

# Support measures needed to help local businesses: Sam

Yuki Lei

Macau's sole candidate for the sixth-term chief executive Sam Hou Fai has been visiting various neighbourhoods to listen to people's views, aiming to gauge public sentiment, and after yesterday's walkabout in San Kio district, he said that the government should consider introducing support measures through online and offline marketing campaigns to improve different neighbourhoods' business situation.

The chief executive election will be held on October 13. Accompanied by Women's General Association of Macau Vice-Chairwoman Lau Kam Ling, Macau Federation of Trade Unions (MFTU) Vice President Fong Ka Fai, Industry and Commerce Associations of Macau Central and Southern District President Lei Cheok Kuan and Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations Vice President Chan Hio Peng, Sam, the former president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), exchanged views with residents and shop owners in the areas of Rotunda de Carlos da Maia (colloquially known as "Three Lamps" - 三盞燈) and Rua da Emenda (義字街), including shops selling knitted fabrics, ginseng and dried seafood, bedding sets and bed linen, glasses and flowers, to learn



Macau's sixth-term chief executive candidate Sam Hou Fai speaks to reporters yesterday after his visit to San Kio district.

- Photo: Yuki Lei

more about their business conditions.

"Business operators are indeed [expressing the view that their turnover has been affected by the Northbound Travel for Macau Vehicles scheme], which cannot be avoided due to the ongoing integration between the two places [Macau and the mainland]. However, at the same time, I also saw that many of the business operators

still have the spirit of perseverance, and some of them will adjust their [business operations], while others will just carry on," Sam told reporters after yesterday morning's about two-hour walkabout, adding he believed that it was just a phased impact: "Yesterday [Wednesday], 167,000 visitors came from the mainland.....This trend is slowly complementing each other" (Macau

residents visiting the mainland and mainlanders visiting Macau).

The Northbound Travel for Macau Vehicles scheme, which was launched by the local and mainland governments at the beginning of this year, allows Macau residents to drive their cars, in Guangdong Province, i.e., north of Macau.

Sam went on to say that the impact of the Northbound Travel



for Macau Vehicles scheme on business operators in the San Kio district was far less severe than that of the businesses in the northern district (北區) thanks to its good neighbourhood atmosphere, deep cultural background, the spirit of mutual assistance among neighbours: "As long as they are confident that they can continue their business, the government should definitely consider this aspect, examine what support measures are available, understand the situation, and see how their business environment can be improved to attract mainland visitors, especially the younger generation, to these culture-orientated communities of ours".

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A drone photo taken yesterday shows tourists riding camels at the Qixing Lake scenic spot in the Kubuqi Desert, in Ordos of northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The Kubuqi Desert sits on a curve of the Yellow River and once threatened to bury the entire region. Over the past 30 years that expansion has been curtailed and reversed. The natural environment here has been improving historically. Many tourists choose the desert as their travel destination during the week-long National Day Holiday, which ends on Monday. - Xinhua



## Over 800 mpox deaths recorded across Africa

NAIROBI - More than 800 people across Africa have died from mpox, the African Union's disease control centre said yesterday, warning the epidemic "was not under control".

Some 34,297 cases have been recorded across the continent since January, the AU's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said, adding that the figure included 38 cases in Ghana.

This brings to 16 the number of African countries where mpox has been officially detected this year, according to the health agency.

"The epidemic is not under control," Jean Kaseya, the head of Africa CDC told a press briefing, saying the number of deaths since the start of the year was 866.

He also warned that the testing rate remained "too low", noting that some 2,500 new cases had been detected in the past week.

- AFP

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### Biden says 'discussing' possible Israeli strikes on Iran's oil facilities

US President Joe Biden said yesterday he was discussing possible Israeli strikes on Iranian oil facilities, in comments that sent oil prices spiking just a month before the US presidential election. - Story on p. 10

### UK hands Chagos Islands to Mauritius but keeps key US military base

Britain yesterday said it would give up sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, but under what US President Joe Biden called a "historic agreement" will keep a strategic Indian Ocean military base with the United States. - Story on p. 11

### 15-year term sought for 'Maddie' suspect in Germany sex crimes trial

German prosecutors on Wednesday demanded 15 years in jail for Christian Brückner, the prime suspect in the long-unsolved case of missing British toddler Madeleine McCann, in his trial for unrelated sex crimes. - Story on p. 12



## Support measures needed to help local businesses: Sam

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Sam mentioned his personal affection for the district: "I'm very attached to this neighbourhood, I had lived in three different places in the San Kio area since 1986 until I became the president of the Court of Final Appeal and moved elsewhere".

Sam pointed out that San Kio ("New Bridge") district is the most historically and culturally rich neighbourhood in Macau and, at the same time, it is a typical Burmese-Chinese community with about 46,000 residents and several primary schools. He added that with well-organised social services in the district and its deep cultural background, Macau should think about how to attract tourists to the district, especially young people from the nation, and even those from Southeast Asia, so as to "organically combine this kind of harmonious old community of Macau with the mainstream Chinese cultural traditions, and to form an immersive experience."

Meanwhile, after his community visit to Iao Hon ("Blessing the Han") district on Wednesday, Sam told the media he hoped that a consensus could be reached through dialogue with all sectors of the community, so that redevelopment could "make a real start and deal with it in a down-to-earth manner", in order to

improve the living environment of the residents. He also pointed out on Wednesday that he chose the densely populated Iao Hon district as the first stop on his community visits as he hoped to lay a foundation for his future governance and planning by understanding each community's environment and the operation of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In view of the fact that there's insufficient open space in Iao Hon with only three small sitting-out areas, which was far less favourable than such facilities in Taipa, Sam said that the provision of open space and sports facilities there should be enhanced in the future and consideration should be given to making use of open space to increase the number of related facilities to meet the needs of residents, including students, in the northern district.

On the public transport and traffic front in the two districts, Sam pointed out, both yesterday and on the previous day, the need for overall planning by the government, from transport to the living environment. He also underlined that both districts include major but narrow roads that are often congested during the peak commuting hours, combined with a lack of carparks and parking spaces for motorcycles. ■



Sam Hou Fai talks to residents in the San Kio neighbourhood during yesterday's walkabout. — Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

## CE Ho Iat Seng says nation regards Macau as 'pearl in the palm'

Staff Reporter

Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng emphasised in his National Day address on Tuesday that over the past 25 years, i.e., since the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) in December 1999, the nation has regarded Macau as a "pearl in the palm" (掌上明珠 - zhangshang mingzhu)\*, and he underlined that the nation has consistently served as Macau's strongest support for maintaining prosperity and stability, thereby providing Macau's greatest opportunities for development over the past quarter of a century.

Ho also said pointed out that "under the strong leadership of the central authorities and the substantial support from the mainland, successive governments of the MSAR and various sectors of society have worked together to create the best development situation in Macau's history, writing a brilliant chapter in the successful practice of 'One Country, Two Systems' with Macau characteristics."

The chief executive made the remarks in a speech during a reception hosted by the local government at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex (Forum Macao Complex) in Nam Van. According to the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS), the event was attended by some 1,300 guests including Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Vice-Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah (who was the MSAR's first chief executive, from December 1999 to December 2009), Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the MSAR Director Zheng Xincong, the MSAR's second chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On (December 2009 to December 2019), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commissioner Liu Xianfa, and People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison Political Commissar Lin Qinghua.

In his speech, Ho Iat Seng also pointed out that over the past five years, under the strong leadership of the central authorities with Xi Jinping as its core, the MSAR government has united all sectors of society and the general public to work together to carry out reforms and achieve innovation, apart from steadfastly implementing the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy, while also safeguarding the overall jurisdiction of the central authorities over Macau and the nation's sovereignty, security and development interests.

The chief executive, who had announced recently that for health reasons he had decided not to seek a second five-year term at the helm of the local government, also said that his administration



Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng offers a toast during Tuesday morning's National Day reception at the Forum Macao Complex in Nam Van.

— Photo: William Chan

has always focused on ensuring the development objective of appropriately diversifying the local economy in line with its "1+4" strategy, based on the "One Centre, One Platform, One Base" concept.

According to previous government announcements, the "1+4" strategy aims to reinforce Macau's role as a centre for integrated tourism and leisure, officially known as World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, as well as a platform of economic and trade cooperation between China and the world's Portuguese-speaking countries, while facilitating the development of four emerging industries: the "Big Health" industry; modern financial services; high-tech; and conventions, exhibitions and sports, as well as commercial and trade industries.

Ho also underlined his government's determination to attract highly qualified human resources to Macau to assist in the special administrative region's modernisation and innovation drive. The government has said that the talent acquisition programme aims to improve the quality of Macau's limited manpower pool.

The chief executive, a former member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) and ex-president of the Macau Legislative Assembly (AL), also underlined that Macau's financial stability, such as the fact that the MSAR's fiscal reserves stood at around 602.7 billion patacas in June this year, irrespective of the government's heavy spending on

special measures that were needed to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted Macau between early 2020 and late 2022.

Ho, 67, also noted that Macau recorded 19.7 million visitor arrivals in the first seven months of the year, a year-on-year increase of 37 percent. He also reaffirmed that the MSAR must adapt to the development and changes of the times and, thereby, continue to consolidate and enhance its unique status and advantages within the nation's development so that it can play an even better role and make greater contributions to building a strong country and rejuvenating the nation.

The chief executive also thanked the Liaison Office, the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commission and the PLA Garrison for their constant care for and support of the MSAR.

Prior to the reception, Ho and other senior local and mainland government officials as well as community leaders, lawmakers, Judiciary personnel and others attended a solemn flag-raising ceremony at Golden Lotus Square in Zape. According to GCS, about 600 people attended the event. ■

\*A traditional Chinese idiom used metaphorically to refer to someone or something who or which is deeply cherished or beloved, like a precious jewel., similar to the English idiom of being the apple of someone's eye. Incidentally, both Hong Kong and Macau have traditionally been known as "Pearl of the Orient" ("Pérola do Oriente" in Portuguese).

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Macau POST

### Macau Weather

**DRY.**  
**FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS.**  
**FORCE 4 TO 5 NORTHERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 40% AND 70%.**



21°C~29°C

Source: SMG



## Plot P senior housing tenants need to pay for clubhouse services: govt

Tony Wong

Tenants in the government's high-rise rental residential building for senior citizens on Plot P in Areia Preta district will need to pay to use its clubhouse and sport facilities, according to government announcements earlier this week.

Tenants are scheduled to move into their flats in the housing estate from October 15 after it was inaugurated on Thursday last week.

The housing estate has four podium levels from the ground to third floor. The podium's second floor will be used as a clubhouse and a health facility, while the third floor will be used as an outdoor podium garden and indoor sport facilities.

The government announced the fees for using the housing estate's clubhouse and sport facilities in the Official Gazette (BO) on Monday.

The fees were announced by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U in an executive order.

According to the order, seniors living

there will have to pay 30 patacas per hour to use a music room, 40 patacas to use a multifunctional room, 80 patacas to use a large multifunctional room, 80 patacas to use a karaoke room, and 100 patacas to use the hall for Cantonese opera.

Seniors will have to pay 10 patacas per hour to use a gym and 15 patacas to use a chess room, while they will have to pay 10 patacas to play table tennis and 25 patacas to play snooker.

Tenants will be offered a 20-percent discount on their rent during their first three-year lease, because of which their rent will range between 4,328 patacas and 5,344 patacas a month depending on their studio flats' floors and locations.

After attending the housing estate's inauguration ceremony last week, Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President Wilson Hon Wai told reporters that the government was aiming to strike a balance between the expenses of operating the housing estate and the income from the tenants' rents, i.e., without having to spend money from the public coffers. ■



This photo taken during last week's media tour shows a karaoke room on the second floor of the Plot P seniors' rental housing estate. — Photo: Tony Wong

## Macau logs National Day holiday visitor record – 166,100 on Wednesday

Yuki Lei

Macau has recorded the highest single-day number of visitor arrivals for the National Day "Golden Week" holiday since official statistics started to be collected for the period, surpassing the previous single-day record of 162,100 on October 5, 2019, according to a statement by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) yesterday.

Macau welcomed, the statement noted, over 166,100 visitor arrivals on Wednesday, the second day of the mainland's National Day Golden Week on October 2, an increase of nearly 27,700 from 138,300 visitor arrivals recorded, according to provisional figures from the government on National Day, October 1.

The MGTO statement quoted data from the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) as pointing out that the previous top three one-day highs for the first three National Day holidays were all recorded in pre-pandemic 2019, with 162,100 visitor arrivals logged on October 5, 161,600 on October 3, and 159,300 on October 2, adding that Macau's tourism industry has been recovering rapidly and making further progress, as the overall performance of the sector during this year's Chinese New Year (CNY) and summer holiday periods continued to improve, leading to record-high visitor arrivals in August.

Meanwhile, according to a statement by the Public Security Police (PSP), PSP officers, between Wednesday and yesterday, accused a cabbie of malpractice involving driving at an inappropriate or illegal speed while carrying passengers, while they also referred a case of



Tourists stroll along the city's main square, Largo do Senado, yesterday, the third of the mainland's seven-day National Day "Golden Week" holiday. — Photo: Simon Wang

impolite treatment of passengers for follow-up action to the Transport Bureau (DSAT).

The Public Security Police, the statement noted, fined three drivers for providing illegal car hire services. ■

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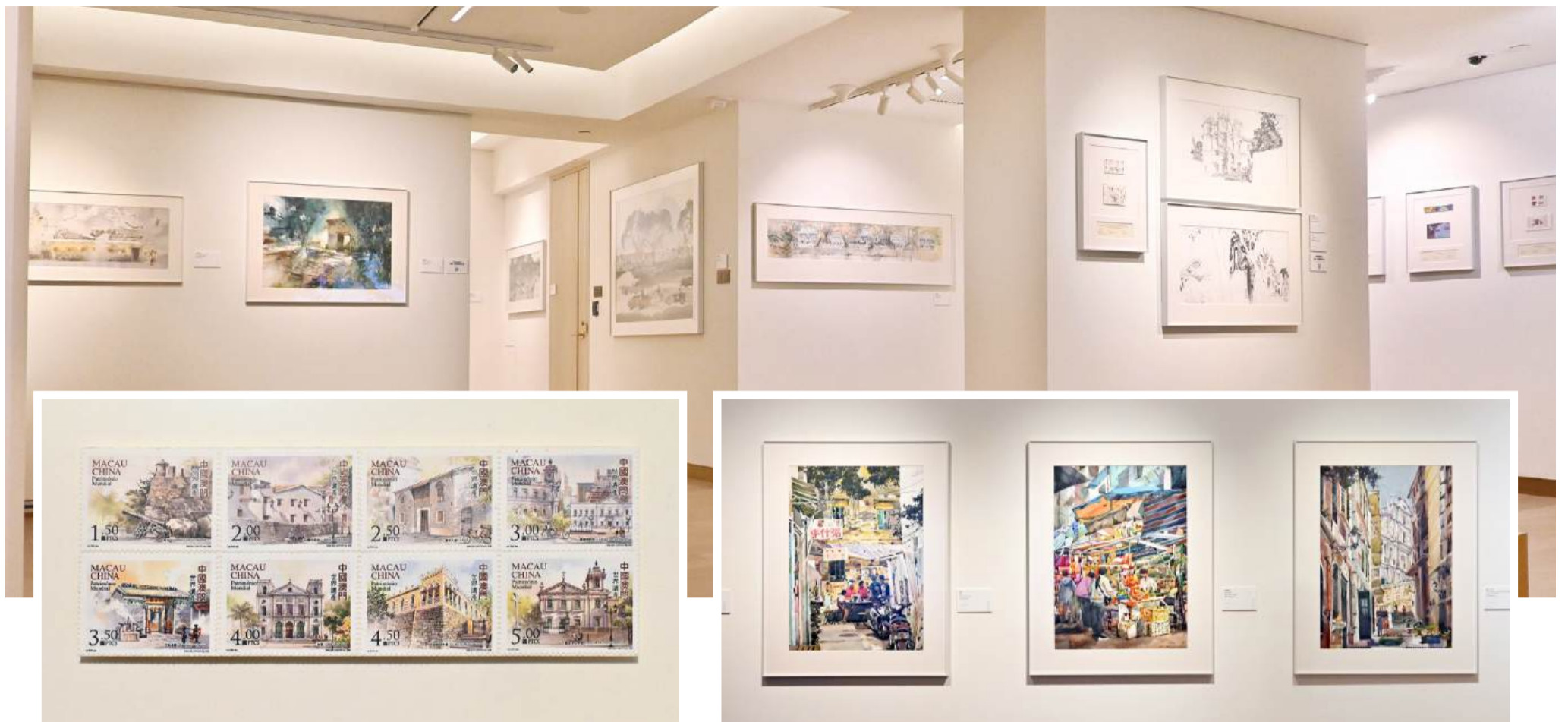
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Artist Ung Vai Meng poses with his artwork exhibited at Sands Gallery in Cotai for the exhibition "Echoes of a Golden Age: Macro Events through the Micro Visions of Macao's Legendary Contemporary Artists" during the opening event on Monday.



Artist and exhibition curator Lam Chi Ian poses with his watercolour painting during the opening event.

These photos show works by different artists, including Ung and Lam, featured in the exhibition. – Photos: Rui Pastorin

# 121 works on display at Sands Gallery in 'Echoes of a Golden Age' exhibition

Rui Pastorin

A quarter of a century's works by nine seasoned artists are on display in Sands Gallery's latest exhibition entitled "Echoes of a Golden Age: Macro Events through the Micro Visions of Macao's Legendary Contemporary Artists", which officially kicked off earlier this week and closes on January 5.

A statement on Monday by integrated resort operator Sands China quoted Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai as saying: "As this year marks dual celebrations, this exhibition aims to take visitors on a journey by revisiting the glorious moments in Macau's development and its local conditions and customs through the artists' extraordinary perspectives, and to extend our heartfelt best wishes for our country and Macau".

From watercolours to Chinese ink paintings to photography, the 121 works on display are by artists Lai Ieng, Lok Hei, Ng Wai Kin, Guilherme Ung Vai Meng, Lio Man Cheong, Lei Tak Seng, Chan Hin Io, Ao Kuan Kin, and Lam Chi Ian, who is also the exhibition's curator. All of them designed stamps for the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) over the past 25 years, with the Sands China statement noting that they each reflect "historical changes in the macro environment through their micro visions".

On its curation and theme, Lam told the *Post* during the exhibition's opening that he wanted to connect the people who not only paint or sketch, among others, but are among the designers who designed stamps for CTT with a variety of themes such as for Macau's return to the motherland and National Day. "So that's of a very significant meaning to us".

Among Lam's works showcased are a watercolour created for the exhibition featuring Macau's architecture and

horizon, and another watercolour painted last year comprised of four individual paintings put together and connecting Macau's skyline, each having a different colour theme and incorporating the four seasons, framed as if viewing Macau from a window, explained the artist.

Moreover, veteran artist Ung told the *Post* that he is showcasing around eight sketches and several stamps, with their designs created using sketching and watercolour techniques, which are elements that he used during his whole life.

His previously designed stamps for CTT feature the Macau Grand Prix and aspects of the city's architecture, among others, and he pointed out that "Macau has a very rich environment for any artist".

Ung added that the city has changed a lot over the past few years and though he prefers the city's quieter times, it remains "very attractive" to him, and he hopes that Macau can continue to keep its history, culture and heritage in the future.

Art is something that he remains passionate about, and it is a path that is very important to him, Ung said. He added that during his time as a civil servant and even now as a distinguished guest professor and doctoral mentor at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), he always tries to make more time for creative activities, adding that his love and passion for the arts is something he cannot change.

The free-admission exhibition is located on the sixth floor of The Grand Suites at Four Seasons. One can visit it from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. More information is on <https://en.sandsresortsmacao.com/sands-lifestyle/sands-art-gallery.html>





## PJ warn public of 'point expiry' SMS scam

Rui Pastorin

The Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warned members of the public about fraudsters sending out "point expiry" SMS messages under the guise of banks and telecommunication companies, noting that multiple residents have filed reports about receiving these fake messages.

According to the statement,

Be vigilant against fake "point expiry" SMS from fraudsters impersonating banks and telecommunication companies



This poster provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday urges members of the public to be wary of fake point expiry SMS messages from fraudsters.

the messages claimed that one's customer points were about to expire, luring recipients to click on an embedded link that leads to a fake website that mimics those of banks or telecom providers.

The statement noted that recipients were instructed to enter credit card details to redeem gifts at a low price, with scammers later using the information for large, unauthorised transactions.

The Judiciary Police advised members of the public to avoid clicking unknown links within a message and to enquire with official institutions or use official apps should they receive messages that claim "points are about to expire", the statement said.

Moreover, one should carefully verify a website's authenticity if personal, banking and credit card information is required, as well as use an "anti-scam program" to check the risk index, or call the PJ's anti-fraud enquiry hotline on 8800 7777 or the crime report hotline on 993. ■

## MUST lab chief first foreign expert from HK & Macau awarded Friendship Award by China

Staff Reporter

German Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology laureate Prof. Erwin Neher is the first winner of China's Friendship Award for foreign experts from Hong Kong and Macau, according to a report by the Chinese-language newspaper *Macao Daily News* earlier this week.

Xinhua has reported that State Councillor Shen Yiqin at a ceremony in Beijing presented the Friendship Award on Monday to 100 foreign experts working in the country in recognition of their contributions to the nation's development. The report quoted Shen as saying that "foreign experts have made outstanding contributions to China's modernisation drive, which the Chinese people will always remember."

Prof. Neher, 80, is the director of "Neher's Biophysics Laboratory for Innovative Drug Discovery" of the private Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Taipa. The laboratory was set up in 2016.

Prof. Neher is director emeritus of the Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences in Göttingen, northern Germany. He heads the emeritus group of the institute's Department of Membrane Biophysics.

According to the website of the institute, Neher studied physics at Technical University (TUM) and the University of Wisconsin. He is a professor emeritus at the University of Göttingen, where Zou Enlai and Zhu De, both towering figures of the Communist Party of China (CPC), studied in the 1920s.

Founded in 2000, MUST describes itself as the largest multidisciplinary university in Macau. According to *Macao Daily News*, the university's chancellor, Dr Liu Chak Wan, and president, Prof. Lee Hun-wei, attended Monday's ceremony in Beijing.

Usually, the Friendship Award ceremony takes place annually in Beijing on September 30, i.e., on the eve of National Day. ■

## New Macau Bridge promotes economic diversification: Ho

Tony Wong

Macau Bridge, which officially opened to vehicular traffic at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, National Day, was inaugurated by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng three hours earlier where he said that the fourth Macau-Taipa bridge's operation would help improve the population's well-being and promote the city's appropriate economic diversification.

Macau Bridge is the city's fourth sea crossing connecting the Macau peninsula and Taipa island, after Sai Van Bridge, Friendship Bridge, and the Governor Nobre de Carvalho Bridge (informally known as the "old bridge"), which opened in 2005, 1994 and 1974 respectively.

The 3.1-kilometre-long Macau Bridge connects the Zone A and Zone E1 land reclamation areas, which are both new urban areas. Zone A, on the peninsula side, is primarily being developed for public housing projects, which is still uninhabited, while Zone E1, located next to the Taipa Ferry Terminal at Pac On, is earmarked for government facilities as well as commercial and residential purposes, where a number of government facilities are in use such as the new Public Security Police (PSP) headquarters.

The 1.38-square-kilometre Zone A is located between the peninsula's north-eastern coast and the man-made island where the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) Macau checkpoint is located.

Currently, there are two links connecting Zone A and the HZMB man-made island, while there is only one link between the peninsula and Zone A, i.e., the one at the busy Oriental Pearl roundabout (Rotunda da Amizade) on the peninsula's north-eastern coast.

In addition to Zone A, the new bridge is also directly connected to the HZMB man-made island through a spur.

### Inauguration

Macau Bridge's inauguration ceremony was held near its entrance and exit on the Taipa side, on a site near the new PSP headquarters in Zone E1, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

The bridge's inaugural plaque was jointly unveiled by Ho as well as Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee Vice Chairman Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Central People's Government Liaison Office in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Director Zheng Xincong, Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa, People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison Political Commissar Lin Qinghua, Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In, China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) Chairman Dai Hegen, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, Public Works Bureau (DSOP) Director Lam Wai Hou, and Transport Bureau (DSAT) Director Kelvin Lam Hin San.



Vehicles travel on Macau Bridge soon after it opened on Tuesday afternoon.

— Photo: GCS



Passengers catch a No.103X bus at the Taipa Ferry Terminal on Wednesday.

— Photo: Tony Wong

The bridge project was carried out by a building consortium consisting of three construction companies (two state-owned enterprises and a local company) for a price tag of 5.27 billion patacas, namely China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), China Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau Group Co. Ltd., which is a CRCC subsidiary, and Omas Construction and Engineering Company Limited.

The fourth Macau-Taipa bridge opened on Tuesday after its construction got off the ground on March 26, 2020 and was fully completed in July this year.

### 'Beautiful gift for double celebrations'

Delivering a speech during the ceremony, Ho said that Macau Bridge's opening is a "beautiful gift" for this year which marks Macau's "double celebrations", the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on October 1 and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the MSAR on December 20.

Ho, who is not seeking a second five-year term as a chief executive, underlined during Tuesday's ceremony that the main aim of his government's urban development is to create a favourable living and working environment for residents. The government will continue to advance its urban planning and improve urban infrastructures with the aim of promoting Macau's sustainable development, the chief executive said.

Ho said that Macau Bridge, as an important transport infrastructure near the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau

Bridge (HZMB), does not only improve Macau's overall transport network but also makes it more convenient for residents and visitors alike to get out and about.

Ho said that Macau Bridge's operation will help Macau achieve its aim of developing into a World Tourism and Leisure Centre, improve the population's well-being, and promote the city's appropriate economic diversification.

### New public bus route

Macau Bridge is 3,085 metres long, with its water-spanning section being 2,860 metres, including two 280-metre-long spans for ship navigation channels. The bridge has eight vehicular lanes – four in each direction, with one lane in each direction for motorcycles only.

The bridge has a maximum speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour, while the maximum speed limit for the motorcycle lanes is 60 kilometres per hour.

The bridge's spurs on both the peninsula and Taipa sides have a maximum speed limit of 40 kilometres.

A new public bus route, No.103X, started operating after Macau Bridge opened on Tuesday afternoon, running between the HZMB Macau checkpoint and the Taipa Ferry Terminal, which is served by the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, via the new bridge.

The new No.103X route runs between 6 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. daily, with each trip departing every 10 to 15 minutes.

The route is jointly operated by the city's two public bus operators, TCM and Transmac, by switching between the two every month. ■

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 1.47 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.47 percent to close at 22,113.51.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index dipped 1.58 percent to end at 7,914.16 points, and the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 3.46 percent to close at 4,978.64 points. — Xinhua



# Drunk Russian crashes stolen motorbike into fire engine: police

Tony Wong

A drunken Russian man stole a motorcycle, the key of which had been left in the ignition by its owner, parked on the street on Wednesday and drove it away, but soon afterwards he crashed it into a fire engine parked in a fire station as he was too drunk, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Wai Chon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The Russian passport holder surnamed Dmitrii has entered Macau as a visitor. The man in his thirties told the police that he is a member of a choir and has come to Macau to perform.

The case occurred at the Areia Preta fire station on Avenida do Dr Francisco Vieira Machado (馬揸度博士大馬路), near Avenida de Venceslau de Morais (慕拉士大馬路).

Avenida de Venceslau de Morais serves as a dividing line between Areia Preta and Mong Ha districts.

According to Wong, the Fire Services Bureau (CB) reported the case to the police on Wednesday morning, after the motorcycle had crashed into a fire engine at the Areia Preta fire station. The incident slightly damaged the fire engine's bumper, Wong said.

The Russian man fell off after crashing the motorcycle into the fire engine. PSP officers arrived and found that he appeared to be drunk, where a breathalyser test showed that his alcohol concentration was 1.68 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood.

Under questioning by the police, Wong said, the Russian man admitted that he drank alcohol in his hotel guestroom in Zape in the early hours of Wednesday, after which he left the room for a long walk around the streets.

According to Wong, Dmitrii told the police that when he walked to Rua de Venceslau de Morais (慕拉士街), a short street between Avenida de Venceslau de Morais and the Areia Preta fire station, he saw that a motorcycle still had the key left in the ignition. Consequently, he hopped onto the



Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Wai Chon (right) and Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei look on during yesterday's regular press conference. — Photo: Tony Wong

motorbike and drove it with the intention of returning to his hotel, but soon afterwards he crashed it into the fire engine at the fire station as he was too drunk, Wong said.

Soon after the case occurred, the motorcycle's owner who was nearby saw that his vehicle had vanished before realising that it had been crashed into the fire station.

According to Wong, Dmitrii has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a drunk-driving charge and a vehicle theft charge.

In addition, Wong said, the police will also fine the Russian man for driving without a valid licence.

## 51-year-old mainland woman falsely accuses man of rape

Meanwhile, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokeswoman Lei Hon Nei said during yesterday's regular press conference that a 51-year-old woman from the mainland falsely reported to the police that she had been raped by a man in a hotel guestroom, but after an investigation, the police concluded that the case was actually a money dispute between them.

According to Lei, both have known each other for a period of time and together visited Macau a

few months ago. This time while in Macau, the man, also a mainlander, paid the woman HK\$2,000 to have sex with him, but after the sexual intercourse she demanded more money and other gifts as well, which the man refused. Afterwards she called the police falsely reporting that the man had raped her.

## Police nab 2 burglars

Meanwhile, Lei announced during a special press conference yesterday that the police arrested two men from the mainland on Tuesday for burgling a residential flat in Areia Preta district last month.

The police's investigation found that the two men burgled the flat with two other men who were still at large at the time of the press conference.

On September 19, three of the four men managed to enter the building after following several residents living there, after which they broke into the flat where they stole money and valuables equivalent to 32,000 patacas. The other accomplice was walking around outside the building acting as a lookout.

Afterwards, Lei said, the quartet went the mainland, two of whom were arrested on Tuesday when re-entering Macau. ■

# Airport's expansion to start by year-end

Tony Wong

Macau International Airport operator CAM said in a statement last night that its land reclamation project to expand the airport is now scheduled to get off the ground before the end of this year and is expected to be completed in the second half of 2030.

The statement also underlined that the expansion will raise the number of the airport's annual passenger-handling capacity to 15 million.

The statement noted that the local government formally granted

CAM yesterday the necessary land concession enabling the reclamation project to get off the ground, which came after the central government formally greenlighted the reclamation project in late 2022.

The statement pointed out that the expansion project will reclaim the coastal waters between the runway and the two taxiways to expand the apron's capacity in order to build more aircraft stands and build fast lanes for taxiing.

The reclamation area will be 1.29 square kilometres. ■



This undated handout photo released by CAM last night shows the local airport's apron.

# China-Europe Railway brings development opportunities to German city

DUISBURG, Germany — Thirteen years since the China-Europe Railway Express (CRE), a crucial link in international logistics, began operations in Duisburg, the German city's profile as a key hub on the railway has been steadily rising.

During a recent visit by Xinhua reporters, bustling terminals, ports, and warehouses in Duisburg highlighted the city's growing vitality. The CRE has significantly impacted the local business community.

At one of Duisburg's central logistics centers, AUKLogis GmbH, a German subsidiary of the Chinese logistics company Western Post, provides storage and customs clearance services for clients using CRE services. The company has witnessed a shift in local traders' perceptions of the service, from initial skepticism to recognition, resulting in long-term partnerships.

"Our clients often highlight the railway's speed and reliability, which are unmatched by other freight methods," said Fan Yuliang, warehouse manager of AUKLogis GmbH. As the routes expand and improve, trust in the service has continued to grow.

Daniele Materazzo, an operator in the outbound group for China-Europe Railway Express at AUKLogis, told Xinhua that he now receives better pay and feels a sense of stability working with the company. "Despite our language and cultural differences, we

support each other as a team. I feel completely at home here," he said.

Markus Bangen, CEO of Duisburger Hafen AG (Duisport), noted that the railway is strengthening ties between Europe and China, opening up a new international transport market that benefits both economies. Duisburg's profile is steadily growing as a key stop on the railway, attracting investment, creating job opportunities, and driving growth in the logistics sector, he added.

In August, a direct route from Chongqing to Duisburg, traversing the Caspian Sea, was put into operation. The route provides a new option for transportation along the so-called Middle Corridor, a trade link between China and Europe that passes through several central Asian and southern Caucasian countries.

Bangen said that since the participants facilitating the Middle Corridor are familiar with CRE operations, the experience gained over the past decade will significantly accelerate the corridor's development.

While enabling faster and more cost-effective delivery of goods from China to Europe, CRE has also opened new trade pathways for European manufacturers and traders aiming to enter the Chinese market, Chinese Consul General in Dusseldorf Du Chunguo told Xinhua. "This exchange has significantly improved consumer welfare and created jobs along the route." — Xinhua

# Casino takings in Sept rises 15.5 pct to 17.2 billion patacas, but lowest in first 9 months

Staff Reporter

Macau's 30 casinos generated gross gaming revenue (GGR) of 17.25 billion patacas last month, a year-on-year growth of 15.5 percent, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has announced today.

Last month's GGR was the lowest in the first nine months of this year. So far, May generated this year's monthly record of 20.19 billion patacas.

GGR in September was down by 12.6 percent month on month.

In the first nine months of the year, GGR rose by 31.3 percent to 169.3 billion patacas.

Macau's government-concessioned gaming industry is run by six rival integrated resort (IR) operators — Sands, Galaxy, SJM, Melco, Wynn, and MGM. Under their concession agreements with the government, the IR operators are required to strengthen their non-gaming attractions and support Macau's cultural heritage promotion and old quarter renovation projects. The operators pay 35 percent of their GGR as direct gaming tax to the government, aside from an additional 5.0 percent in levies for funding a range of public causes. However, the gaming law, which

was amended in 2022, allows the government to lower the additional levies (officially termed "contributions") for a range of reasons, such as for operators expanding their foreign client markets or when they have to cope with unforeseen adverse developments affecting their business operations.

In the first half of the year, according to the latest available official gaming statistics, baccarat generated 85.2 percent of local casinos' GGR, among over a dozen games of chance. Gaming machines produced 5.6 percent of GGR between January and June this year. ■