

Infertile couples can apply for govt's ART subsidy scheme from Sunday

Ginnie Liang

Health Bureau (SSM) Deputy Director Kuok Cheong U said yesterday that the government has launched a subsidy scheme for assisted reproductive technology (ART) services to help couples who have difficulties in procreation, which will open for applications from Sunday, according to an SSM statement yesterday.

Dr Kuok made the remarks in a briefing session introducing the scheme yesterday, adding that applicants must be married couples or those in a domestic partnership in Macau, the statement said.

ART services will be provided by the Islands Healthcare Complex – Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), (Macao Union Hospital), the statement said, adding that applicants can apply at the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre, and successful applicants will be provided with prior clinical assessment to ensure that they meet the conditions and referral criteria for ART.

Macao Union Hospital obstetrician and gynaecologist Ku Sio Kuan underlined that the government's scheme does not include third-generation technologies but the first two generations, as the first-generation In Vitro Fertilisation - Embryo Transfer (IVF) technology mainly targets female infertility, mainly ovulation dysfunction, fallopian tube



Health Bureau (SSM) Deputy Director Kuok Cheong U addresses a briefing session about the government's subsidy scheme for assisted reproductive technology (ART) services yesterday. – Photo supplied by SSM

obstruction, or uterine displacement, which accounts for about two-thirds of all infertile couples, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the second generation of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) is mainly for men with sperm problems, accounting for about one-third of the infertile patients, Ku said, adding that third-generation technology is mainly used from the perspective of eugenics and applicable to

patients with abnormal genetic diseases, the statement said.

However, Dr Ku said the scheme would not be applicable to patients with recurrent miscarriages directly related to genetic diseases and which require prenatal diagnosis and genetic counselling, according to local media reports.

Macao Union Hospital Deputy Director Lei Wai Seng said at yesterday's briefing

session that eligible applicants can be exempted from the fee twice, and he also underlined that the causes of infertility are many, such as if the applicant's own underlying disease causes infertility, the applicant needs to lose weight, get his or her diabetes under control, as otherwise the costs of treatment of other chronic diseases are not covered by the fee waiver, according to local media reports about the briefing.

Representatives of the Women's General Association of Macau (commonly known as Fu Luen, its name in Cantonese) attending the session expressed concern about the applicability of the scheme for the second child.

Dr Lei said the purpose of the scheme was to encourage childbirth, and that women who already have given birth to children can still apply for the scheme, and that the government's aim was for the public to "have one more child if they can".

Dr Kuok also said he believed that there will be no more than 100 applicants per year, adding that right now there are about 200 women receiving treatment at the infertility clinic of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre, according to local media reports.

Applications can be submitted through the Health Bureau's designated website at <https://www.ssm.gov.mo/Artform>. For enquiries, one can call 8390 8041 during office hours. ■

Americans estimated to throw away 316 million pounds of food on Thanksgiving: ReFED

NEW YORK – An estimated 316 million pounds of food will be wasted in the United States on Thanksgiving, which means half a billion US dollars worth of groceries thrown away in a single day, the *Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday, citing the Chicago-based non-profit ReFED.

"It takes an area the size of China to grow the food that is thrown away each year," the report said. "Food loss and waste produce nearly five times more greenhouse-gas emissions than the aviation industry."

Globally, a staggering one third of all food that is produced is never eaten. That

waste, more than 1 billion tons annually, fuels climate change. As organic matter decomposes, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is much more potent than carbon dioxide when it comes to warming the planet, according to the report.

"The United Nations estimates that up to 10 percent of all human-produced greenhouse gases are generated by food loss and waste. That's nearly five times the emissions from the aviation industry," it added.

Thanksgiving is tomorrow.

– Xinhua, MPD

Israel approves ceasefire deal with Lebanon: TV

JERUSALEM – Israel's Channel 12 TV News reported yesterday that the country's political-security cabinet has approved a ceasefire agreement with Lebanon. (Earlier story on p.10) – Xinhua



Residents inspect the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building reportedly housing a Hezbollah backed financial institution, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon yesterday. A Xinhua news flash reported at 2:14 a.m. (local time) today that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "announces ceasefire deal with Lebanon".

– AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

Xi meets Lee Hsien Loong, calling for boosting China-Singapore cooperation

President Xi Jinping met with Senior Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong in Beijing yesterday, calling for further synergizing development strategies and boosting bilateral cooperation.

– Story on p. 7

'Remarkable global progress': HIV cases & deaths declining

The number of new HIV infections and deaths is falling worldwide, marking significant progress in the fight against the disease.

– Story on p. 11

Chinese, Brazilian youths forge closer ties via football

Pan Cuicui, a girl from Rongjiang County in Guizhou Province, made her first visit to Brazil. She was excited and nervous when she found herself in a heaven for football enthusiasts.

– Story on p. 12

Businessman gets 18 years in jail for bank fraud

Staff Reporter

Macau businessman Liu Haigui was yesterday sentenced in absentia to 18 years behind bars for defrauding The Macau Chinese Bank (MCB) out of about 456 million patacas, but all the other 14 defendants in the case were acquitted, including the bank's former president Yau Wai Chu, according to reports by local journalists who attended the sentencing.

Five defendants who had been remanded in custody for about a year, including businesswoman and newspaper publisher Bobo Ng Son Po, were released from detention yesterday.

The Court of First Instance (TJB) ruled that, with the exception of Liu, the Public Prosecution's bank loan fraud allegations



This image uploaded from the homepage of The Macau Chinese Bank (MCB) shows some of its facilities.

concerning the defendants could not be proved, because of which they were acquitted of all charges which included organised crime, forgery and fraud.

In the wake of his prison sentence, an arrest warrant for Liu has been issued.

The defendants included five former employees of the bank.

According to a statement by the Court of Final Appeal, which oversees Macau's lower courts, the case involved multiple "complex bank loan frauds" by Liu who

presented forged documents and false construction project contracts to the bank to obtain the loans.

The statement did not identify any of the defendants, merely referring to them as, for instance, "No.6 defendant" or "businessman A". It identified the bank's former executives who stood trial as "No.1 to No.5 defendants".

All of the defendants, including Liu, were acquitted of their organised crime charges. Liu, which the statement referred to as "No.6 defendant", committed 13 crimes of fraud involving "considerably high amounts of money" and three crimes of using false documents, the statement said.

It was not immediately known whether the Public Prosecution (MP) plans to appeal. ■

Police bust 2 illegal currency exchange cases

William Chan

The Judiciary Police have separately arrested a woman from the mainland and three male mainlanders for engaging in illegal currency exchange transactions, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou said during a special press conference yesterday.

In the first case, the 37-year-old woman surnamed Zhong is a farmer.

On Thursday, Zhong offered an illegal currency exchange deal to two gamblers outside a Cotai casino. After Zhong transferred 67,900 yuan to one of the gamblers, they handed HK\$70,000 in cash to Zhong's accomplice who then left the scene.

Subsequently, when the gambler who had received the funds attempted to share the money with his companion via a bank transfer, the bank rejected the transaction. This led him to suspect the involvement of illicit activities in the transfer he had received, prompting him to report the case to the authorities.

Zhong was apprehended on the spot, while the two gamblers cooperated as witnesses in the investigation. It was later revealed that the bank had declined the transaction due to transfer limits, while the funds were legitimate.

In the second case, the three

male suspects were involved in defrauding a mainland woman out of HK\$100,000 last week through an illegal currency exchange deal. They transferred 93,500 yuan, which allegedly consisted of fraudulently obtained funds, to her account, leading to the freezing of her account.

The four suspects in the two cases have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing illegal currency exchange charges, while the trio in the second case also face fraud charges. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Lei Chi Hou looks on during a regular press conference yesterday.

— Photo: William Chan

Health Bureau urges public to be wary of chickenpox virus

Ginnie Liang

The Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement yesterday that the chickenpox virus in Macau has become more active recently, with a weekly average of eight cases since the first of this month, rising to 40 cases last week, which is much higher than the three cases in the same period of last year, and called for vigilance from parents, educational institutions and childcare centres.

The statement said that two cases of chickenpox cluster recently reported by Colégio de Santa Rosa de Lima - Secção Inglesa and Colégio Dom Bosco (Yuet Wah), with a total of 18 patients who had received one dose of varicella vaccine.

These patients have shown symptoms of red rash and blisters on the head, face, limbs and chest and back since last Sunday, all of them have no serious illness or other serious complications.

Between the beginning of this year and yesterday, a total of 355 chickenpox cases had been recorded in Macau, representing a

year-on-year increase of 134 cases, the statement said, adding that six cases required hospitalisation and were discharged from hospitals after recovery, and there were no serious and fatal cases. About three quarters of the cases were children, with most of them aged 8 to 17.

In addition, the bureau recorded a total of 449 cases of mandatory declaration of diseases last month, a decrease of 32 cases compared with September, according to the statement.

Among respiratory diseases, there were 88 cases of influenza, a month-on-month decrease of 57 cases, and a significant decline from the 2,699 cases recorded in the same period last year, the statement said.

In October, number of salmonella infections decreased by 41.1 percent to 33, while the number of scarlet fever infections increased by 47.2 percent to 53, and the number of Norwalk-like virus infections decreased by 52 percent to 13, while the number of chickenpox cases increased by 1.8 times to 25, the statement said.



Image courtesy of amazon.in

A total of 32 cases of tuberculosis were recorded in October, representing a year-on-year decrease of 2 cases, the statement said, adding that 18 imported dengue fever cases and one local dengue fever case were recorded, while one case each of AIDS and Legionnaires' Disease were confirmed last month. ■

Police nab 2 for sham marriage

William Chan

A local woman and a man who married in 2009 and divorced in 2018 were taken last week to a police station for questioning about their alleged sham marriage, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hong said yesterday.

Both suspects are in their fifties. The male suspect surnamed Zhang told the police that he's a businessman, while the female suspect surnamed Ho is a casino dealer. Zhang is originally from the mainland.

According to Lei, the pair became acquainted in 2000. In 2009, Zhang suggested to Ho that they enter into a fake marriage, offering her 80,000 patacas. Ho agreed to the arrangement.

Their "marriage" ended in 2018

after Zhang obtained a Macau identity card (BIR) in 2016. Later, Zhang decided to legally marry his fiancée from the mainland, with whom he has two children, in order to help her and their children acquire Macau identity cards. The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) suspected the previous "marriage" to be a sham and subsequently referred the case to the Public Security Police. Police intercepted the duo last week and took them to a police station for questioning.

The two suspects told the police that they had never had a "real" relationship together.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing document forgery and false statement charges, according to Lei. ■



Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hong looks on during a regular press conference yesterday.

— Photo: William Chan

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Macau Weather

DRY.
MAINLY FINE.
FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTHERLY WINDS, OCCASIONALLY FORCE 5 WITH GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 35% AND 70%.



14°C~21°C

Source: SMG

'Echo Insight' showcases gaming technology products, innovations

Rui Pastorin

"Echo Insight" concluded yesterday at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai, where a raft of advanced gaming technology products and latest innovations by LT Game, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-listed Paradise Entertainment Limited, were unveiled.

The event was hosted by LT Game, according to a Paradise Entertainment statement yesterday.

Among the highlights showcased was the new flagship slant-top cabinet Speedwave, which offers "a diverse and seamless gaming experience through its modular design and personalised setups for patrons and casino operators" and integrates the company's artificial intelligence (AI) systems, the statement noted. It also provides "strategic recommendations

during the gameplay for patrons and also enhances management flexibility for casino operators", the statement said.

Speedwave is tailored for the company's next generation of live multi game (LMG) systems, which were also spotlighted and offers "an appealing option for casino operators, offering improved cost-effectiveness and operational benefits", according to the statement.

The statement said that Paradise Entertainment is the sole provider of LMG systems and terminals in Macau.

Moreover, various planned to be introduced slot games and electronic table games (ETG) such as the newly revolutionised "Mori Dice" were also a highlight. The statement added that "Mori Dice" keeps traditional Sic Bo (aka Big-and-Small) rules, but the three dice are rolled in three separate rounds, allowing players to place bets in each round, were also highlighted, the statement noted.

Paradise Entertainment Managing Co-chairman and Managing Director Jay Chun (陳捷) was quoted by the statement as saying that the return of in-person gatherings gave them the opportunity to present these advancements. "These achievements reflect our commitment to pushing the boundaries of technology in the gaming industry. With Macau as our home base, Paradise Entertainment is dedicated to high-tech investment, research, and development as we strive to drive industry innovation globally", according to Chun. ■



This handout photo taken and provided by Paradise Entertainment yesterday shows LT Game COO Eddie Au Hon-man speaking at yesterday's Echo Insight at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai.

'World's Cities of Gastronomy (China)' to kick off today

Ginnie Liang

The opening ceremony for the 3-day event entitled "World's Cities of Gastronomy (China) Gathering at Hou Kong 2024-Chinese Cuisine Sharing" (世界美食之都(中國)薈聚濠江2024系列活動-美食齊分享) was held yesterday afternoon at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape (萬豪軒). The event is on until next Thursday.

"Hou Kong" ("Oyster River") is one of Macau's ancient names.

The event is hosted by the Shunde Federation & Commercial Union Association of Macau (澳門順德工商業聯合會) in conjunction with the Chengdu City of Gastronomy Association (CCGA), Shunde Association of Chefs, Macau Cuisine Association, and Yangzhou Culinary Association. It is also supported by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), and sponsored by Tai Fung Bank and Chung Va Group.

According to Shunde Federation & Commercial Union Association of Macau Chairman Ip Sio Man, 42 businesses are taking part in the event, and members of the public can enjoy the food

offered by participating shops at discounted prices when they visit the shops within the specified time period during the event.

There will be a chefs' showcase and culinary exchange dinner next Wednesday evening at Wynn Macau for chefs from the mainland to give their thoughts about Chinese cuisine developments in the future, according to Ip, adding that there will be a culinary development exchange forum at Wynn Macau in the afternoon of the same day.

According to a statement by the host, this year's event will continue to invite famous chefs and culinary industry leaders from Chaozhou, Chengdu, Huai'an, Shunde, Yangzhou and Macau to help promote the interaction of food culture between the cities.

Ip said he hopes that in the future, Macau's culinary culture can be introduced to the world, so that visitors abroad can understand the characteristics of Macau's cuisine, and he hopes that the government can take Macau's culinary industry to other countries to promote exchanges. ■

Macau's first Audemars Piguet House opens

Rui Pastorin

A grand opening ceremony was held for Macau's first Audemars Piguet (AP) House yesterday at the Shoppes at Four Seasons in Cotai.

A Swiss manufacturer of luxury watches, the Le Brassus-headquartered company was founded by Jules Louis Audemars (1851-1918) and Edward Auguste Piguet (1853-1919) in 1875, according to Audemars Piguet's official website. Wikipedia adds that the company has been family owned since its founding and is best known for introducing the Royal Oak wristwatch in 1972,

among other notable models.

AP Global CEO Ilaria Resta was among yesterday's officiating guests, who noted in her speech that she was excited to officially open their first Macau AP House, which she said was one of the company's largest worldwide. She added: "It's a space where we like to welcome clients, but also people who are interested in watchmaking to make new discoveries and new learning".

The AP House also "offers different spaces of engagement, entertainment and connection with our clients", as well as new people who

are just interested in learning about watchmaking, according to Resta.

Yesterday's grand opening was also officiated by Sands China CEO and President Grant Chum Kwan Lock; Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai; President of Global Retail, Las Vegas Sands Corp. David Sylvester; AP Greater China CEO Peggy Hu (胡興佩); actor Wilson Chen Bolin and singer-actress Amber Kuo Tsai-Chieh, both of whom are from China's Taiwan region; and Hong Kong actor, singer, writer, and film director Stephen Fung Tak-Iun. ■



Officiating guests Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai (from left to right), Taiwanese actor Chen Bolin, AP Greater China CEO Peggy Hu (胡興佩), Sands China CEO and President Grant Chum Kwan Lock, AP Global CEO Ilaria Resta, Hong Kong celebrity Stephen Fung Tak-Iun; Taiwanese singer-actress Amber Kuo Tsai-Chieh, and President of Global Retail, Las Vegas Sands Corp. David Sylvester pose for a group photo at yesterday's AP House grand opening at Shoppes at Four Seasons in Cotai. - Photo: Rui Pastorin

Marathoners can collect their number bibs from today: ID

Rui Pastorin

Runners in the upcoming Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon can collect their number bibs and information documents at Broadway Macau in Cotai from today through Saturday, the Sports Bureau (ID) said in a statement yesterday.

The marathon, titled "Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region - 2024 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon", takes place this Sunday.

Marathoners can collect the items from 12 noon to 9 p.m. until Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, with those going in person needing to present their registration receipt and ID. Authorised representatives, meanwhile, must present their ID, the registration receipt with the runner's signature, along with a copy of the participant's ID, the statement said.

The statement added that the "Most Creative Costume Award" is again on offer this year, while the "GEG Handover Cup" is a new addition where winners can win

prizes provided by integrated resort operator Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG).

Moreover, this weekend will also see the "2024 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon Carnival" held at the Broadway Food Street, according to the statement, with games, marathon-themed products, performances and on-site lucky draws among those on offer. An opening ceremony will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m., the statement noted.

More information can be found on the bureau's social media pages or on www.macaomarathon.com. ■



This poster provided by the Sports Bureau (ID) yesterday promotes this Sunday's Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region - 2024 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon".



University of Macau Symphonic Band performs at the Amphitheatre of Taipa Houses during Lusofonia earlier this month.

Cultural fusion: UM Symphonic Band set for 'A Simple Dialogue' Concert

Interview by William Chan

The University of Macau (UM) Symphonic Band is set to host the concert "A Simple Dialogue," a celebration of cultural fusion and musical surprises, as band conductor Ng Sa said in a recent online interview with the *Post*.

In addition, during the concert, apart from showcasing their hard work, the band will be joined by exceptional sheng* player Arnold Leung U Hin. A Macau native, Leung, who started learning the piano in 2004, is deeply passionate about music. Having graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music with a major in sheng, he also has a strong interest in various music genres, particularly jazz. He has released jazz albums and has played keyboards in several jazz groups in Macau and the mainland.

In addition to the band's performance, the audience will be treated to a sonic delight with the local fado group Fado Oriente. Both Leung and Fado Oriente will present Chinese and Portuguese fado music respectively, accompanied by the band. Ng noted that the performance aims to create a "Simple Dialogue" between the two cultures, in line with the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR).

Ng and Leung were classmates at the Macau Conservatory of Music and Arts. Ng said, "We have known each other for a long time. Arnold is a highly active and skilled sheng player. We have been on this musical journey together for over a decade, watching each other grow musically."

As a trumpet player and conductor, Ng found the fusion of Chinese instruments in a symphonic band, a Western instrument ensemble, to be extremely intriguing, blending the two cultures seamlessly. Ng said he aimed to ensure that the band will have many musical surprises in store. "The performance will be our gift to Macau, our country, as well as to all those who are passionate about Macau and its culture."

The performance is set to take place on Friday at 8 p.m. at N2 on the university campus, with admission being free of charge.

* The "sheng" (笙) is a traditional Chinese wind instrument with a history spanning thousands of years, producing sounds akin to those of an accordion or harmonica. It comprises bamboo or metal pipes, each housing a reed.



This file photo shows Arnold Leung U Hin posing with his sheng.



This file photo shows Ng Sa conducting the University of Macau Symphonic Band (UMSB). – Photos provided by UMSB



Fado Oriente performs at the Amphitheatre of Taipa Houses during Lusofonia last month.

Police nab mainland duo for theft-by-finding

William Chan

A man and a woman from the mainland have been arrested for stealing a camera that they found on the street, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hong said at a regular press conference yesterday.

The female suspect is surnamed Lin and the male suspect is surnamed Zhong. Both are in their forties and they came to Macau as tourists.

According to Lei, the police received a report from a woman in August saying that she had lost

her camera worth 5,700 patacas in a Cotai casino.

After scrutinising their citywide CCTV camera system, the police identified Lin and Zhong as the suspects who had picked up the camera and intercepted them when they re-entered Macau through the Hengqin checkpoint.

Under questioning, they admitted to stealing the camera out of greed.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing theft-by-finding charges, Lei said. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows police officers escorting the two theft-by-finding suspects to a police station in Taipa for questioning.

Govt rejects US letter slandering HK's reputation

HONG KONG – The Hong Kong government yesterday strongly disapproved and opposed a letter from US politicians to the country's treasury secretary, saying that it damages the special administrative region's (SAR) reputation as an international financial centre.

A HKSAR government spokesperson stressed that the allegations had no factual basis and the letter was a "crude and reprehensible attempt to spread lies and misinformation about Hong Kong for personal political gain".

He said the government "has been enforcing the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council fully and vigorously to fulfil our international obligations".

The spokesman added that maintaining the integrity and

robustness of the city's financial systems is a top priority for the local government.

"Hong Kong has been recognised by the Financial Action Task Force, the international standard-setter on anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, to be overall compliant with the relevant international standards, with a robust legal framework and effective system in this area, especially in the identification and understanding of risks, law enforcement, asset recovery and international co-operation," he said.

The letter by US lawmakers alleged that Hong Kong is playing an "increasing role as a financial hub for money laundering, sanctions evasion, and other illicit financial activities".

– RTHK, MPD

Govt to build footbridge linking Fai Chi Kei's waterfront and residential area

Tony Wong

The government will build a footbridge across a junction in Fai Chi Kei district near its waterfront, the construction of which is expected to get off the ground before the second quarter of next year, making it more convenient for pedestrians to walk between the waterfront's sitting-out area and the district's residential neighbourhood, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said yesterday.

The L-shaped footbridge will be located at the junction of Rua Norte do Patane (沙梨頭北街) and Rua do Comandante João Belo (俾若翰街/筷子基北街), linking the current sitting-out area along the east-side waterfront of Patane North Bay on one side with residential estates on the other side.

Patane North Bay, a bay off Fai Chi Kei and Ilha Verde, is known as Fai Chi Kei North Bay in Cantonese.

The government is currently building a new sitting-out area along the south-side waterfront of Patane North Bay, which is slated to be completed before the end of this year, after which it will be connected with the current sitting-out area along the bay's east-side waterfront.

The current sitting-out area there is officially known as Fai Chi Kei North Bay Recreational Area.

A DSOP statement yesterday noted that the new L-shaped footbridge will have three access points, namely one at the Fai Chi Kei North Bay Recreational Area, one outside the Weng Hoi Building (宏開大廈) residential estate, and



This artist's rendition downloaded from the Public Works Bureau's (DSOP) website yesterday shows the future L-shaped footbridge in Fai Chi Kei near Patane North Bay.

one outside the Fai Tat Building (快達樓) social rental housing estate.

The statement said that the footbridge will be equipped with a lift, an escalator, and a staircase at each of the three access points.

The L-shaped footbridge's section crossing Rua Norte do Patane, between the waterfront sitting-out area and Weng Hoi Building, will be 50 metres long, while its section crossing Rua do Comandante João Belo, between Weng Hoi Building and Fai Tat Building, will be 40 metres long, the statement said.

The government launched a public tender at the end of last month for the footbridge project. Potential bidders were required to submit their quotations by Monday.

A total of 11 construction companies had submitted their bids, which were unsealed by DSOP officials yesterday. All bids were accepted.

Yesterday's DSOP statement announced that the quotations proposed by the 11 bidders range

from 46 million to 63 million patacas.

The bureau has set a maximum period of 500 working days for the winning bidder to complete the project.

Yesterday's statement also said that the construction periods proposed by the 11 bidders are identical, 450 working days.

The statement said that the construction of the footbridge is expected to get off the ground before the second quarter of next year.

The statement said that the new footbridge will create a walking environment that separates pedestrians from vehicular traffic, making it more convenient for pedestrians to walk between the district's waterfront sitting-out area and residential estates.

In addition to the current sitting-out area along the bay's east-side waterfront, in the vicinity there is another sitting-out area, located between the Weng Hoi Building residential estate and its adjacent Weng Ken Building (宏建大廈) residential estate. ■

Govt to provide BioNTech JN.1 jobs from tomorrow

Tony Wong

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night that it will start the administration of Germany's BioNTech mRNA jobs targeting the Omicron JN.1 subvariants tomorrow.

BioNTech mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 is administered to all those aged at least six months.

The statement noted that Omicron JN.1 are the currently prevalent subvariants, adding that the Macau Health Bureau has purchased BioNTech mRNA jobs targeting the JN.1 subvariants in compliance with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.

Appointments for a job can be made from 10 a.m. today on <https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>

The statement also urged high-risk individuals to receive a JN.1 job, such as senior citizens, those with chronic diseases, those with weakened immune systems, pregnant women, and frontline health workers.

The statement pointed out that the jobs are free of charge for

all local residents, non-resident workers (NRWs), prison inmates, and non-locals studying in Macau.

The statement noted that all other non-locals holding a permit to stay in Macau have to pay 250 patacas per job.

According to the statement, the Health Bureau recommends that everyone aged five or over receive a BioNTech mRNA JN.1 job, regardless of whether they have previously been vaccinated against COVID-19.

According to the statement, the bureau recommends that those aged from six months through four years receive three JN.1 jobs if they have never received any COVID-19 jobs.

Those in this age group who have previously received one non-JN.1 job are recommended to receive two JN.1 jobs, the statement said.

According to the statement, those in this age group who have previously received two or more non-JN.1 jobs are recommended to receive one JN.1 job.

The statement underlined that the new JN.1 jobs can provide better

protection against COVID-19 than the current jobs for the Omicron XBB subvariants.

BioNTech is a German biotechnology company based in Mainz that develops and manufactures active immunotherapies for patient-specific approaches to the treatment of diseases. ■

JN.1 新冠疫苗保護力更強
有效降低重症死亡風險

衛生局針對現時流行的新冠病毒變異株，向6個月或以上居民提供新型的JN.1單價mRNA新冠疫苗。

建議以下高風險人士儘快接種：



60歲或以上人士



慢性病人 / 免疫力低下人士



孕婦



前線服務人員

請即預約接種

更多接種詳情，請參閱《JN.1 新冠疫苗各年齡組的最新接種建議》圖文冊。



最新日期：2024.11.28
澳門衛生局 / 衛生局 / 衛生局

This poster in Chinese released by the Health Bureau (SSM) last night promotes its new COVID-19 JN.1 vaccinations.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.04 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.04 percent to close at 19,159.20 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 0.16 percent to end at 6,851.56 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index edged down 0.31 percent to close at 4,221.99 points. – Xinhua