



Top court confirms Sam's election as chief executive

Tony Wong

The Court of Final Appeal (TUI) yesterday confirmed the results of Sunday's chief executive election when Sam Hou Fai was elected with nearly all the votes cast as the sixth-term chief executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), according to a statement by the court yesterday.

The statement noted that the election results will be published in the Official Gazette (BO) on Monday next week.

Sam, the sole candidate for Sunday's election garnered 394 of the 398 votes cast by the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee, or 98.99 percent of the ballots cast, with two electors absent. There were four blank and no invalid votes.

Outgoing Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng met with Sam, now Macau's chief executive-elect, on Monday where Ho pledged that the current government team will fully support Sam in forming his own team.

Yesterday's statement noted that as no one had filed an appeal against Sunday's election results before the statutory deadline, the Court of Final Appeal yesterday confirmed the results, in compliance with Clause 2 of Article 95 of the Chief Executive Election Law.

After the publication of the election results in the Official Gazette (BO) on Monday next week, the local government will then submit a report on the election results to the Central People's Government requesting its appointment of Sam as the



Chief Executive-elect Sam Hou Fai addresses Sunday's press conference following his election as Macau's sixth-term and fourth chief executive at the Forum Macao Complex. — Photo: GCS

MSAR's sixth-term chief executive.

Afterwards, Sam is scheduled to travel to Beijing to receive a State Council decree from Premier Li Qiang appointing him as the MSAR's next chief executive.

After his appointment by the State Council and until his swearing-in ceremony on December 20, Sam will be Macau's chief executive-designate.

Since the establishment of the MSAR on December 20, 1999, Sam had been the

president of the Court of Final Appeal until late August when he resigned as the MSAR's top judge so that he could run for chief executive.

Including Sam, the Court of Final Appeal had three judges until Sam's resignation, with the other two being Song Man Lei and José Maria Dias Azedo. Since Sam's resignation, Song, with a higher level of seniority than Dias Azedo in the Court of Final Appeal, has been the court's acting president.

Song also heads the government-appointed Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission (CAECE), an entity tasked with organising and overseeing the chief executive election.

Yesterday's statement noted that as Song heads the Chief Executive Electoral Affairs Commission, she was required to refrain from performing her function to confirm Sunday's election results, in her capacity as the Court of Final Appeal's acting president.

In addition, the statement said, Dias Azedo is on a working visit outside Macau, because of which the confirmation of Sunday's election results was performed by Choi Mou Pan, the judge with the highest level of seniority at the Court of Second Instance (TSI), who in this particular case exercised the function normally carried out by the Court of Final Appeal's president or, if need be, another judge of Macau's highest court.

Consequently, Choi's decision was issued at the behest of the Court of Final Appeal, even though he is not a member of that court.

Currently, following Sam's resignation so that he could run in the chief executive election, the Court of Final Appeal only comprises two judges – Song and Dias Azedo.

According to the Judicial Organisation Framework Law, the Court of Final Appeal shall comprise three judges. According to Article 88 of the Macau Basic Law, the president of the Court of Final Appeal shall be a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the MSAR. ■



Blinken, Austin warn Israel that US aid could be withheld

WASHINGTON, DC – US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin have warned Israel on the possibility of the United States withholding some assistance unless improvements occur in aid delivery to Palestinians in Gaza, the State Department said yesterday.

In a letter sent on Sunday, Blinken and Austin made "clear to the government of Israel that there are changes that they need to make again to see that the level of assistance making it into Gaza comes back up from the very, very low levels that it is at today," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. (More about Israel, Lebanon, Gaza conflict on p.10) — AFP



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136th Canton Fair kicks off, bringing broader market opportunities to trade partners

The 136th China Import and Export Fair, popularly known as the Canton Fair, kicked off in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, yesterday. — Story on p. 7

Goal to end extreme poverty by 2030 'out of reach': World Bank

A global target of ending extreme poverty by 2030 is "out of reach," said the World Bank yesterday, adding it could take three decades or more to do so. — Story on p. 11

Mozambique's faded hotel squatters hope for change after vote

In the sprawling slum of the once glorious Grande Hotel in Mozambique's city of Beira, around 4,000 people living in squalor hope that this month's election will bring change to their hard lives. — Story on p. 12

Jail holds 1,355 in 2023, 35 reintegrated into society

Yuki Lei

The Correctional Services Bureau (DSC) said in its annual report yesterday that the number of inmates at the Coloane prison stood at 1,355 at the end of last year, 32 more than at the end of 2022, with 35 prisoners reintegrated back into society through the government's "Employment Scheme for Prerelease Inmates".

According to the report, of the total number of 1,355 inmates aged between 16 and 80, 1,087 were convicted prisoners, while the remaining were inmates on remand, most of them males, accounting for 84 and 80 percent respectively.

Same as last year, the report shows that the inmates' academic qualifications were mostly junior secondary, with the largest number of inmates being mainlanders, followed by locals, standing at 595 and 474 respectively.

In terms of the kinds of crimes committed by the convicted inmates, the report noted, 343 of them were serving time for the trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances or drug

trafficking, 335 for fraud and 307 for offences other than money laundering, membership of a triad or criminal organisation, homicide, and bribe-taking to commit an illegal or a legal act, or bribegiving, with 38 of the convicted prisoners having been transferred to Hong Kong last year, the highest ever between 2006 and 2023.

The bureau reported that as of last year, 11 local male juvenile delinquents aged between 12 and 17 were being held at an education centre or education and training centre for offences such as sexual assault of children, sexual harassment, theft, bodily harm, and robbery.

According to the Macau Penal Code, criminal responsibility only applies to those of the age of 16 or above. Offenders under the age of 16 cannot be held criminally liable for their deeds. However, the authorities can impose extrajudicial measures on them such as educational supervision and social protection procedures.

Ex-inmates face a raft of barriers to employment after their



This undated file photo taken from the Correctional Services Bureau (DSC) website shows its headquarters in Coloane.

release from prison, and in order to help them regain a positive outlook on life, the report noted, the bureau, in cooperation with various relevant public entities and non-profit-making organisations, provides diversified education and training for inmates in the light of the needs of the development of civil society. The report pointed out that a total of 41 inmates attended its secondary and primary level

recurrent education programmes in the academic year 2022/2023, while 27 participated in a local higher diploma or tertiary level programme, and 19 took part in the distance learning programmes offered by the School of Continuing and Professional Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The report added that its vocational training programme in the fields of printing, metalwork,

woodwork, craftwork, baking, laundry, engineering maintenance, plumbing and electrical maintenance, as well as kitchen and automotive maintenance were attended by 608 person-times last year; and 204 inmates received certificates upon their completion of training courses such as hairstyling, online start-ups, home electrical safety, electrical appliance installation and repairs.

The Correctional Services Bureau and the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) are cooperating in running the "Employment Scheme for Prerelease Inmates" programme, with the aim of encouraging community participation in support of social rehabilitation. According to the report, four online interview sessions were held last year, with 50 inmates then about to complete their prison terms having attended interviews for job vacancies offered by 10 companies such as clerks, cooks, air-conditioner installation and maintenance apprentices and truck drivers as well as food and beverage servers, of whom 35 had been hired by the end of last year. ■

Local man, mainland masseuse nabbed for sham marriage

William Chan

A local man and a mainland woman who married last year were taken last week to a police station for questioning about their alleged sham marriage, Public Security Police (PSP) spokeswoman Cheong Im Sim said yesterday.

The 31-year-old male suspect surnamed Leong told the police that he's jobless, while the 29-year-old female suspect surnamed Zhang is a masseuse.

According to Cheong, Zhang was arrested earlier this month for working illegally as a masseuse at a Cotai entertainment venue. During the investigation, police uncovered suspicious details about her marital status, as she and Leong had never cohabited as a married couple. Consequently, both were summoned to a police station for questioning last week.

Under questioning, both confessed to the crime. Zhang told the police that she had paid a middleman 60,000 yuan to facilitate a fake marriage to Leong. The purpose of this arrangement was to obtain a family visit permit and engage in illegal work in Macau. The suspects registered their marriage

in the mainland last February, and Leong received HK\$15,000 from the middleman for the sham marriage.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of making false statements to the authorities, Cheong said. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows police officers escorting the two sham marriage suspects to a police station for questioning.

LRT breaks down twice in 2 months, demands clarification from supplier

Yuki Lei

The Taipa Line of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) has experienced repeated failures since its commissioning in 2019, with two breakdowns in recent months, and the LRT operator said yesterday that it has convened an emergency meeting with its train and systems supplier, requiring the company to identify and clarify the causes of the malfunctions so as to avoid a recurrence of similar incidents.

Free rides on the LRT were offered for three consecutive days between September 29 and October 1 in celebration of National Day, but the service was suspended for about an hour on its first free-ride day due to a malfunction. In response to the breakdown, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário insisted that the LRT failure was not a result of its inability to cope with the huge passenger flow, instead, he said, the malfunctions happened "may be due to technical problems such as poor signal reception, which affected the operation of the LRT".

The operation of the LRT returned to normal until last Friday night when, according to



This file photo taken last week shows an LRT carriage. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

a notice by the operator at about 8 p.m. on that day, the frequency of the LRT service between Union Hospital Station and Lotus Station had to be adjusted due to another breakdown.

Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation, Limited (MLM) released a statement on its website yesterday, saying that it "understands the importance of the two failures of the Taipa Line that occurred in September and October 2024", adding that it "has required the train and systems supplier to identify and clarify the causes of the malfunction

that happened, and to propose improvement measures to avoid similar issues".

In the statement, the company underlined that it values the safety and well-being of its passengers with utmost priority: "MLM sincerely appreciates passengers for their patience and tolerance. Their cooperation with the on-site service team allowed our staff to divert the flow of people immediately, handle the malfunctioned trains, conduct emergency inspections, and restore services as quickly as possible after ensuring system safety." ■

Woman loses 15,200 yuan in concert ticket scam

William Chan

A non-local woman was defrauded out of 15,240 yuan (17,091 patacas) in a concert ticket selling scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Cheong, the victim told the police that she had met a man online in July who was selling concert tickets. She purchased tickets from him and attended a local concert in August.

Later, she attempted to buy

three tickets for a concert to be held in Macau for 15,240 yuan. After transferring the money, she never received the tickets and lost contact with the seller, prompting her to report the case to the police on Monday. ■

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Macau Weather

CLOUDY.
OCCASIONAL SHOWERS.
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FORCE 3 TO 4 EASTERLY WINDS,
OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH
GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
WILL RANGE BETWEEN
75% AND 95%.



24°C~27°C

Source: SMG

'We Care, We Share' mental health programme, speech contest kicks off



This handout photo taken and provided by the Rotary District 3450 shows attendees posing during the "We Care, We Share" - Mental Health Youth Ambassador Programme and Macau Secondary School Mental Health Speech Contest opening ceremony at Wynn Macau on Monday.

Rui Pastorin

The "We Care, We Share" Mental Health Youth Ambassador Programme and Macau Secondary Mental Health Speech Contest kicked off on Monday, with 20 schools and over 70 students joining this year's edition, a statement from the Rotary District 3450 said on that day.

The opening ceremony was held at the Wynn Macau Ballroom, during which Macau Speaker Association President So Io Kuong said in his speech, as summarised by the statement, that last year's programme had enabled many secondary school students to gain a deeper understanding of mental health and to face various psychological challenges, expressing their thoughts and feelings to the public through speeches. He added that the organisers will continue to build on last year's success.

The programme, according to the statement, focuses on mental health in civil society, aiming to cultivate youngsters' interest in public speaking, improve their communication skills, and disseminate positive mental health knowledge, all the

while seeking to enhance their mental health knowledge and helping them correctly face psychological challenges, among others.

The programme features mental health talks, speech workshops, group coaching and competitions, with organisers hoping to enhance psychological quality and secondary school students' communication and presentation skills, as well as promote a positive attitude towards life and exchanges among students from different schools.

Moreover, during the opening ceremony, the previous event's highlights and memorable moments were reviewed, while the initial ideas for this year's event were also discussed, along with the programme and training arrangements. The statement added that the competition champion and best trainee will be invited to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference (APRRC) in Mongolia slated for June 2025.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong's former senior lecturer Benjamin Au Yeung was also invited to discuss his latest mental health theory "The Mental Refrigerator". ■

Shows set for 'National Art Troupes Performance Season in Macao'

Rui Pastorin

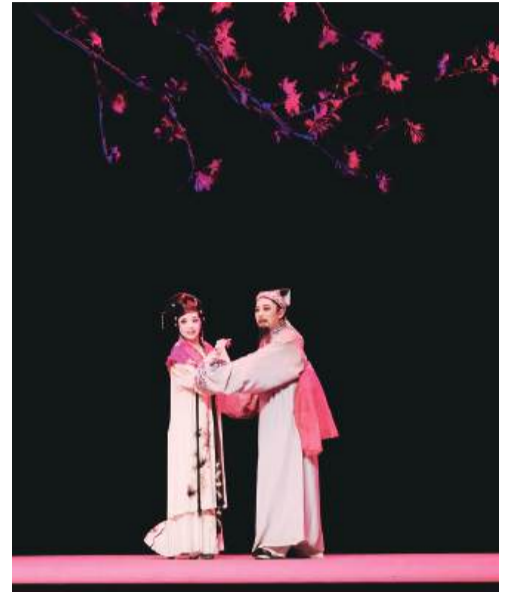
The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement earlier this week that four performances are set to take place between October 22 and 31 as part of the National Art Troupes Performance Season in Macao 2024.

The statement said that the performances are the Liyuan Opera new production "The Scholar and the Widow" presented by the Fujian Liyuan Opera Heritage Centre (formerly Fujian Liyuan Opera Experimental Troupe), the only professional performance group of the opera, and the "Golden Lotus Blossoms Concerts Series" presented by the China National Opera House. The former will be held on October 22 and 23 at 7:45 p.m. at CCM's Small Auditorium, while the latter is slated for October 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. at the Grand Auditorium.

Liyuan Opera, a form of Chinese opera originating in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, is sung in the Quanzhou dialect of the Minnan (Southern Fujian) system and is one of the oldest theatrical genres in China, the statement said, adding that it has a history of over eight centuries.

"The Scholar and the Widow" is a story about Mr Dong and Ms Li who break through numerous barriers to achieve a happy reunion, featuring a free-flowing storyline and showcasing "the glamour of Liyuan Opera". The play has won the First Cao Yu Drama Literature Awards, the National Stage Art Excellent Project Drama Award, and the Excellent Repertoire Award of the Ministry of Culture, the statement said.

Moreover, The Golden Lotus Blossoms - A Special Concert of Chinese Classical Poetry aims to "build bridges between tradition and modernity as well as between Eastern and



This undated handout photo shows a performance taking place for "The Scholar and the Widow", which will take to the stage on October 22 and 23 at the Macau Cultural Centre's (CCM) Small Auditorium.

- Photo: IC

Western cultures", and features a "multi-dimensional combination" of music, recitation, chorus and stage design, the statement said. Moreover, a second performance titled "Golden Lotus Blossoms - A Concert of Selected Classic Opera Arias from China and the World" will mainly present classic Chinese national opera excerpts in the first half, while international classic opera chapters will be showcased in the second, the statement said.

Tickets are now available, with ticketing details available on www.macaoticket.com, while concert details can be found on www.icm.gov.mo. ■

6th ENCOUNTER IN MACAO Arts and Cultural Festival between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries



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2024 10 OCT - 12 DEC

2024 10.25 - 10.27 / 11.01 - 11.03
2024 GEG Lusofonia Festival

2024 10.25 - 2025 02.09
Memories • Legacies • Mutations — Annual Arts Exhibition between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries

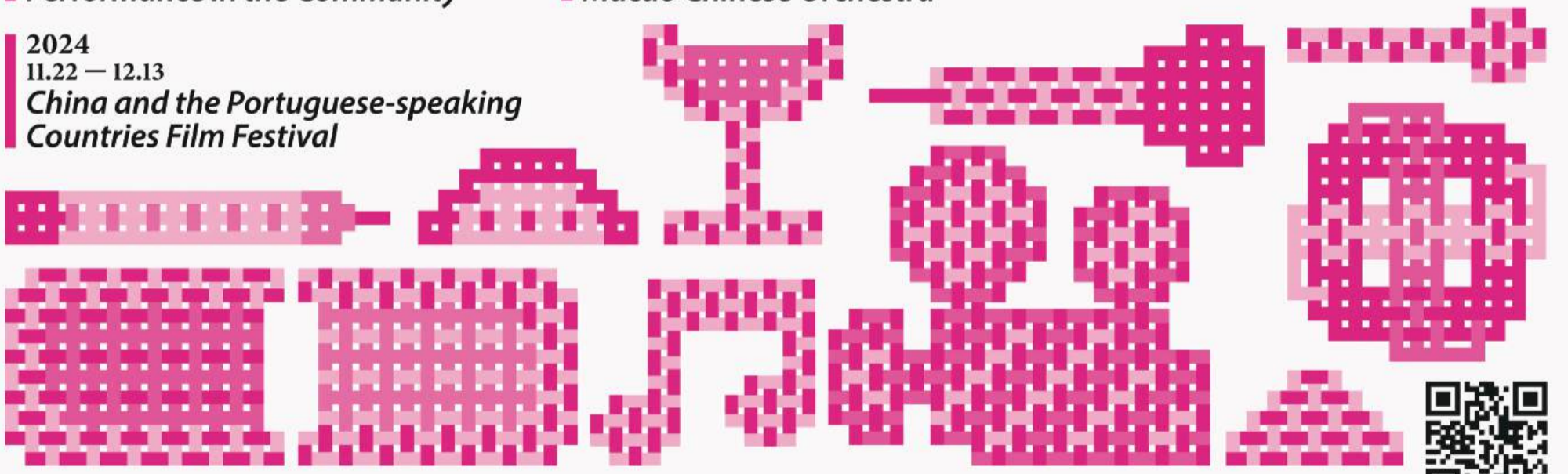
2024 10.25 - 11.03
Chinese and Portuguese Picture Book Fair

2024 10.24,26 - 27,31 / 11.02 - 03
GEG Traditional Music and Dance Performance in the Community

2024 11.15
Tito Paris Concert with the Macao Chinese Orchestra

2024 11.23,30 / 12.07
Wine Tasting Workshop

2024 11.22 - 12.13
China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Film Festival





Ma Hu (left), the protagonist of *Tough Out*, teaches students how to swing the bat on Thursday at Luís Gonzaga Gomes Luso-Chinese Secondary School. - Photos: William Chan



Mainland filmmakers inspire local students in iQIYI project

William Chan

“Light up Grow up Project” (“光影助力成长计划”) hosted events in Macau last week where local students had the opportunity to meet and interact with the main creators of film and television works from the mainland, discussing the miniseries *To the Wonder* (我的阿勒泰) and the documentary film *Tough Out* (棒!少年), both produced by iQIYI*, a Beijing-based video streaming service company.

“Light up Grow up Project” is a public welfare brand initiative jointly launched by iQIYI’s Corporate Social Responsibility team and the China Education Development Foundation. Since 2019, the project has been implemented in areas including Gansu, Qinglong, Shanxi, Xinjiang and Yunnan promoting film and television education in the country.

Last week’s event marked the first time the programme has been extended beyond the mainland, aiming to promote moral,

aesthetic, and patriotic education in schools in Macau through film and television initiatives.

To the Wonder is a story which follows a Han Chinese girl who grew up in Altay, Xinjiang. At 19, she goes to Urumqi to work, originally determined to pursue her literary dreams in the big city. However, after encountering setbacks in her career, she returned to her hometown to live with her mother, when she gradually discovered the beauty of life in the pastoral area of Altay.

Tough Out talks about a group of troubled teenagers who learnt to play baseball with a famous coach in the suburbs of Beijing, while struggling with their internal conflicts and their inability to play baseball as well as professionals.

Last Wednesday, a group of local teachers and students visited the “Love the Country, Love Macao Educational Base for the Youth” in Nape, where the main creators of the films were present. On the following day, the creators went to two local schools to share their experience and exchange views.

Ma Hu, the protagonist of *Tough Out*, shared his learning and growth experiences with the students, discussing the differences between life as an actor and life as an athlete. Students asked interesting questionings about how Ma managed to balance school, filming and sport, with Ma revealing that he grew up without his parents around, and that he had been away from his home without going back for several years, a revelation to local students as Ma’s experience is totally new and unimaginable for them.

Ma also taught them how to swing a bat and throw a baseball. In Macau, there is no baseball field, and students were very excited to put on the gloves and have a swing, under the guidance of Ma on stage.

Alima (阿丽玛), the protagonist of *To the Wonder*, took on the role of ambassador

for Altay, introducing the beautiful film locations to the students. Yeerboli, a Kazakh from Xinjiang and the music producer for the series, performed the soundtrack by playing and singing it on guitar. He also gave a live demonstration, guiding Macau students in experiencing the traditional Kazakh instrument, the dombra, a long-necked string instrument.

Producer Zhang Shuo led the students to explore the differences between documentary and fiction from various angles, such as character development, storytelling, and production techniques. This provided the students with a clearer understanding of the distinctive features of different types of film and television works.

After the sessions, one student told reporters that he was deeply moved by the creators’ experiences and expressed a desire to visit Altay with family and friends one day. He wanted to personally experience the landscape and culture depicted in the stories and thanked the creators for organising this event.

According to a statement from iQIYI, the project has benefited nearly 1,700 schools and 700,000 primary and secondary school students in the mainland through various formats, including donating film and television educational resources, organising mobile screenings, creating online special sections, offering film and television classes, and inviting creators to engage with students.

* The name “iQIYI” (爱奇艺) can be translated to mean “love”, “curiosity”, and “art” in English. The pronunciation in English is “eye-chee-yee”. iQIYI is a mainland Chinese subscription video on-demand service that offers a wide range of films and TV series, primarily focusing on Asian content. It has since evolved into a major platform for streaming in mainland China. - Source: Poe



Students take a selfie with Ma Hu



Music Producer Yeerboli (right) and local students play the traditional Kazakh instrument dombra.



A student asks the film creators a question during the meeting at the “Love the Country, Love Macao Educational Base for the Youth” in Nape last Wednesday.

Macao Union Hospital to launch app for walk-in patients

Tony Wong

The Macao Union Hospital in Cotai, which officially opened last month, has announced that it expects to launch its mobile app at the end of this month for patients seeking treatment without referral from the Health Bureau (SSM), featuring various functions such as registering for walk-in treatment, making appointments for treatment, and checking their medical records.

The hospital has also said that it will gradually roll out more types of walk-in outpatient services for those without referral from the Health Bureau in the near future.

The Macao Union Hospital in south Cotai is officially known as Islands Healthcare Complex – Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH). It is operated by PUMCH in collaboration with the Macao government thanks to the central government's support.

The Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday last week asking representatives from the Macao Union Hospital to brief them about its ongoing expanding operations and provision of medical services.

The closed-door meeting was attended by Lei Wai Seng, a deputy director of the hospital, and Chong San San, a public relations (PR) staff member.

The Macao Union Hospital currently has three deputy directors, one from Macau and two from the mainland.

The hospital's director is Wu Wenming, who is a vice-president of PUMCH.

Dr Lei, a senior official from the Macao Health Bureau, was appointed as a deputy director of the Macao Union Hospital early this year. He previously worked as a clinical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

The healthcare complex, Macau's largest hospital, started its trial operation in December last year. Since earlier this year, it has gradually launched different specialty medical services for patients referred by the Health Bureau.

3 charging models

The Macao Union Hospital has three charging schemes for patients. The first level is free medical services available to Macau residents who are eligible for free public health services. Upon referral from the Health Bureau, they can enjoy free medical services at the Macao Union Hospital.

The second level is fee-based medical services where Macau residents will have to pay but with a discount on the fees, either upon referral from the Health Bureau or without referral from the Health Bureau. Non-local residents such as non-resident workers (NRWs) will be charged the standard rates, the government has said.

The third level will consist of private health services providing locals and non-locals alike with high-end healthcare options with



Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council Deputy Convener Ng Hong Kei (left) and member Wong Chon Kit look on during last Tuesday's press briefing after the government-appointed council's closed-door meeting on the sixth floor of the Seac Pai Van Community Complex, located in the sprawling public housing community in Coloane. – Photo: Tony Wong

charges based on private market prices for high-end medical services.

The Macao Union Hospital said last month that Macau residents receiving the second-level-charging medical services will be offered a 30-percent discount.

Ng Hong Kei, a deputy convener of the government-appointed council, and Wong Chon Kit, a member of the council, briefed reporters after last Tuesday's closed-door meeting, which was held at the Seac Pai Van Community Complex in Coloane.

Ng and Wong quoted the hospital representatives as saying that in the near future the Macao Union Hospital will gradually roll out different types of walk-in outpatient services for those without referral

from the Health Bureau. The hospital is now developing a mobile app for those seeking outpatient treatment without referral from the Health Bureau, providing functions such as registering for walk-in treatment, making appointments for treatment, checking their medical records, and paying their medical fees.

According to Ng and Wong, the hospital expects to launch its app at the end of this month. They quoted the hospital representatives as saying that the app's function of registering for treatment will be available to those seeking walk-in outpatient treatment without referral from the Health Bureau in compliance with the hospital's second-level charging scheme.

30-pct discount for locals, but not for medicines

Moreover, Ng and Wong also quoted the hospital representatives as saying that without a discount, the fees on the second-level charging scheme will be "close to" the levels of Macau's private healthcare market, where, the representatives noted during the meeting, Macau residents will be offered a 30-percent discount while non-local residents such as NRWs and non-local students will be charged the standard rates.

However, according to Ng and Wong, the hospital representatives said during the meeting that the 30-percent discount to be offered to Macau residents will only apply to the fees for diagnosis, treatment and hospitalisation, while they will have to pay the standard fees for medicines.

According to Ng and Wong, the hospital representatives did not mention when third-level-charging high-end medical services will be launched.

Ng and Wong also quoted the representatives as saying that the Macao Union Hospital expects to have 400 staff in total at the end of this year, comprising 50 top executives and top specialists from Peking Union Medical College Hospital in Beijing and local health professionals as well as administrative staff and all other non-medical staff. ■

'Style · Encounter Moment' Fashion Parade to take place on Friday



This undated handout photo released by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) shows models posing during last October's "Style · Encounter Moment" Fashion Parade of the Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making.

Rui Pastorin

The "Style · Encounter Moment Fashion Parade of the Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making" is slated to take place at 12 noon on Friday at the Macao Fashion Festival 2024, during which over 60 sets of clothing will be presented by models, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement earlier this week.

The free-admission event will be hosted at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo Hall C.

The statement noted that the pieces to be showcased at the parade, which has been held since 2014, were created by fashion

designers chosen from the 10th Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making. They are Chan Cheok Lim, Chan Nga Leong, Ding Zhen, Lam I Man, Lao Ka Weng, Leong Man Teng, Ng Ka Wai and Samson Brady Mark, according to the statement.

"By inviting local and non-local professionals of the sector and fashion buyers to attend the parade, the Fashion Parade will enhance the popularity of Macau's fashion brands and the fashion sector, thus promoting cooperation and business opportunities", the statement said.

One can call 8399 6205 for enquiries. ■

澳門特別行政區
二十五周年紀念
Celebração do
25.º Aniversário da
Região Administrativa
Especial de Macau

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 Implantação da República Popular da China,
do 25.º Aniversário do Retorno de Macau à Pátria
Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China,
and the 25th Anniversary of Macao's Return to the Motherland

16-19/10/2024

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Macau Bridge alleviates traffic on Friendship Bridge: DSAT

Yuki Lei

Macau Bridge, located to the east of Friendship Bridge, was officially opened to traffic on October 1, National Day, and the Transport Bureau (DSAT) has said that in response to the opening of the bridge, the hourly traffic volume of the city's second Macau-Taipa bridge on weekdays has been reduced by an average of about 10 percent in the evening peak hours in both directions compared to that of last month, alleviating the pressure on the traffic in the busy Rotunda da Amizade.

Connecting Pac On district in Taipa and the peninsula's Zone A land reclamation area, the city's fourth Macau-Taipa bridge, according to a DSAT statement on Monday, has diverted about 15 percent of the hourly traffic volume of Friendship Bridge from Macau to Taipa during the evening peak hours, showing that the bridge has



This file photo released by the Government Information Bureau (GCS) on October 1 shows cars crossing Macau Bridge on its opening day coinciding with National Day.

been "effective" in diverting traffic from its surrounding areas.

The statement added that traffic from the Zone A land reclamation area to Taipa via Friendship Bridge has largely been diverted to the newly opened Macau Bridge, with traffic on the former having been significantly reduced by 93 percent.

According to the statement, the bureau plans to suspend the diversion from Rotunda da Amizade to the Zone A area during the Macau Grand Prix races slated for next month after taking into account the reduction in traffic flow from Friendship Bridge to Zone A via the roundabout. ■

Boy infected with Vibrio vulnificus when playing on Hac Sa Beach

Ginnie Liang

A 7-year-old local child was diagnosed with *Vibrio vulnificus* yesterday after being injured on the toe of his right foot by a fish fin when playing at Hac Sa Beach on Sunday, according to a statement by the Health Bureau (SSM) yesterday.

According to the statement, the boy later came down with fever and pain in his swollen right foot after being stabbed by a fish fin while playing on the beach in Coloane on Sunday. His family took him to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre on Monday where he was diagnosed with necrotising fasciitis on his right foot and admitted for debridement and antibiotic treatment.

Debridement is the removal of

dead, damaged, or infected tissue to improve the healing potential of the remaining healthy tissue.

Since treatment, the patient's fever has subsided, and his condition is now stable although he remains hospitalised.

Vibrio vulnificus (Latin for a kind of "wounding" bacteria) is a naturally occurring bacterium found in warm seawater and can cause infection if the wound comes into contact with seawater containing *Vibrio vulnificus* or if contaminated seafood is consumed, the statement said.

To prevent *Vibrio vulnificus* infection, people should clean their wounds immediately and cover them properly with waterproof adhesive dressings until healed,

and avoid allowing wounds to come into contact with seawater or raw seafood, the statement said.

Wound infections caused by *Vibrio vulnificus* can be mild, but may result in necrotising fasciitis which will cause severe pain, redness and swelling of the wound and rapid tissue necrosis, the statement said.

Patients with necrotising fasciitis may require life-saving amputation, which is fatal in about 20 to 30 percent of cases, the statement noted.

The bureau also reminded the public to avoid skin contact with dirty water when visiting a wet market, and be careful with sharp parts of seafood, such as fish fins, shrimp heads and crabs to prevent cuts. ■

Macau logs this year's 11th imported dengue case, 6 cases since last week

Tony Wong

Macau recorded this year's 11th imported case of dengue fever yesterday, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday evening.

According to the statement, the patient is a 52-year-old local woman who lives in the mainland. She came down with a headache, fever, muscle pain, and joint pain last Wednesday when she was in Foshan City, some 100 km north of Macau, where she sought treatment after which her symptoms improved.

However, the statement said, the woman developed a rash on her limbs and back on Sunday before returning to Macau the next day where she sought treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

According to the statement, she was diagnosed with Grade I dengue

fever by the Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory yesterday.

Yesterday's statement said that the woman was in a stable condition. However, the statement failed to mention whether she has been hospitalised.

This year's 11th imported case of dengue fever recorded yesterday came after Macau reported two imported cases of dengue fever in a day, on Thursday last week.

The two cases were announced by the bureau in a statement on Thursday last week.

According to last Thursday's statement, this year's ninth dengue fever patient is a 60-year-old local woman who lives in both Macau and Zhuhai, with her home in Macau located in Block 1 of Cheng I Building (青怡大廈), a subsidised homeownership scheme (HOS) estate in Ilha Verde district. The statement said

that she works in Cotai.

This year's 10th patient is an 80-year-old local woman who lives in the mainland.

After Macau recorded this year's first imported case of dengue fever in late February, the second to fifth cases were reported between May and July, before the six latest cases, this year's 6th to 11th cases, have been recorded since last week.

Macau reported a total of seven imported cases of dengue fever last year.

Observers have noted that compared to last year, Macau is now facing a higher dengue risk because between the neighbouring Guangdong Province and Macau people are moving frequently, and it is more seriously affected by locally transmitted dengue fever infections over recent months, compared to the same period of last year. ■

Septuagenarian pretends to be disabled to smuggle 65 phones in e-wheelchair: Gongbei customs

Ginnie Liang

A mainland man in his seventies attempted to smuggle 65 smartphones from Macau to the mainland last Thursday by pretending to be a disabled person and hiding the phones inside his electric wheelchair's battery that had been modified, Zhuhai's Gongbei customs said in a statement on Monday.

According to the statement, the man was on his way through the "nothing to declare channel" in his electric wheelchair at around 8:40 a.m. last Thursday when he was travelling from Macau to Zhuhai via the Barrier Gate border checkpoint.

Customs officers intercepted the man after noticing that his wheelchair was moving at an "abnormal" speed, the statement said.

The Gongbei customs officers found that the wheelchair and its battery had been modified. After dismantling the battery, the customs officers found a total of 65 smartphones wrapped in plastic, of which 53 were foldable Samsung used phones, and 12 non-foldable used phones, the statement said.

The Gongbei customs officers then imposed an administrative penalty on him, but when he left, he walked away, so officers discovered that he had pretended to be a disabled person in an attempt to cover up his smuggling behaviour, the statement said.

Local man smuggles 132 smartphones in e-wheelchair

Meanwhile, Zhuhai's Gongbei customs said in a statement

yesterday that a man from Macau attempted to smuggle 132 smartphones from Macau to the mainland last Thursday by hiding them inside his electric wheelchair's battery that had been modified.

The statement did not identify the man's age.

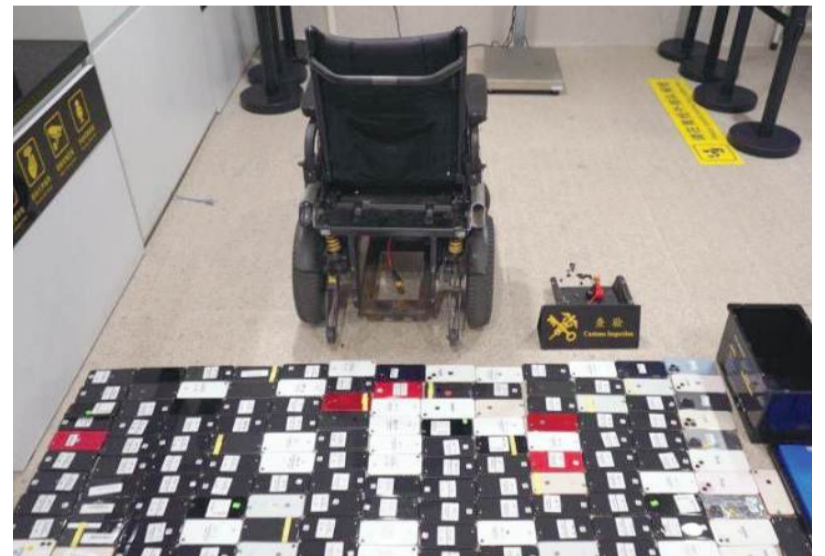
According to the statement, the man was on his way through the "nothing to declare channel" in his electric wheelchair at around 4 p.m. last Thursday when he was travelling from Macau to Zhuhai via the Qingmao pedestrian border checkpoint.

Customs officers intercepted the man after noticing that his facial expression "did not look natural", the statement said.

The Gongbei customs officers discovered that the wheelchair and its battery had been modified, and inside the battery box, the customs officers found a total of 132 smartphones, the statement said.

The statement underlined that carrying concealed, disguised, misreported or dutiable goods entering or leaving the mainland by evading customs inspection is regarded as smuggling.

The statement underlined that smuggling behaviour includes concealing, disguising, misreporting, or otherwise evading customs inspection when transporting, carrying, or mailing dutiable goods entering or leaving the mainland, and that serious cases that constitute a crime will be subject to criminal liability in accordance with the law. ■



This undated handout photo provided by Gongbei Customs yesterday shows 132 confiscated second-hand smart phones and an electric wheelchair that was used by a man from Macau trying to smuggle them across the Macau-Zhuhai Qingmao border checkpoint.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 3.67 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 3.67 percent to close at 20,318.79 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index lost 3.99 percent to end at 7,277.83 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index slumped 4.65 percent to end at 4,450.95 points.

– Xinhua