

# Macau's first 24/7 self-service centre in Hengqin opens

Yuki Lei

With the opening of Macau's first 24/7 self-service centre in Hengqin yesterday, local residents are now able to access nearly 70 public services round the clock through remote service counters, intelligent document cabinets and self-service kiosks.

The Macau government's 24-hour self-service centre in the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin officially opened yesterday, and Identification Services Bureau (DSI) Director Chao Wai Ieng said in a speech during yesterday's kick-off ceremony that the centre in the Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) aims to promote accelerated development of the integration of Macau-Hengqin people's livelihoods through the provision of "convenient" public services to local residents living in the zone.

The centre, jointly launched by the Macau government and the Executive Committee of Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, provides nearly 70 cross-border public services to local residents working, studying, living and developing their career in the zone, covering 12 public entities, including the Identification Services Bureau, Public Security Police (PSP) and Financial Services Bureau



This undated handout photo provided by the Identification Services Bureau and the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) yesterday shows the Macau government's 24/7 self-service centre at the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

(DSF), according to a joint statement by the Identification Services Bureau and the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) yesterday.

Wu Zijian, deputy director of the Executive Committee of the Cooperation Zone, pointed out in his speech that the establishment of the centre was another indication of

the zone's vitality and an important achievement in promoting the "orderly convergence" of the zone's public services and social security system with Macau, and in building a "new space" that facilitates the life and employment of Macau residents there.

The statement noted that remote service counters have been set up at

the centre so that "Macau residents can apply for their ID documents regardless of whether they are in Macau or Hengqin" through video telematics.

Meanwhile, according to a separate statement by the Public Security Police, the zone's PSP self-service kiosks are now available for five more services, comprising the



renewal and replacement of special stay permits for non-local students; the collection of the special stay permits for non-local students; the renewal of stay permits for non-resident workers (NRWs); application status enquiries and printouts of stay permit for NRWs; and printouts of certificates of permission to stay and residence.

The statement added that the PSP self-service kiosks were launched in the zone on September 2 with three services, in which local residents can apply for proof of personal immigration records and renewal of stay for their foreign domestic helpers, while NRWs can enquire, through the kiosks, about the validity period of their stay permits. ■

## Israel army says 4 soldiers killed in south Lebanon combat

JERUSALEM – The Israeli army said yesterday that four of its soldiers were killed fighting in southern Lebanon, where the military has been battling Hezbollah forces for weeks.

The Israeli army provided the names of the four soldiers in a statement, saying the troops "fell during combat in southern Lebanon" on Wednesday.

The death toll among Israeli troops fighting in southern Lebanon has risen to 26 since

the military launched a ground operation in late September, according to an AFP tally based on official military figures.

The war in Lebanon erupted last month, nearly a year after the start of cross-border clashes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces.

Hezbollah began launching rockets at Israel from October 8, 2023, in support of Hamas after the Palestinian militant group launched its unprecedented attack on Israel. – AFP

## Germany says war-torn Ukraine cannot join NATO now

BERLIN – German Chancellor Olaf Scholz yesterday rejected Ukraine's request to immediately join NATO, made by President Volodymyr Zelensky when he presented his "Victory Plan" to Western allies.

"It is important to realise that a country at war absolutely cannot become a member of NATO," Scholz told public broadcaster ZDF. "Everyone knows that, there is no disagreement on this subject."

The German head of government added that for the trans-Atlantic defence alliance,

"an invitation is normally quite quickly linked to membership".

Scholz said that in the past "we have described a perspective" towards Ukrainian membership in the longer term, at NATO summits in Vilnius last year, then in Washington this summer.

"But I think that beyond that, there is currently no need for any new decision," he said.

The Ukrainian leader has been on a diplomatic offensive to press Western leaders for more support to help Ukraine win the war with Russia now grinding through a third year.

Zelensky this month unveiled his "Victory Plan", where chief among the proposals was a call for Ukraine to be given an "immediate" invitation to the join the US-led NATO military alliance.

He also called for the lifting of restrictions on the use of long-range weapons that allies have supplied to Ukraine, but none of the demands have so far met with unanimous support from the allies.

Scholz in the interview reaffirmed his stance that the conflict must not escalate into a direct war between Russia and NATO. – AFP

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### Xi voices support for Global South at final day of BRICS Kazan summit

As BRICS leaders gathered with non-member countries seeking closer ties with the group yesterday, President Xi Jinping voiced strong support for Global South countries.

– Story on p. 7

### Trump says he'd fire special counsel Jack Smith 'in 2 seconds'

Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump said yesterday that he would fire Jack Smith, the special counsel who brought two federal cases against him, in two seconds if he wins the November 5 election.

– Story on p. 11

### Mozambique's ruling party candidate Chapo elected president

The ruling party candidate, Daniel Chapo, has won Mozambique's presidential elections, the electoral commission said yesterday, announcing results from the disputed October 9 polls.

– Story on p. 12

# Police bust 2 drug gangs involving 6 Filipinos, seizing drugs worth 440,000 patacas

Yuki Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested earlier this week seven men – comprising six Philippine nationals and a Hong Kong Chinese – in two separate drug busts, involving a total of 131.13 grams of crystal methamphetamine (aka ice) and 8.4 grams of cocaine with an estimated street value of about 440,000 patacas.

During a special press conference at the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday, PJ spokesman Leng Kam Lon identified the suspects in the first case as three Filipinos, aged between 36 and 54, surnamed Manuel, Ramos and Aguilar, all holding Macau permanent ID cards. The suspects in the second case are aged between 38 and 55, surnamed Rivera, Lo, Ledda and Dilan. Rivera, a Philippine national, and Lo, a Chinese, are Hong Kong residents, while Ledda and Dilan are Philippine nationals without



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the seven hooded drug suspects in two separate groups from the PJ headquarters in Zape to PJ vehicles after yesterday's special press conference. – Photos: Yuki Lei

the right of abode in Hong Kong or Macau. Leng added that this is Ledda's second arrest after his drug trafficking and drug abuse case in February. All the seven suspects tested positive for drugs.

On Tuesday, the Judiciary Police busted a drug trafficking racket targeting Filipinos and arrested two members – Ramos and Aguilar – at a residential flat on Rua da Praia do Manduco (下環街), resulting in the



seizure of 23.58 grams of ice and 8.4 grams of cocaine worth 110,000 patacas as well as about 8,000 patacas in drug proceeds, according to Leng. He added that PJ officers putting the flat under surveillance

made the drug arrests following Manuel's purchase of a packet of 0.34 grams of ice for 200 patacas.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Police cracked down on a cross-border drug smuggling gang on Wednesday after the smuggling of 107.55 grams of ice worth 330,000 patacas by two Hong Kong residents – Lo and Rivera – from Hong Kong to Macau via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) checkpoint, according to Leng. He said that PJ officers arrested the duo at a guesthouse in the city centre upon the arrival of Ledda and Dilan, adding that the Judiciary Police believe that the latter bought the drugs from the former to then sell in the local community.

Leng noted that under questioning, all the suspects refused to cooperate with the police. The Judiciary Police transferred yesterday them to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation. ■

## Be wary of fake food delivery platform SMS scam: PJ

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) warned members of the public in a statement yesterday that food delivery mobile app "Aomi (澳覓)" is being used in a phishing SMS sent out by scammers, wherein victims' information can be used for unauthorised transactions.

According to the statement, the Judiciary Police have recently discovered that scammers have been randomly sending out phishing messages to residents under the guise of "Aomi", claiming that their points in the mobile app are about to expire, and they could redeem gifts by paying a low price using their credit card.

The statement pointed out that doing so leads to a fake "Aomi" website where personal and

credit card information are then requested, which in turn are used for unauthorised transactions.

As a number of residents have had their credit card details stolen as a result of the phishing text messages in Macau in recent months, the Judiciary Police's Anti-Fraud Coordination Centre warned members of the public not to click on unknown links embedded in any SMS message and to verify the information with official institutions. One should also verify a website's authenticity when personal information, bank and credit card details are requested.

Those suspecting fraud can use the Judiciary Police's "Anti-Fraud Programme" to check the scam risk index or call 8800 7777 or 993 for assistance. ■



This poster provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warns members of the public of the "Aomi (澳覓)" redeeming points SMS scam.

## Police fine 11 mainlanders using wheelchairs on roadway

Yuki Lei

A video clip of a number of people using electric wheelchairs on a roadway in Praça de Ferreira do Amaral (亞馬喇前地) circulated on social media platforms yesterday, in response to which the Public Security Police (PSP) noted that the 11 wheelchair users, 10 of them holding disability certificates, from the mainland have been fined.

The Public Security Police released a statement late last night, saying that the 11 road traffic law violators – four males and seven females in their fifties and sixties – told the police that "they were unfamiliar with Macau road conditions".

The Public Security Police underlined in the statement that both wheelchair users and pedestrians should use pavements and pedestrian crossing facilities, urging wheelchair users to ensure their own safety and that of other road users by using the facilities in a law-abiding and safe manner. ■



This video grab retrieved yesterday from a video clip circulated on social media shows wheelchair users from the mainland on a roadway in Praça de Ferreira do Amaral (亞馬喇前地).

## Grand Coloane Resort to host Halloween Carnival on Sunday

Rui Pastorin

Grand Coloane Resort is set to host its family-friendly the "Island Mysteries Pirate Curse" Halloween carnival, an event organised in conjunction with the EZ Kids education centre, on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

According to a recent statement from the resort, the event, which provides activities for all ages, "promises a day filled with just the right balance of spooky thrills and family fun", with its participants referred to as "Island Pirates".

Among the activities in the programme are "spooky makeovers", games, craft workshops, a haunted treasure indoor maze set up at Grand Coloane Resort's Garden Marquee, and a bouncy castle, the statement noted. The resort's outdoor garden space will also be transformed into a "pirate wonderland", the statement said, while one's "furry friends" are also welcome to join the event.

Moreover, the statement said, a Halloween Fashion Contest will also be held, which is open to all. The statement added that one can win prizes including Take·Eat·Easy Dining Programme membership, 1-night stay in grand room with ocean view with breakfast for 2 people, and 1-day pool pass for 2 adults and 2 children.

Meanwhile, a Halloween BBQ Buffet Lunch will be hosted at Café Panorama, priced at 440 patacas per adult and 220 patacas per child.

Tickets for the carnival are priced at 180 patacas per person, while children under five get in for free. ■



This poster recently provided by Grand Coloane Resort promotes the upcoming "Island Mysteries Pirate's Curse".

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### Macau Weather

DRY. FINE APART FROM CLOUDY PERIODS. FORCE 5 TO 6 NORTHERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 40% AND 75%.



21°C~29°C

Source: SMG

# Kiang Wu aims to become 'pain-free hospital'

Yuki Lei

Pain has been listed as the 5<sup>th</sup> vital sign that should not be ignored, so it's important to ensure that patients experience minimal pain and discomfort at every stage of their medical examination, treatment and recovery, Kiang Wu Hospital Deputy Director Chan Tai Ip said at the hospital yesterday, noting that the private hospital has launched painless intravenous infusion since March this year, with the results having been "satisfactory" in reducing the pain of 80 percent of the patients.

Dr Chan made the remarks during yesterday's press conference themed "pain-free hospital".

Since October 2004, the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) has chosen a pain issue each year as a target for the world to work together in the fight against pain and even designated the third Monday of October as "World Analgesia Day", i.e., October 21 this year.

"Analgesia" is Greek for "feeling no pain".

Dr Chan said that the hospital, over the years, has been committed to building a comfortable and pain-free medical environment, adding that the pain-free services currently provided by the hospital have covered seven major categories, in which in the area of labour analgesia, the hospital's epidural labour analgesia\* rate in 2022 has already exceeded the overall labour analgesia prevalence rate in the whole country, having reached 65.7 percent in the first half of this year; while in the area of eliminating the fear of pain caused by jabs, the hospital has helped



Kiang Wu Hospital Deputy Director Chan Tai Ip delivers a speech during yesterday's press conference.

— Photos: Yuki Lei



A local woman undergoes painless blood sampling yesterday.

317 patients in about five months to reduce the pain they felt during the injections with painless intravenous infusion.

"Our pain-free services mainly focus on acute and chronic pain management and post-operative analgesia," Dr Chan told reporters after the press conference, adding that thanks to the services, patients have their fear reduced "significantly" when facing surgeries: "Over 90 percent of the patients are in a relatively comfortable state after surgery and can rest well".

According to yesterday's press conference, in order to provide patients with proper pain relief, the private hospital has been exploring pain-free medical services for more than 20 years. It has been planning, according to Dr Chan, to further deepen the work

related to pain-free medical services since the beginning of this year, with the anaesthesia technology team as the core, to fully promote the development of a pain-free hospital.

Dr Chan noted that the hospital has established standard operating procedures for pain management for different scenarios, in order to ensure that inpatients receive appropriate and effective pain management. However, he stressed that the concept of "pain-free" does not mean zero pain.

In his speech, Dr Chan briefed the press conference attendees on the hospital's development goals of a pain-free hospital, including integrating the resources of various departments, establishing a multidisciplinary collaboration mechanism through an

interdisciplinary professional team, continuing to introduce pain-free technologies and equipment, applying pain-free technologies to more medical fields, improving the pain assessment system, and optimising and standardising the existing medical service process, as well as implementing a personalised pain management programme. ■

\*Epidural labour analgesia is a method of pain relief used during childbirth. It involves the injection of anaesthetic medication into the epidural space of the spinal cord, which numbs the lower body. The term epidural refers to an injection or anaesthesia administered into the epidural space of the spinal cord. This space is located outside the dura mater, which is the outermost layer of the protective membranes surrounding the spinal cord. — Source: Poe

## Sands China, 4 community partners assemble over 30,000 hygiene kits

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator Sands China said in a statement yesterday that 350 staff members and local community volunteers have assembled over 30,000 hygiene kits recently for international social enterprise Clean the World at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo.

The statement said that the event marked the initiative's 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The kits assembled featured supplies "essential for good health and personal hygiene", as well as help prevent disease from spreading among populations in need around the world.

Those assembling the kits comprised Sands Cares Ambassadors and Sands' staff, and volunteers from Macau ECONscious, Green Future, the Bosco Green Store of Bosco Youth Service Network, and the University of Saint Joseph (USJ).

The kits will be distributed to 15 community groups including in the Philippines for those in need of hygiene supplies during natural disasters and other crises, and to non-governmental organisations (NGO) members

in need in Hong Kong and Macau.

Each kit includes soap collected from Sands' resorts, all recycled and sterilised through Clean the World's remanufacturing process. It also includes shampoo, conditioner, bath gel, toothbrush, toothpaste, and an encouraging message from Sands China and Clean the World.

Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "This annual initiative is an important part of our commitment to address environment and community in our strategies. By working together, we believe we can contribute to helping our world become a better place and support people in need."

Clean the World founder and CEO Shawn Seipler was also quoted as saying: I am thrilled that Sands China has accomplished the incredible goal of building 30,000 hygiene kits in one day, bringing their total to an astounding 385,700 kits since we began our partnership in 2014. This milestone reflects Sands' unwavering dedication to improving global health through hygiene and sanitation". ■



This recently taken photo provided yesterday by Sands China shows staff and volunteers assembling hygiene kits at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo.

## Hac Sa closed due to excessive levels of E. coli, Cheoc Van too windy to swim: govt

Ginnie Liang

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) closed Hac Sa ("Black Sand") Beach yesterday after a test by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) showed excessive E. coli levels in its coastal waters, while Cheoc Van ("Bamboo Bay") Beach has hoisted the yellow flag due to the windy weather, according to a DSAMA statement yesterday.

A DSAMA statement yesterday said that IAM's recent water quality testing found an excessive amount of E. coli (Escherichia coli) in the coastal waters at Hac Sa Beach, adding that the bureau has hoisted red flags and posted notices to remind members of the public not to swim there until further notice.

According to the statement, abnormal water quality at beaches usually occurs after heavy rainfall or inclement weather and may persist for a period of time.

Meanwhile, as the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) might issue a Strong Monsoon Signal (Black Ball) in the next few days, the bureau has also hoisted yellow flags and posted notices at Cheoc Van beach to remind residents and swimmers that they should not swim.

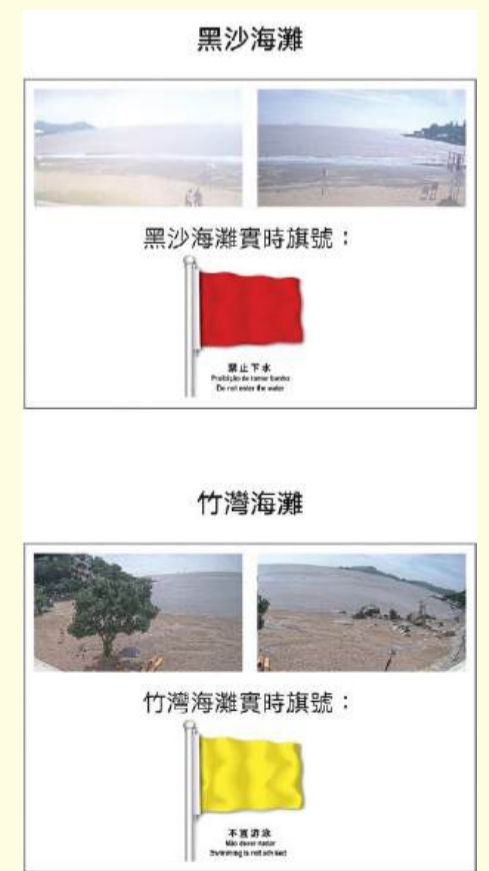
The statement highlighted the Marine and Water Bureau's commitment to closely monitoring the situation and urged all those who are planning to go to the city's two beaches for water activities to pay close attention to the warning flags hoisted at the respective locations.

Livestreamed real-time flags of the two beaches can be found on the bureau's mobile app and the official website at [www.marine.gov.mo](http://www.marine.gov.mo).

Meanwhile, Tropical Cyclone Trami has entered the South China Sea and is

expected to move westward in the next few days, generally towards the vicinity of Hainan Province and lingering in the area, the local observatory said in a statement late last night.

According to its latest forecast, Trami will enter the South China Sea within 800 km of Macau this morning so that Standby Signal No. 1 will be hoisted. ■



This photo provided by the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday at 12:20 p.m. shows the real-time situation of the city's two beaches - the Hac Sa ("Black Sand") Beach and the Cheoc Van ("Bamboo Bay") Beach in Coloane.

Lançamento de livro 新書發佈 Book presentation

Little Explorers – A place of discoveries  
小小探險家 – 小城大發現  
Pequenos Exploradores – Um lugar de descobertas

2024.10.26 | 16:30

Casas da Taipa (Casa de Nostalgia)  
龍環葡韻風貌館  
Taipa Houses (Nostalgic House)

INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL DE MACAU  
MANDARINA  
GENERATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
IIM



This poster provided by the International Institute of Macau (IIM) promotes tomorrow's launch event at the Taipa Houses.

International Institute of Macau (IIM) Secretary-General António Monteiro (right) and Mandarin's founder and the book's author Catarina Mesquita pose with a copy of "Little Explorers - A Place of Discoveries" at the IIM headquarters in Nape earlier this week. Photos taken earlier this week by Rui Pastorin

# Trilingual book encourages readers to be 'little explorers'

Interview by Rui Pastorin

The "Little Explorers - A Place of Discoveries" has recently been published, offering youngsters a fun and light way of learning about Macau.

The children's book, the official launch of which is set to take place tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. during an exhibition of illustrated books in Chinese and Portuguese at the Nostalgic House of the Taipa Houses complex, is a joint publication between the International Institute of Macau (IIM) and publisher Mandarin, with sponsorship and support from the Generations-International School in Coloane.

The exhibition is part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Encounter in Macau – Arts and Culture Festival between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (PSCs) coinciding with the Lusofonia Festival.

With a print run of 1,000 books, the Chinese-English-Portuguese hardcover illustrated book is a compilation of four previously sold-out periodic books in Chinese and Portuguese, now also enables English-speaking readers to enjoy it, IIM Secretary-General António Monteiro told the Post at the IIM headquarters earlier this week.

Those picking it up will be able to get a glimpse of Macau's heritage, main festivities, food, and professions across four sections, while there is also a "How do you say?" section at the end that offers vocabulary in the three languages. The main goal of the book is to teach kids about something in a fun rather than formal way, Mandarin's founder and the book's author Catarina Mesquita, interviewed with Monteiro, pointed out.

The compilation is also about a lot of modern things happening in the city, Mesquita noted, with each page showing daily life and the things that one can see in Macau as a tourist destination. Kids will be able to view and relate to things like the places that they go to and see around the city, involving them as they read on. "We try to show them that they are part of this story as well", Mesquita said.

Featuring games, illustrations and activities, "Little Explorers – A Place of Discoveries" is an interactive book. Citing a chapter on A-Ma Temple as an example, Monteiro explained that readers will not only have a glance at, or read about what the temple is, but the book also allows them to engage in the activities that are mentioned in it and build connections with their parents, which is, he pointed out, of great importance.

"We want the parents to pick up the book and read to their kids", which could create "very good moments", Monteiro noted, adding that it also allows for different types of learning through its activities and games.

The book may also be a starting point to learning about local history and be a way to develop self-identity, according to Monteiro, with the simple text accompanying things about Macau such as its heritage sites and festivities covered throughout the book, which may spark discussions with the young readers' parents and encourage them to do more research when they grow up. "At least they understand it in a very fun way", Monteiro noted.

Speaking of their experience gained while promoting the book at local schools, Mesquita remarked that kids actually know something about Macau and its different places, but they don't know exactly what all this means.

"If you show A-Ma Temple, most of the kids, they've been to A-Ma Temple or at least the Barra area, but they don't know that it's the main place in Macau or at least where the story begins", said Mesquita. "So this is extra information that we have added to this book because, yes, they look and they see and they recognise their lives in the book, but these little details are what we want to give them with the book".

Moreover, Monteiro emphasised that the book is not something to just be read at a library, which is why they think the school [Generations International School] and students wanted to support the project. "They want to pick up this book and go outside to explore Macau", circling back to the book's title and the idea behind writing it.

It's an activity book, Mesquita said: "You have to write things down. You have to explore the images and pick up the book", and perhaps even go outside and compare the illustrations with the real places. Schools can also use it to conduct activities, noted Mesquita. "You just have to be creative...that's what we want, just to be a small seed for bigger things", believing it will be an important guide for school activities.

One should "try not to be so formal in the way of learning and experience the city", according to Mesquita, who added that the book should not be thought of as something to just go through, with adults having "to do an extra job with the kids... You have to be a little explorer. That's what the book says. It says that Macau is a place of discoveries. So, let's discover Macau."

The book is priced at 180 patacas and sold at various bookshops in Macau. The book will also be on sale during tomorrow's launch.



# Macau confirms first local dengue case since 2018

Tony Wong

Macau has recorded this year's first locally transmitted case of dengue fever, the Health Bureau (SSM) has announced.

The local case recorded on Wednesday was announced by the bureau in a statement that night.

This came after the bureau had recorded 15 imported cases of dengue fever this year as of Wednesday.

It is the first time that Macau has confirmed a local case of dengue fever since 2018.

According to the statement, the patient is a 56-year-old local man who lives in Cheng Chun Building (青泉樓), a social rental housing estate in Ilha Verde district. He works in two public parks, namely Dr Sun Yat-sen Municipal Park (紀念孫中山市政公園), which is located between the Barrier Gate border checkpoint at the peninsula's northern tip and the Qingmao border checkpoint in Ilha Verde district, and Flora Garden (二龍喉公園) on Avenida de Sidónio Pais (士多鳥拜斯大馬路).

The man came down with a fever, headache and muscle pain on Friday last week, after which he sought treatment at a medical institution, which the statement did not identify.

As his symptoms persisted,

the statement said, the man sought treatment in Zhuhai on Tuesday where he was suspected of having been infected with dengue fever, because of which, the statement said, he then returned to Macau where he sought treatment at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

He was diagnosed with Grade I dengue fever by the Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory on Wednesday.

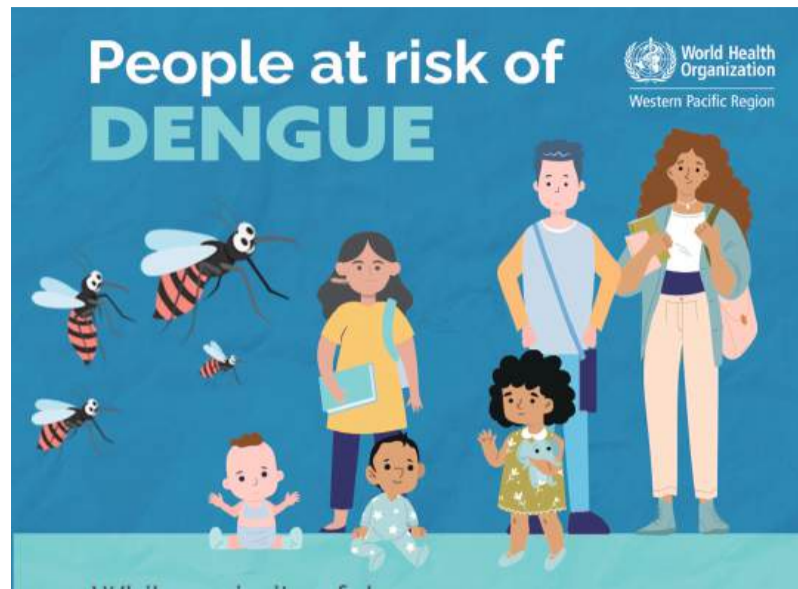
Wednesday's statement said that the man was in a stable condition. However, the statement failed to mention whether he has been hospitalised.

The man told the Health Bureau that he had not travelled outside Macau during the incubation period.

According to the statement, the bureau has classified the man's case as a locally transmitted case of dengue fever based on an epidemiological analysis.

The bureau is now carrying out an epidemiological investigation with the aim of identifying the location where the man was infected with the disease.

The statement noted that neighbouring Guangdong Province is being affected by locally transmitted dengue fever infections, urging residents to strengthen their vigilance against the disease.



Poster courtesy of World Health Organisation (WHO)

## This year's 16<sup>th</sup> imported dengue case

Meanwhile, Macau recorded this year's 16<sup>th</sup> imported case of dengue fever yesterday, the bureau announced in a statement last night.

According to the statement, the patient, a five-year-old local girl, travelled to Zhongshan City in the neighbouring province with her family to visit her relatives between October 10 and 13. After returning to Macau, she came down with a fever on Saturday last week, after which she was taken to a medical

institution, which the statement did not identify, to seek treatment.

Last night's statement said that when health officials were carrying out an epidemiological investigation at Cheng Chun Building, where this year's first patient of locally transmitted dengue fever lives, on Wednesday after confirming the local case earlier that day, they discovered that the girl had come down with dengue symptoms so that they suspected her of having been infected with dengue fever.

Consequently, the statement said, health workers collected her

blood sample for a test, at a blood collection post that was temporarily set up near the building shortly after this year's first local case of dengue fever was confirmed on Wednesday.

Last night's statement said that the girl was diagnosed with Grade II dengue fever by the bureau's Public Health Laboratory yesterday.

The statement underlined that although the girl lives in the same building as this year's first patient of locally transmitted dengue fever, they have been infected with different types of dengue fever, because of which health officials have concluded that the girl's case was not connected with the local case confirmed on Wednesday.

Last night's statement said that the girl was in a stable condition.

Last year, Macau reported a total of seven cases of dengue fever, all of which were classified as imported.

In 2019, the pre-COVID-19 pandemic year, Macau recorded a total of 27 cases of dengue fever, all of which were also classified as imported.

Macau recorded one imported case of dengue fever in 2020, while no any cases of dengue fever were reported in 2021 and 2022.

Macau reported several locally transmitted cases of dengue fever in 2018. ■

## Woman crashes into motorcycle & leaves scene

Ginnie Liang

A local female car driver was arrested after knocking down a parked motorcycle and leaving the scene of the accident last month, and the owner of the motorcycle claimed a repair cost of 4,000 patacas, a Public Security Police (PSP) spokesperson said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, PSP officers received a report from a motorcycle owner who said that his motorcycle, which had been parked on Estrada Governador Nobre de Carvalho in Taipa, lay on the ground and sustained major damage, which would cost 4,000 patacas to repair, and that the owner suspected that the motorcycle had been knocked down.

PSP officers investigated and identified the suspect with help of the citywide CCTV camera network, and summoned the suspect, who is in her twenties, to the police station for questioning, the spokesperson said.

The suspect told the police that she thought she had only hit a "miscellaneous object", so that



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows two PSP officers escorting the local hit-and-run suspect to a police station.

she left the scene without paying attention to it, the spokesperson said.

The suspect has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of evading responsibility, the spokesperson said. ■

## Macau's first reclaimed-water plant project gets off ground

Tony Wong

Construction of Macau's first treatment plant for wastewater reuse, located in Coloane, got off the ground on Wednesday, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) announced in a statement that day.

According to Wikipedia, water reclamation, aka wastewater reuse or water recycling, is the process of converting municipal wastewater (sewage) into water that can be reused for a variety of purposes, such as the flushing of toilets, watering plants, road cleaning, car washing, and

firefighting. Such water is also known as reclaimed water.

Wednesday's DSAMA statement noted that reclaimed water in Macau will be used for two purposes, namely the flushing of toilets and watering plants.

The city's first reclaimed-water plant will be located next to the Coloane Wastewater Treatment Plant near Concórdia Industrial Park.

The statement noted that the reclaimed-water plant will be constructed in two phases. Construction of the first phase, which got off the ground on

Wednesday, will last up to 430 working days, the statement said, adding that the plant's first phase will be able to generate 2,500 cubic metres of reclaimed water per day.

The statement said that after the completion of the first-phase construction, the plant will be able to start supplying reclaimed water to Coloane's sprawling Seac Pai Van public housing neighbourhood and the University of Macau (UM) campus on Hengqin island in 2026. ■



Guests such as Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) Director Susana Wong Soi Man (fourth from left) pose for photos during Wednesday's ceremony marking the commencement of the construction of Macau's first reclaimed-water plant, located next to the Coloane Wastewater Treatment Plant. — Photo: DSAMA

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 1.3 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.3 percent to close at 20,489.62 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 1.59 percent to end at 7,359.14 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index slid 2.64 percent to end at 4,483.99 points. — Xinhua

## Family & Community Service Centre in MNN opens new chapter: Civil leaders

Ginnie Liang

Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) President Wilson Hon Wai said yesterday that the recent opening of the Family and Community Service Centre in Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) residential estate in Zhuhai's Hengqin has opened a new chapter in Macau's social services integration into the overall development of the country, according to an IAS statement yesterday.

Hon made the remarks during a closed-door plenary session of the government-appointed Women and Children Affairs Committee at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday, which discussed health services for childbirth, maternal and children's health, as well as gave an update on the work of the committee's outreach programmes and exchange



The government-appointed Women and Children Affairs Committee holds this year's second plenary meeting at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday.

– Photo: IAS

views on related policies.

Both the family and community service centre and the senior citizens' service centre in the MNN neighbourhood started operating in June this year, run by the Macau Women's General Association (known as Fu Luen in Cantonese)

and the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (known as Kai Fong in Cantonese) respectively.

According to Hon, efforts are being made to promote the government's "Macau Women's Development Goals," and plans are

underway for a second set of goals to continue advancing women's development, the statement said.

Regarding children's affairs, a document summarising the current status of the government's children's policies has been completed, while representatives

from the Health Bureau (SSM) also explained the government's support for reproductive and maternal-child health services, covering aspects such as breastfeeding support, vaccination, and health checks for pregnant women and infants, the statement said.

Hon said his committee will continue to promote the right to civic participation under the "Convention on the Rights of the Child," as well as pay special attention to issues concerning children, including children's educational development, children's welfare, children's physical and artistic development, child protection and civic participation, as well as newly added topics like child friendly-environments and families, according to the statement. ■

## Premier Li urges efforts to facilitate progress of ecological project, energy supply



Premier Li Qiang (center), also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, inspects soil and water conservation management in Ordos City of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Wednesday.

– Xinhua

HOHHOT – Premier Li Qiang has called for concrete efforts to facilitate the progress of the Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program (TSFP) and ensure the supply of energy.

Li, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks during an investigation and research tour of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region from Tuesday to yesterday.

The TSFP is the world's largest afforestation project and is aimed at tackling desertification in northwest, north and northeast China. It was launched in 1978 and is scheduled to be completed by 2050.

In Yinchuan City, the capital of Ningxia, Li praised local efforts and achievements in desertification control,

encouraging the city to optimize its regional cooperation mechanisms and develop diversified operations to increase its residents' incomes.

Li also called for continuous energy technology research, and the promotion of the on-site deep processing of coal resources. He said that policy guidance and support should be enhanced and efforts be made to make good use of building facades, particularly rooftop spaces, to release the development potential of new energy, such as photovoltaic power.

In Ordos and Hohhot, both of which are located in Inner Mongolia, the premier conducted field research on comprehensive soil and water conservation management, forest belt construction and dairy technology innovation, as well as ecological, grass and seed research, and research on the promotion of improved varieties.

Li stressed the great

significance of continuing to promote the progress of projects such as the TSFP and the construction of a strong ecological security barrier in northern China.

Qualified enterprises should be supported to carry out basic research that would boost sci-tech innovation and industrial development in related fields, he said.

During his inspections of a thermal power company and a project integrating the development of desertification control, wind power and photovoltaic power, Li noted that efforts should be made to promote the complementarity and deep integration of traditional energy and new energy.

It is necessary to use coal cleanly and efficiently, improve the efficiency of power generation and heating systems, and effectively ensure people are warm in the winter, he said.

– Xinhua

## Central govt to issue bonds in Macau for 4<sup>th</sup> time

Tony Wong

The central government will issue sovereign bonds worth five billion yuan in Macau on Wednesday next week, the Ministry of Finance in Beijing and the local government has announced.

The Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) issued a two-part statement on the matter on Wednesday.

Next week's scheduled issuance will be the fourth issuance of sovereign bonds by the central government in Macau, after the first, second and third ones in July 2019, September 2022 and September last year.

The Ministry of Finance issued sovereign bonds worth two billion yuan in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) in 2019, while bonds worth three billion yuan were issued here in 2022.

Last year, the ministry issued sovereign bonds worth five billion yuan in Macau.

Wednesday's GCS statement said that the MSAR government welcomes the central government's decision to issue renminbi-denominated sovereign bonds in Macau "once again", coinciding with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland.

"Renminbi" ("people's currency") is the official name of the nation's

legal tender, informally known as "yuan".

The statement underlined that the "continuous" issuance of sovereign bonds in Macau highlights the central government's support for the development of Macau's modern finance and the city's appropriate economic diversification.

The statement said that the central government's continuous issuance of sovereign bonds in Macau will promote the development of a bond market here, providing investors with more diverse investment options. In addition, the statement said, this will also enable Macau's bond market to be more strongly connected with the international bond market.

The issuance of sovereign bonds in Macau will further consolidate and deepen financial cooperation between the mainland and Macau and provide investors with secure and stable investment options, the statement said.

The same as 2023 and 2022, the sovereign bonds will also only be offered to professional investors, according to the statement.

The two-billion-yuan sovereign bonds issued in Macau in 2019 comprised 1.7 billion yuan offered to institutional investors and retail bonds worth 300 million yuan offered to members of Macau's general public. ■



This October 2020 file photo shows the headquarters of the Ministry of Finance in Beijing.

– Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons