

NRWs rise but Vietnamese drop 'drastically': civic leaders

Yuki Lei

Alliance for Common People Building Up Macau (API) Vice President Hoi Long Tong said yesterday that the number of non-resident workers (NRWs) in Macau is growing again after the three-year COVID-19 pandemic, now totalling about 180,000, of whom more than 60,000 are from Southeast Asia – however, Overseas Vietnamese Association in Macau President Duong Trung Duc said that the number of Vietnamese NRWs has dropped significantly compared to pre-pandemic 2019 from more than 26,000 to around 9,500 at present.

Making the remarks in a speech for the Crime Prevention and Civil Defence Campaign 2024 For South East Asian Imported Workers yesterday afternoon at Rotunda de Carlos da Maia (嘉路米耶圆形地 – popularly known as Three Lamps), Hoi noted that while NRWs fill the local manpower gap, due to language barriers and cultural differences Southeast Asian NRWs face many difficulties in interacting with locals, adapting to the local work environment and coping with their daily lives, and some of them may even be prone to breaching the law inadvertently or do not know where to seek assistance when



A group of Vietnamese performs during yesterday's awareness-raising campaign at the "Three Lamps" roundabout.

– Photo: Yuki Lei

they encounter difficulties due to lack of knowledge of local laws. He also pointed out the inability of Southeast Asian NRWs to receive timely notification of the latest police warnings and information on civil defence and health, which was not, Hoi stressed, conducive to the

overall law and order situation and disease prevention in Macau.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's event, Duc said: "Before the pandemic, the number of Vietnamese NRWs amounted to more than 26,000, but due to visa requirements for

Vietnamese citizens to enter Macau and the return of Vietnamese for personal reasons and family problems, the number of Vietnamese in Macau has declined drastically," adding he hoped the government will simplify the procedures for Vietnamese NRWs willing to come

to work in Macau. He also pointed out the necessity of organising awareness-raising campaigns: "Very often, they [Vietnamese] do not understand [Macau's laws] due to the language barrier, and occasionally they may have violated the law, but they do not even know it, and they may even be employed illegally [without knowing it]".

As the official languages of Macau are Portuguese and Chinese, Hoi noted, Southeast Asians often encounter difficulties in receiving information from the Macau government due to the language barrier, and Macau Oversea Worker Employment Agency Association President Ao Ieong Kuong Kao told reporters that his association has set up a translation team to help Southeast Asian NRWs in particular, targeting Vietnamese, Filipinos, Myanmar people and Nepali, who are the most numerous groups from Southeast Asia in Macau, adding that the translation team comprises about 10 people to help translate government information and news, regularly disseminate legal and fraud prevention information to large groups of NRWs, and assist them in solving legal and work-related problems.

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China's J-15D, J-15T fighter jets to debut at air show in Zhuhai

BEIJING – China's navy on Saturday announced that its J-15D and J-15T fighter jets will make a debut at the 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, also known as Airshow China.

These fighter jets are expected to engage in aerobatic displays during the event, which is scheduled from tomorrow to Sunday in Zhuhai.

The navy will also arrange displays of air assault operations by the Z-20J shipborne helicopter and Z-8C transport helicopter, carrying naval marine units and related equipment. This marks the inaugural appearance of the navy marine corps at the air show.

Additionally, the navy will exhibit the Z-9F shipborne anti-submarine helicopter and Y-8 anti-submarine patrol aircraft, as well as several shipborne weapon systems and maritime rescue and survival equipment, most of which are

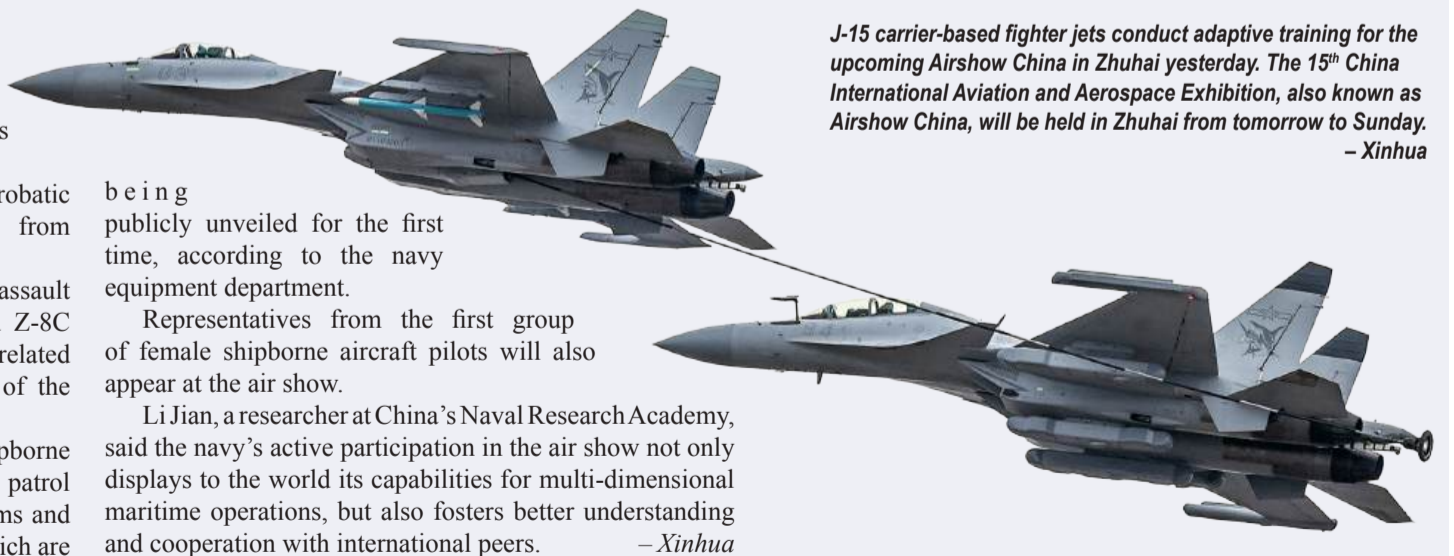
being publicly unveiled for the first time, according to the navy equipment department.

Representatives from the first group of female shipborne aircraft pilots will also appear at the air show.

Li Jian, a researcher at China's Naval Research Academy, said the navy's active participation in the air show not only displays to the world its capabilities for multi-dimensional maritime operations, but also fosters better understanding and cooperation with international peers.

J-15 carrier-based fighter jets conduct adaptive training for the upcoming Airshow China in Zhuhai yesterday. The 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, also known as Airshow China, will be held in Zhuhai from tomorrow to Sunday.

– Xinhua



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Xi, Prabowo pledge joint efforts to build community with shared future

President Xi Jinping held talks with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Beijing on Saturday, expressing the readiness to work with the new Indonesian government to continue promoting self-improvement, solidarity and win-win cooperation among major developing countries. – Story on p. 7

Dozens detained after defying Amsterdam protest ban

Dutch police detained dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters in Amsterdam yesterday after they defied a demonstration ban, put in place in the wake of violence against Israeli football supporters. – Story on p. 11

2024 'virtually certain' to be hottest year on record: EU monitor

This year is "virtually certain" to be the hottest in recorded history with warming above 1.5C, EU climate monitor Copernicus said on Thursday, days before nations are due to gather for crunch UN climate talks. – Story on p. 12

China, US ought to get along for good of wider world



President Xi Jinping chose the right words when he congratulated Donald Trump on his election as the 47th president of the United States by urging both sides “to find the right way to get along in the new era, so as to benefit both countries and the wider world.”

Xi’s choice of words was sober, practical and, last but not least, realistic, namely in comparison with some of the effusive congratulations by other heads of state or government, such as UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s “heartily” congratulations in a gushing phone call, an obvious attempt to smooth over some of his party members’ rather vocal support for Kamala Harris.

In his pragmatic congratulatory message, Xi also said that “history teaches that China and the United States gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation,” noting that “a stable, sound and sustainable China-US relationship serves the two countries’ shared interests and meets the aspirations of the international community.”

Xi also “expressed the hope that the two sides will uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, strengthen dialogue and communication, properly manage differences and expand mutually beneficial cooperation”.

The wording of Xi’s message to Trump is a classic example of diplomatic realism, i.e., the understanding that the right way of improving both bilateral and multilateral relations is to pursue pragmatic policies – instead of value-driven policies that tend to be confrontational, paradoxical and, *in extremis*, result in perilous lose-lose situations. Realpolitik is the right way forward.

Trump’s astonishingly clear election victory has given the lie to Western pollsters and media outlets’ pre-election claim that he and Harris were in a very tight race, apart from the fact that most media in the US and the EU were unashamedly biased in favour of Harris. Wishful thinking resulted in reality denial by journalists, polling organisations and commentators. Nothing in politics is worse than losing one’s sense of reality. Facts, not speculation and

conjecture, should drive politics to ensure their success.

No doubt, Trump’s election victory is one of the greatest political comebacks in history. In his congratulatory message, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Trump “on history’s greatest comeback”.

As of yesterday, Trump had garnered 312 seats in the Electoral College, versus Harris’s 226 seats. A total of 270 seats would have sufficed to win the election.

Moreover, as of yesterday, Trump had won 50.5 percent of the popular vote, as against Harris’s 48.0 percent, or 74.7 million votes and 70.9 million votes respectively.

Adding insult to injury, Trump won all swing states, including Arizona, resulting in a completely clean sweep of the seven battleground states.

And that’s not all – the Republicans won control of the Senate by gaining four seats, now holding four more seats, 54 in total, than needed for a majority in the upper chamber. The Democrats lost four seats and are down to 46.

In the House of Representatives, as of yesterday, the Republicans had won 213 seats, just five seats short of gaining the majority. The Democrats lost two seats, ending up with 202. US media reported over the weekend that the Republicans were projected to gain the House majority as well. If so, this would result in what is known in the US as “unified government,” i.e., a party controlling the White House and the two chambers of parliament, which has happened quite a few times that the current two-party system has been in force since the 19th century. In other words, it’s actually a systemic phenomenon.

As US-based BBC correspondent Anthony Zurcher has pointed out, the overwhelming election victory of both Trump and his party has turned the Democrats’ so-called “liberal voting coalition” to dust.

The Biden-Harris administration should blame itself for all the dust. Electoral successes of incoming governments in Western-style democracies are commonly due to the failures of their outgoing counterparts. That’s, for instance, the case not just in the US but also in a number of EU states where ultra-rightwing parties’ successes such as Vox in Spain, AfD in Germany and Chega in Portugal are the result of the failures of so-called mainstream parties failing to heed the worries of

the general population about bread-and-butter issues.

In last Tuesday’s US elections, many voters cast their ballots AGAINST a raft of situations that they perceive as grievances besetting their private lives such as the Democrats’ failure to put the lid on illegal immigration, put the brakes on the rising cost of living, clamp down on crime and rein in the extreme manifestations of wokism and gender politics.

My impression is that many voted FOR Trump only because they were AGAINST Harris as, for them, she represented all the perceived misdeeds associated with Biden.

It was also engrossing to see that Harris’s overwhelming support by the influential entertainment industry, such as famous actors, TV hosts and musicians, failed to spark, such as Taylor Swift, Oprah Winfrey and Harrison Ford. I presume that working people struggling to make ends meet, paying their mortgages and bearing the prohibitive cost of their kids’ university education were unimpressed by the appearances of overpaid celebrities’ pro-Harris views.

It’s a sociologically amazing fact that a billionaire mogul like Trump has been able to attract the vote of the working-class electorate to such a large extent. Scientists should launch in-depth studies on this phenomenon.

Another riveting aspect of Trump’s victory is that the reportedly nearly 100 criminal charges – alleged election interference, civil cases, the alleged mishandling of classified documents, sexual misconduct, etc. – have not prevented him from winning the votes of over half of the US electorate.

I am not surprised, considering the high degree of the West’s judicialisation of politics and/or judicial politisation, in the US in particular, based on its mushrooming and highly politicised litigation industry.

Political scientists have warned against the judicialisation of politics, i.e., the reliance on courts and judicial means to rule on imminently political issues such as trade, education, immigration and environment protection. The transfer to courts of contentious political issues has become a bad habit that could mark the transition to what some commentators have termed “juristocracy”.

As it may be, the world has to deal with the fact that Trump will be moving back into the White House for the next four years. One can only hope that the 78-year-old business magnate and politician’s second

stint at the helm of the world’s “uberstate” will be less topsy-turvy than his first one between 2017 and 2021, both on the domestic and international front.

Unlike what many non-US analysts seem to believe, I do not think that, normally, foreign policy issues do matter much in American elections, unless when the US is directly involved in a war overseas, such as Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, and American soldiers get killed and wounded there. Both the Gaza-Israel and Ukraine-Russia conflicts only played second fiddle this time, for the simple reason that the US has no boots on the ground there. Pro-Palestinian protesters are a noisy but tiny minority in the US. Most Americans, first and foremost, defend Israel’s right to self-defence.

Neither did China feature prominently in the election campaign, apart from Trump’s run-of-the-mill threats to raise tariffs on goods imported from China to “protect American industry”. The crux of the problem is that higher customs duties on inexpensive merchandise from China would primarily hurt Trump voters’ wallets. A new trade war is the last thing that the world needs right now. Regrettably, Biden and Harris never distanced themselves from Trump’s anti-China tariff moves during his first term in the White House, and Biden this year even raised some of them.

A wise head of state ought to protect the interests of both their country’s consumers and manufacturers, employees and employers, importers and exporters – no easy task, for sure, but that’s what politics is all about – striking the right balance between conflicting interests and working out compromises, both at home and with one’s counterparts abroad.

I hope that Elon Musk, who heartily supported Trump’s hustings, will be able to steer him in the right direction as far as China-US business ties are concerned. Musk has first-hand investment experience in China, and he is the right person to advise Trump on a realistic approach towards getting relations between Beijing and Washington back on an even keel.

The China-US relationship is the world’s most crucial. The whole world will suffer if it veers further off course. Dialogue, debate and discussion are the right way to tackle the admittedly not always easy relations between the world’s number one and number two economies.

As President Xi said in his congratulatory message, and I do repeat it because of its uttermost

importance to the international community, China and the US need to “find the right way to get along in the new era, so as to benefit both countries and the wider world”.

Workable China-US political and economic relations would also set a good example for the European Union – Washington’s junior partner – which, alas, has copy-pasted Biden’s policy of imposing rather steep tariffs on electric cars from China – a measure that hurts both its cash-strapped consumers and its much-vaunted efforts to protect the environment.

I also hope that Trump’s future secretary of state will lower the temperature on the Taiwan question, which is prone to torpedo China-US ties if handled carelessly.

Last but not least, Macau will hardly be impacted by Trump’s return to the White House. US tourists accounted for just 0.4 percent of Macau’s visitor arrivals in the first three quarters of this year, when shipments to the US made up a mere 2.3 percent of Macau’s exports, while goods from the US accounted for 6.2 percent of Macau’s imports, according to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC). US investment in Macau is substantial but concentrated on the gaming and hospitality industries.

Trump visited Hong Kong and Macau several times in the 1980s and 90s, reportedly even planning to build a Trump Tower in Hong Kong. Apparently, he was also involved in one of the nearly two dozen bids for Macau’s then three gaming concessions in 2001. Local government officials told me at that time that they regarded Trump as a property developer rather than a casino tycoon. Thus, his bid fizzled out.

Perhaps, Macau’s three US gaming operators – Sands, Wynn and MGM – can do their bit to promote the development of mutually beneficial ties between China and the US through the political clout that their headquarters back home may have.

I am cautiously optimistic that China-US relations with Trump back in the White House will be an improvement from his first term. As a step in the right direction, Trump wrote in a social media post on Saturday that his former team members Mike Pompeo (ex-secretary of state) and Nikki Haley (former US ambassador to the UN) – both notorious China hawks – will not join his administration. Glad tidings less than a week after his election victory.

– Harald Brüning

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS.

FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 90%.



23°C~28°C

Source: SMG

NRWs rise but Vietnamese drop ‘drastically’: civic leaders

Continued from p.1

Yesterday’s awareness-raising campaign featured presentations by representatives of various public entities, comprising the Unitary Police Service (SPU), Judiciary Police (PJ), Public Security Police (PSP), Fire Services Bureau (CB), Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), Health Bureau

(SSM) and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

According to the latest official statistics from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), the total number of NRWs amounted to 182,371 at the end of September, including 30,267 Filipinos, 8,059 Vietnamese, 7,079 Indonesians, 4,202 Myanma people and 3,757 Nepali. ■

15th National Games starts one-year countdown

Ginnie Liang

The 15th National Games, which will be held in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau on November 9-21 next year, started its one-year countdown on Saturday.

The ceremony of the one-year countdown to the 15th National Games was held in Largo do Senado (議事亭前地) on Saturday, and a fun walk activity was held as well, with the participation of about 650 locals including young local athletes as well as local volunteers.

The walk started from the city's main square, Largo do Senado, passed by the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) and the Catholic Cathedral before returning to the starting point.

Preparatory Office for the Organisation of the Macau Competition Zone of the 15th National Games and the 12th National Games for People with Disabilities Director Pun Weng Kun told reporters on the sidelines of the activity that the preparatory work for the Macau-held competition was progressing in an orderly manner, and that Macau would also organise volunteers to participate in large-scale activities and train them in their hospitality skills.

Macau has been tasked with hosting competitive sporting events comprising table tennis, women's

volleyball, 3x3 basketball and under-18 men's basketball, as well as karate as part of the multi-sport event.

The multi-sporting event, being the first time that the two special administrative regions – Macau and Hong Kong – are to be National Games co-hosts, will have its opening ceremony in Guangzhou and the closing event in Shenzhen.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said in a video message that the Macau government attaches great importance to the preparatory work for next year's Games, adding that under the coordination and guidance of the country's General Administration of Sport, and with the close cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong, Macau was now embarking on the preparatory work in an orderly manner in respect of the hardware and software facilities, competitions, hospitality and transport, according to a Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) statement on Saturday.

In addition, the external display screens at Macau Tower, Fisherman's Wharf and Macau six integrated resorts were illuminated between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturday, displaying the message that the Games will be held on November 9 next year, and also started the one-year countdown to the Games. ■



Some 650 people walk through Largo do Senado to celebrate the one-year countdown of the 15th National Games on Saturday. – Photo: Preparatory Office for the Organisation of the Macau Competition Zone of the 15th National Games and the 12th National Games for People with Disabilities

Macau, HK, GD police bust prostitution gang, arrest 7 locals

Gang earned at least 8.3 million patacas

Yuki Lei

Police in Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong on Thursday together cracked down on a cross-border criminal gang using a website promoting prostitution, resulting in the arrest of 19 gang members, among five men and two women who were nabbed in various local districts by the Judiciary Police (PJ) on suspicion of organised crime membership and pimping.

The local suspects allegedly posted prostitution-related notices on the website, delivered prostitution paraphernalia and helped register phone cards for clients to communicate with prostitutes.

On Friday, the Judiciary Police held a special press conference about the case, during which PJ spokesman Chong Kam Leong said that the joint operation between the three jurisdictions was launched after the interception in the peninsula's Zape district of eight sex workers from the mainland by the Judiciary Police earlier this year, adding that the PJ investigations discovered that the eight women had promoted their services on the gang's website.

Believing that the website and the prostitutes were controlled by a gang operating across Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, according to Chong, the Judiciary Police alerted their counterparts in the mainland and Hong Kong about the cases, and then formed a joint task force, under the coordination of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department, to conduct an in-depth investigation which later identified the gang's alleged kingpins as a Hong Kong man surnamed Chan and a mainland man surnamed Chen.



This handout photo provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) on Friday shows PJ officers searching a hotel room used by the prostitution gang in Zape on Thursday.

Chong said that according to the trilateral investigation, the website was established in 2022 with a premium membership system, whereby ordinary members needed to top up their virtual currency to become premium members before they could post solicitations for prostitutes, and that the mainland women were also required to pay 300 yuan each to update their clients through the website when arriving in Macau. Chong added that the website, including a large number of sexy photos, was divided into Macau and mainland sections, with no less than 24,000 posts published, and "if each post is calculated at 300 yuan, it is believed that the criminal gang earned at least 8.3 million patacas", while the "service fee" charged by the prostitutes amounted to 500 patacas per session.

On Thursday morning, the

Judiciary Police mobilised more than 70 PJ officers to arrest the seven local suspects – aged between 39 and 79 surnamed Lam, Chan, Lao, Wong, Ng, Ho and Liu – in various residential buildings, while intercepting 18 female prostitutes and two clients at two hotels in Zape, with the seizure of tens of thousands of patacas in cash, several mobile phones, a car, a motorcycle and a large amount of prostitution paraphernalia including over 10,000 condoms.

The mainland police arrested nine gang members, 17 prostitutes and seven clients in Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Shenzhen, while Hong Kong police arrested a male kingpin and two female gang members in Kowloon.

The Judiciary Police transferred on Friday the seven local suspects to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation. ■

St Paul's Ruins set to get lightning rod next year: IC chief

Yuki Lei

The government-appointed Cultural Heritage Committee on Friday held a plenary meeting to introduce preliminary proposals on the feasibility of installing an additional lightning protection device on the Ruins of St Paul's, and Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man told the media during a post-meeting press conference that "we are endeavouring to commence the installation of the device at the beginning of next year".

According to Leong, a feasibility study on the retrofitting of the lightning protection device on the Ruins of St Paul's has been carried out in conjunction with the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) and the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage (CACH). "After a relatively rigorous study, two preliminary options have been shortlisted from the many options available, both of which involve a passive lightning protection device

with the least impact on the cultural heritage and the landscape", she told the media at the Macau Cultural Centre in Nape, adding that the two preliminary proposals still needed to be further studied with a view to deepening their design, before one of them could be chosen, followed by the release of the planning and construction drawings and the finalisation of the specific construction period and budget.

Consideration was given to retrofitting the lightning protection device, following a thunderstorm in mid-June this year in which a small stone fell from the top of the Ruins of St Paul's façade.

Leong underlined that it was common to install lightning protection systems on heritage buildings in other places, pointing out that the future lightning protection device consisting of copper would mainly be installed at the back of the top of the Ruins of St Paul's façade, with a reversible mounting method, so

that "basically, it is not easy for tourists to notice it when they are visiting the Ruins of St. Paul's".

Macau Palace Museum project

In addition, the closed-door meeting, according to the press conference, was also briefed on the preparations for the establishment of the Macau Palace Museum Cultural Heritage Conservation and Transmission Centre, as well as the work of assessing the cultural value of movable assets.

In 2019, with the aim of promoting cultural heritage conservation, cultural creation and research and development, education and promotion, as well as the dual development of cultural undertakings and cultural industries, Macau's then chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On and the central government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Macau Palace Museum Cultural Heritage Conservation and Transmission



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man addresses Friday's press conference after the government-appointed Cultural Heritage Committee's closed-door meeting, at the Macau Cultural Centre in Nape. – Photo courtesy of TDM

Centre at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau in Nape.

Speaking to the media, Leong said that with an exhibition area, a heritage restoration work area and a cultural and creative exhibition area, the centre will be located at the Macau Museum of Art, with

its tentative opening slated for the end of this year. She added that the exhibition area mainly showcases the results of the restoration of heritage at the Palace Museum in Beijing or in Macau in the future, aiming to promote Macau's development in the field of heritage restoration through publicity, education and promotion.

In terms of moveable heritage, according to Leong, in line with the Cultural Heritage Law, the assessment of movable heritage is restricted to public sector artefacts, antiques, audio-visual materials, books and documents, with the first batch targeting the heritage documents in the museums under the Cultural Affairs Bureau, as well as the materials and books in the archives.

She noted that a platform has been set up to make it easier for public entities to examine whether there are any movable assets that could be included on the local cultural heritage list to facilitate her bureau's assessment procedures. ■

Wynn, MGP museum unveil 'special chocolate F1' exhibition



This handout photo taken and provided by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) shows the Wynn Special Chocolate F1 displayed at the Macau Grand Prix Museum (MGP).

Rui Pastorin

The Wynn Special Chocolate F1 exhibition opened on Friday at the Macau Grand Prix (MGP) Museum, showcasing the streamlined racecar handcrafted by master pastry artist Bob Tay, according to a statement by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) on the same day.

Displayed until January 20, the statement noted that the exhibit, which is 2.5-metres long and weighs 100 kg, was moulded using couverture (meaning "covering" in French) chocolate and is presented by the museum in conjunction with integrated resort (IR) operator Wynn Resorts. It is located at the Exhibit Zone of Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix on the first floor.

Wikipedia notes that Couverture chocolate is a class of high-quality chocolate that contains a higher percentage of cocoa butter than other chocolate which is precisely tempered, and is used by professionals for dipping, coating, moulding and garnishing.

The statement said that Tay, who has numerous international food art awards, moulded the chocolate with "360 hours of dedication of sophisticated craftsmanship", while the carving process required precise temperature due to the higher proportion of cocoa butter in couverture.

The exhibit is among the series of activities launched by the museum in conjunction with several integrated resort operators that are themed around the MGP, among which was last week's inauguration of "A Racing Legacy – Drivers' Collection Exhibition".

Activities such as a new book on karting history and sessions with drivers and their teams, as well as a virtual reality (VR) installation are set to be launched, the statement added.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is closed on Tuesdays. Ticketing and more information can be found on mgpm.macaotourism.gov.mo/en. ■

Festivalgoers enjoy hush! activities at Hac-Sa-Beach



15 Macau brands present products at Galaxy Macau pop-up



This undated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) shows the "Macao Fashion Pop-Up Store" set up at Galaxy Macau's Promenade East.

Rui Pastorin

A total of 15 Macau fashion brands are presenting and selling their products at the "Macao Fashion Pop-Up Store" at Galaxy Macau's Promenade East in Cotai, which is on until next Monday.

The pop-up kicked off on Saturday with an opening and toasting ceremony, according to a statement released on the same day by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), which organised the event with the support of Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG). The statement noted that the pop-up aims to promote local original fashion brands to both tourists and residents.

The participating brands comprise Common Comma, C/W COLLECTIVE, Earlyink, ella épeler, Joya Ma, Jump

Off, Lexx Moda, Mosq., MULTIPLIER, Nega C., No. 42, SANCHIALAU, SHEFEELING, Stardust Journey and VATIC, the statement said.

Clothing and accessories including handbags, silk scarves wallets and women's shoes in different styles are among those featured, showcasing the designers' creativity.

Meanwhile, the statement said that the bureau had also previously set up a pop-up under the same name in Hengqin and Guangzhou, adding that it received "an enthusiastic response from the industry and the public".

The pop-up will also be held in Shenzhen next month, aiming to broaden sales channels in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). ■

– Photos: Rui Pastorin, Ginnie Liang

Hengqin MNN health station starts operating today

Tony Wong

The Macau Health Bureau's (SSM) health station in the Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) residential estate on Zhuhai's Hengqin island will open this morning, after it was inaugurated by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng on Saturday.

The Macau government amended the Health Bureau's organisational structure in September, statutorily enabling the bureau to set up, manage and operate health stations in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, serving Macau residents living there.

An SSM statement on Saturday noted that the MNN health station, which covers an area of 1,000 square metres, provides Macau residents with health services in compliance with the operation model of Macau's public health centres.

In the first phase of its operation which starts today, according to the statement, the MNN health station will provide walk-in outpatient diagnosis and treatment for common chronic diseases such as high blood pressure as well as common acute diseases such as the common cold.

The same as Macau's public health centres, doctors at the MNN health station will refer patients needing specialist medical services to Macau's public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre or the Macao Union Hospital in south Cotai.

In case of urgent medical



Liu Liqun, who heads the Guangdong Province Health Commission (from left to right), Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Central People's Government Liaison Office in Macau Director Zheng Xincong, Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long, and SSM Deputy Director Cheang Seng Ip unveil the inaugural plaque of the health station in the Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) residential estate on Zhuhai's Hengqin island on Saturday. – Photo: SSM

conditions, according to the statement, patients seeking treatment at the MNN health station will be taken to the branch hospital of the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University in Hengqin for emergency treatment, after which they can choose to continue undergoing follow-up treatment there, or to be transferred back to hospitals in Macau for follow-up treatment provided that doctors conclude that their medical conditions are suitable for the transfer.

According to the statement, the MNN health station operates from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. between Mondays and Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to

5:30 p.m. on Fridays. The same as Macau's public health centres, the MNN health station is closed on Macau's public holidays.

The health station, located on Level 1 of Tower 14 of the MNN estate, was inaugurated on Saturday morning where its inaugural plaque was jointly unveiled by Ho as well as Central People's Government Liaison Office in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Director Zheng Xincong, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U, Liu Liqun, who heads the Guangdong Province Health Commission, Macau Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long, and SSM Deputy Director Cheang Seng Ip.

According to the statement, some other 60 representatives attended the MNN health station's inauguration ceremony, including government officials, health workers, and members of community associations from the mainland and Macau.

Delivering a speech during the ceremony, Dr Lo noted that the MNN health station is one of the important projects required by the Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone.

The health chief pointed out that the MNN health station is the first medical institution set up by the MSAR government in the mainland, which is also directly operated and managed by

the Macau Health Bureau.

Dr Lo said that the MNN health station's operational start will extend Macau's public healthcare services to Hengqin, enabling Macau residents living there to enjoy medical services similar to the ones in Macau.

The health chief said that the MNN health station's operational start highlights a new practice of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle concerning healthcare services, as well as a concrete example of Macau integrating its development into the nation's overall development.

The Macau Health Bureau has sent seven of its health workers to operate the MNN health station, comprising two doctors, two nurses, two pharmacists and one nursing assistant.

The statement also noted that the Guangdong Provincial Medical Products Administration (GDMPA) has granted permission for 296 pharmaceutical products currently used in Macau to be prescribed by the MNN health station.

The statement underlined that the MNN health station's information system is directly connected, through a network of exclusive cables, to the Macau Health Bureau's servers installed in the MSAR where all patients' clinical information processed in the MNN health station will be stored. ■

Macau logs over 30 million visitors so far this year: police



This undated handout photo released by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows travellers passing through e-channels in the mainland-Macau joint checkpoint in Hengqin.

Tony Wong

The Public Security Police (PSP) said yesterday that Macau's number of visitor arrivals so far this year surpassed 30 million at midday yesterday, exceeding the 28.2 million recorded in the whole of 2023.

The police announced the data in a statement on their WeChat account yesterday evening.

According to the statement, the city's average daily number of visitor arrivals so far this year stood at 95,000, a year-on-year increase of 27 percent from

the same period of last year, returning to 87 percent of the level recorded in the same period of pre-pandemic 2019.

As of midday yesterday, according to the statement, 39 percent of Macau's visitor arrivals so far this year entered the city through the Barrier Gate checkpoint, while 25 percent used the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB). The statement said that 12 percent of them entered Macau via the Hengqin checkpoint, while nine percent entered the city through the airport. ■

Macau gifts Chinese documentary series to Portuguese TV stations

Ginnie Liang

The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) presented the China-produced Portuguese-language documentary "Remarkable Construction" (Season 2) to television stations of Portuguese-speaking countries on Friday.

Hosted by public broadcaster TDM, the ceremony to present the series was held at Macau Forum in Zape on Friday, with diplomats and media representatives from Angola, Portugal and Mozambique in attendance.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U said during the ceremony that it's the third consecutive year that the ceremony

was held in Macau, which was of great significance to television stations of Portuguese-speaking countries, highlighting Macau's role as a bridge and bond that "backs the motherland and connects the world".

Ao Ieong also said that she hopes the documentary can deepen Portuguese-speaking countries' TV viewers' understanding of China and promote people-to-people exchanges.

Commissioner Liu Xianfa said during the ceremony that the Chinese symbols, Chinese images, Chinese ideas and Chinese culture have been introduced into the homes of ordinary people in Portuguese-speaking countries by means of public television, which have been widely loved and praised, and have become an effective way to enhance

mutual understanding and promote common development.

Liu pointed out that the second season of the documentary focuses on more than 30 projects such as the Xiamen Convention and Exhibition Centre, and the Wudongge Hydropower Station, among others, with the main theme of exploring the wonders of engineering, which demonstrates the wonders of green, innovative and intelligent Chinese architectural engineering.

Liu also mentioned that the documentary presented the municipal underground project in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, which highlights the development achievements of the cooperation zone in the short span of three years. ■



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U (fourth from left), Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa (centre), and media representatives and diplomats from Angola, Portugal and Mozambique attend the documentary gifting ceremony at Macau Forum in Zape on Friday. – Photo: GCS