redevelopment project. The statement said that after having been in constant communication with the condominium owners of over 2,000 flats, the company has assisted in the setting up of condominium owners associations of all the 46 buildings.

The statement said that the company has collected signatures from most of the Iao Hon Estate's condominium owners and is actively contacting condominium owners who are currently outside Macau, with the aim of getting the estate's redevelopment off the ground. ■



This artist's rendition released by Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) on Friday shows the future high-rise buildings in its Iao Hon Estate redevelopment project.

# 3,907 sit civil servant admission exam

**Ginnie Liang**

A total of 3,907 local residents with associate degrees and higher diplomas undertook the Civil Servants unified admission exam, also known as the "350 exam" yesterday attempting to launch a career in the civil service, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) said in a statement yesterday.

"350" refers to civil servants' salaries points.

The exam took place at 10 a.m. yesterday across eight school institutions, and the exams lasted for one and a half hours, the statement said, adding that "the whole process of the examination went well".

Initially, over 6,508 registered to sit the exam which resulted in a 60 percent participation rate.

The results from the exam will be valid for a period of five years, with those who passed being able to then submit applications to specific job offerings in the government's different departments. Among those are specialists, clerical staff, and interpreters/translators, among others.



This handout photo provided by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) earlier this year shows the bureau's headquarters at the Public Administration Building in Rua do Campo.

According to the local Chinese-language media reports, several of the examinees told reporters after that exam that they would like to join the civil service because of its higher salaries and more generous fringe benefits compared to the private sector, as well as job security, as motivations to attempt to obtain a job in the public sector.

Upon completion of the exam, the government will commence the marking of the examination papers,

and after approval by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, the results will be published on the examination website at <http://concurso-uni.safp.gov.mo/> at the end of next month, the statement noted.

The examination results are merely classified into "passed" and "failed", with marks of 50 or above being assessed as "passed" and those below 50 being assessed as "failed", the statement added. ■

# Sam officially accepted as CE candidate

**Staff Reporter**

The Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief Executive Election has officially confirmed ex-judge Sam Hou Fai as the sole candidate for the chief executive election on October 13.

The commission made the announcement in a notice released by the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) on Friday.

The government-appointed commission had previously

completed an eligibility review of the only application received for becoming a candidate for the post of chief executive, the notice pointed out, adding that, subsequently, it released on Wednesday a list containing the name of the accepted candidate for the chief executive election, as well as the list of members of the Chief Executive Election Committee that nominated him.

The Electoral Affairs Commission did not receive any objections within

one day of announcing its decision on Sam's eligibility.

The list has been affixed on the windows of the ground floor of the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo. It is available on the Chief Executive Election website ([www.ece.gov.mo](http://www.ece.gov.mo)).

Sam, 62, the former president of Macau's top court, the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), is slated to announce his election campaign manifesto on September 28. ■