

Police bust gang livestreaming gambling sessions in local casino for online bets

Yuki Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) on Wednesday busted a mainland criminal gang for surreptitiously livestreaming, on at least 11 occasions, gambling sessions in local casinos since August last year, while offering online bets to its clients in the mainland via WeChat, involving “under-the-table bets” of about HK\$5.36 million (5.52 million patacas).

The Judiciary Police held yesterday a special press conference at their headquarters in Zape about the organised crime case, during which PJ Gaming-related Crimes Division Chief Vong Chi Hou announced the arrest of three mainlanders, including a suspected key member of the gang – a 35-year-old man surnamed Wan; a 31-year-old man surnamed Li; and a 29-year-old surnamed Peng.

According to Vong, his division received intelligence last September that some people at a VIP room of a casino in Cotai were filming gambling sessions with their mobile phones with the aim of conducting illegal betting activities, involving at least 10 members of the gang, including Wan.

On Wednesday, according to



The three hooded suspects from the mainland are escorted by Judiciary Police (PJ) officers from the PJ headquarters in Zape to a vehicle after yesterday's special press conference. – Photos: Yuki Lei

Evidence such as Hong Kong dollar banknotes and casino chips as well as a miniature earphone is displayed during yesterday's press conference.

Vong, the gang sent several of its members to the VIP room to repeat “the same old trick” – Wan for placing bets on a gambling table, Li livestreaming the gambling sessions on WeChat and Peng marking down the number of winners and losers in each gambling session. The trio were caught red-handed by PJ officers at the scene. In the operation, the Judiciary

Police seized HK\$344,000 in chips, HK\$600,000 in cash, miniature earphones and a mobile phone used for parallel betting, Vong noted.

Vong said that the trio refused to cooperate with the police, but, according to PJ investigators, the casino chips placed by the trio on gambling tables that day amounted to HK\$200,000, HK\$280,000 and HK\$280,000, while

the parallel wagers exceeded more than HK\$1 million.

Since last August, the gang had conducted 11 live-streaming gambling activities, each lasting about half an hour to an hour, with only HK\$790,000 having been wagered at local casinos but about HK\$5.36 million having been staked “under the table” via



WeChat, according to Vong. Vong said at yesterday afternoon's press conference that the Judiciary Police believe that a dozen more suspects, mainly mainlanders, were still at large, while most of the online gamblers were mainlanders. The Judiciary Police transferred the trio to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, where they are facing charges of organised crime and illegal gambling operations. According to Law No. 20/2024 on Combating Illegal Gambling Offences, the suspects face up to eight years in jail. ■



Binbin (“Ice Ice”), mascot of the 9th Asian Winter Games Harbin 2025, interacts with spectators before the mixed doubles Round Robin Group A Session 8 match between Hung Ling-Yue/Yan Ho Tin Martin of Hong Kong and Enkhzaya Ganbat/Bayar Bulgankhuu of Mongolia in the curling event at 2025 Asian Winter Games in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, yesterday. (More about the Games on pages 7 and 14) – Xinhua

‘We will not be bullied’, says S African president after US barbs

CAPE TOWN – South Africa will not be bullied, President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a national address yesterday, after criticism this week of his government from senior US officials including President Donald Trump.

“We are witnessing the rise of nationalism, protectionism, the pursuit of narrow interests, and the decline of common cause,” Ramaphosa said.

“This is the world that we as South Africa, a developing economy, must now navigate, but

we are not daunted,” he said. “We are, as South Africans, a resilient people, and we will not be bullied.”

Trump asserted this week that South Africa was “confiscating” land via an expropriation act signed last month, a charge the government denies and has described as “misinformation”.

The US leader, who is advised by South Africa-born Elon Musk, also accused Pretoria of “treating certain classes of people very badly” and threatened to cut funding to the country. – AFP

Macau's most popular English-language newspaper – Your trustworthy source of news & views

The Macau Post Daily

Xi to attend opening ceremony of 9th Asian Winter Games

President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games, which will be held today in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province.

– Story on p. 7

Israel orders army to plan to let Palestinians leave Gaza

Israel's defence minister ordered the army yesterday to prepare for “voluntary” departures from Gaza, after US President Donald Trump proposed moving Palestinians out of the territory.

– Story on p. 10

Scientists' conference kicks off global AI summit in Paris

Global experts began debating the threats and promise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a two-day gathering in Paris yesterday, ahead of a summit of world leaders on the fast-moving technology.

– Story on p. 11

UM holds lecture on paedagogical grammar in int'l education of Chinese language

Rui Pastorin

A lecture entitled "Paedagogical Grammar: Its Status and Formation in the International Education of Chinese" has recently been held at the University of Macau (UM).

Held by the public university's Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH) and delivered by Columbia University's Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures Professor Liu Lening, the lecture was the third in the "Macao Humanities Forum" for the 2024/2025 academic year, according to a Wednesday statement by the university.

The statement said that Prof. Liu first discussed the background of "how international Chinese education became a discipline in higher education, and presented an ontological perspective on the

discipline". He also noted that the core of international Chinese education research is "the structure and function of Chinese as reflected in paedagogical grammar".

The statement noted that Liu also noted that grammar "should be guided by the principles of accuracy, conciseness and sufficiency", and he advocated the incorporation of linguistics' latest findings into pedagogy.

Prof. Liu illustrated "the need for Chinese language teachers to explain subtle grammatical issues" through three examples involving "來" (lái, a Chinese verb meaning "come" in English), along with the significance of addressing the differences between learners of different linguistic backgrounds and their grammatical errors.

Questions on strategies for applying paedagogical grammar* in teaching scenarios were also raised and discussed during a Q&A session.

A speech by FAH Assistant Dean Joaquim Kuong Io Kei highlighted the importance of learning Chinese, adding that new perspectives and approaches in paedagogical grammar can help address the challenges faced by its learners. ■

**Paedagogical grammar refers to the branch of grammar that is specifically designed for teaching and learning languages. It focuses on the rules and structures of a language as they are taught to learners, rather than how they are used by native speakers in natural contexts. – Poe*



This undated handout photo provided by the University of Macau (UM) shows Columbia University's Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures Prof. Liu Lening delivering a lecture at UM recently.

Observatory forecasts mercury to drop to 9°C this weekend

Ginnie Liang

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) said in a statement yesterday that it expects the temperature to significantly drop this weekend, to 10°C or even 9°C.

As a northeast monsoon will strengthen today, this weekend's temperature is forecast to fall significantly, and the weather will be sunny but cold, windy and very dry.

However, last night's forecast by the observatory indicates that the intense winter monsoon is moderating at a fast rate and temperatures are expected to start recovering rapidly from the beginning of next week, with lows

of 16 degrees or above by the middle of next week.

The weather for the Lantern Festival next Wednesday, February 12, is expected to be generally cloudy, with a few light showers and mist, and relatively high humidity, SMG forecast.

Residents are advised to keep abreast of the possibly rapid changes of the weather and alerts from the government and to prepare for potential temperature fluctuations, the bureau said, adding that special attention should be paid to the health of the elderly, children, and those with underlying health conditions during the expected cold spell. ■



This graphic released by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) yesterday forecasts cold weather for the next few days.

Local woman cheated out of HK\$7.09 million in online-dating scam: police

Yuki Lei

A local middle-aged woman lost HK\$7.09 million in an online-dating scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Ho, the victim met on Facebook in mid-October last year a mainland man who claimed to have worked in Macau as a cybersecurity engineer more than 10 years ago. The two then became an online couple, but the man refused to meet in person on the grounds that he was currently working for a company based in Singapore.

On being tricked by the "boyfriend" that he was aware of the contents of his company's networking platform and that he could place bets and make a profit without any risk involved, the victim made cash deposits, on several occasions, into a Hong Kong bank account provided by the "boyfriend" starting in December 1 last year, including HK\$150,000 in cash deposited on December 1 and HK\$340,000 deposited on December 17, Ho noted.

The victim did not report the scam to the police until Wednesday when she was asked by her "boyfriend" to delete all her chat records with him,



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday's regular press conference at the PJ headquarters in Zape. – Photo: Yuki Lei

after which she lost contact with him, reporting a total loss of HK\$7.09 million.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Police on Wednesday received another report from a local male senior citizen about losing 1,559 yuan (1,714 patacas) in a credit card theft case late last month. ■

IAM urges public to stop eating French made raw milk cheese product

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) warned the public yesterday against eating a raw milk cheese imported from France under the brand of "PERRIN VERMOT", which might have been contaminated with shigatoxin-producing E. coli (STEC).

The Centre for Food Safety of Hong Kong announced on Wednesday that the problematic product, namely "MORBIER LAIT CRU DE SCEY AOP 7KG MEULE", has a net weight of 6.56 kilograms, and best-before-date of February 23, 2025, with batch number 34008, was found to contain STEC.

According to the statement, STEC infection is mainly caused by drinking contaminated water and eating undercooked or contaminated food. Symptoms include abdominal cramps, bloody diarrhoea, and occasional intestinal infections such as fever and vomiting, the statement said.

In severe cases, acute renal failure, haemolytic anaemia and thrombocytopenia, and complications such as haemolytic uremic syndrome may result, the statement said.

The Macau Health Bureau said in a statement



This undated handout photo downloaded from the website of the chess distributor company Iberconseil shows the problematic French-made raw milk cheese product under the brand of "PERRIN VERMOT".

yesterday that it has issued a food alert to warn local retailers about the product, while also dispatching IAM officials to look out for the product.

The bureau urged consumers to stop using the product immediately if they are in possession of it, adding that shops should also immediately cease selling the product if they have it on their shelves.

Anyone who has food-related enquiries may call the IAM's Food Safety Hotline on 2833 8181. ■

Published since Aug 2004

- Director & Chief Editor – Harald Brüning
- Office Manager – Sally Chong
- Marketing Manager – Kevin Cheung King Lok
- Managing Editor – Maria Cheang Ut Meng
- Editors – Lesley Wells, Johnny Un
- Senior Reporter – Tony Wong
- Reporters – Rui Pastorin, Yuki Lei, Ginnie Liang, William Chan
- Chief Graphic Designer – Simon Wang
- Graphic Designer – Colin Zhong
- Administrative Assistants – Ester Mak, Carl Leong
- Printed by Tipografia Welfare Lda., 82-86 Rua dos Pescadores
- Wire services – AFP, Xinhua



Macau Weather

COLD.
MAINLY CLOUDY.
LIGHT RAIN AT FIRST.
FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, BECOMING FORCE 5 TO 6 NORTHERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 45% AND 85%.



12°C~17°C

Source: SMG

Local airport logs over 170,000 passengers in CNY holiday

Yuki Lei

The Macau International Airport recorded over 170,000 passengers between last Wednesday and this Tuesday, i.e., between first and seventh days of the Chinese New Year (CNY), with peaks of 26,000 and 25,000 passengers on Sunday and Monday respectively.

“...Macau International Airport Company Limited (CAM) reported growth in passenger traffic during the Chinese New Year (CNY) season in 2025,” with a 5.4 percent increase in passenger arrivals between the first and seventh days of the year, compared to the same holiday period last year, the airport operator said in a statement yesterday.

According to the CAM statement, the aircraft movements (takeoffs and touchdowns) handled between last Wednesday and this Tuesday amounted to 1,265, a growth of 6.7 percent period on period, with passengers from mainland routes accounting for 50 percent of the total passenger volume, while the remainder came from international and Taiwan routes, accounting for 33 percent and 17 percent respectively.

“In comparison to the same period during the Chinese New Year in [pre-pandemic] 2019, both passenger traffic and flight movements have recovered to 80 percent,” the operator said, noting that the most frequent destinations were Shanghai, Taipei, and Bangkok.

Meanwhile, the airport handled nearly 680,000 passengers and 5,261 flight movements last month, a year-on-year growth of 15.1 percent and 8.2 percent respectively.

In the statement, the airport operator said that it will gradually launch preferential policies, with a view to encouraging airlines to increase the number of international passengers and open up new international routes. ■

Sands 10K slated for March 16, registration starts tomorrow

Kristina Vallesteros

The 2025 Sands China Macao International 10K will take place on March 16, with registration for the 10K category to open at 9 a.m. tomorrow, and at 9 a.m. on Sunday for the Fun Run category.

The event marks its fifth edition since its launch in 2021.

A press conference was held at The Londoner Macao in Cotai yesterday, where event details were announced.

There are 7,000 places open for the 10K and 3,000 for the Fun Run. The runners will start at 7 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. respectively from Sai Van Lake Square, and finish at Olympic Sports Centre Stadium in Taipa. “The FUNkiest Costume Award”, a popular side event, will make a return this year, with the theme of “Ocean Run”.

Locals can register for the 10K for 100 patacas and the Fun Run for 50 patacas. Non-Locals, meanwhile, can register for 200 patacas and 70 patacas respectively.

The race includes prize money for the general classification of 10K, ranging from US\$300 to US\$10,000. There’s also an additional prize category for Macau winners, where the prize money ranges from 1,000 patacas to 10,000 patacas.

The event is jointly organised by the Sports Bureau (ID), Sands China, and the General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM). In his speech, ID President Luís Gomes said that the upcoming event “aims to propel the development of the local sporting industry, engage diverse



Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai (from left to right), Sports Bureau (ID) President Luís Gomes and General Association of Athletics of Macau (AGAM) Chan Pou Sin pose after yesterday’s press conference at The Londoner Macao in Cotai. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

communities, and encourage both residents and tourists to participate in sport”.

In his speech, Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai highlighted the popularity of the event, with around 10,000 runners from around the world competing in Macau annually, and the number of participating countries and regions increased to 48 last year. He noted that the continuous organisation of the event aims to “raise public health awareness and enrich local sporting events,

while showcasing Macau’s dynamism and liveliness to the world.”

Moreover, speaking with reporters on the sidelines of yesterday’s press conference, AGAM President Chan Pou Sin said that “the Cotai Strip” will be added to the race route, as well as “check-in points” to let runners experience local culture. He also said that the organisers hope to invite many overseas runners and previous champions to compete in the race. ■

授權機構
Sub-organizer
Sponsored by



主辦
Organizers



www.macao10k.com

Sands China achieves ISO 14001 Certification for Environmental Management System

Rui Pastorin

Sands China has recently achieved ISO 14001 certification for its Environmental Management System (EMS) in its “continuous efforts to utilise best practices and meet international standards throughout its operations”, according to a statement by the integrated resort (IR) operator last Monday.

The statement noted that ISO certifications are awarded by London-based British Standards Institution (BSI) Group, the world’s largest national standards and certification body, which audits and provides certification to companies worldwide “which implement and comply with its management systems standards”.

The statement said that the awarding of the certification “ensures that an organisation’s environmental management system (EMS) effectively and consistently identifies, manages, monitors and controls environmental issues in a holistic manner”.

Sands China Executive Vice President of Operations Sean McCreery was quoted by the statement as saying that the achievement “is the result of the concerted efforts of team members throughout the entire company, in cooperation with suppliers and various stakeholders”.

McCreery added: “We are committed to integrating environmental protection into our daily operations and cultivating a green culture, and we will continue to apply environmental management measures to various aspects of our business in accordance with the guidelines of the ISO14001 international standard.”.

Moreover, the statement said that Sands China holds ISO certifications for effective management of Food safety (ISO 22000:2018); Facilities and Conventions and Exhibitions (ISO 9001:2015); Information Security (ISO 27001:2013); Event Sustainability (ISO 20121:2012); and Occupational Health and Safety (ISO 45001:2018).



This undated handout photo shows British Standards Institution (BSI) Group enterprise solutions and marketing Director Raymond Liu (fourth from left) presenting an ISO 14001:2015 certificate to Sands China Executive Vice President of Operations Sean McCreery (fifth from left) and other company representatives.

SJM launches new look for ‘Made in Macau’ retail space



This undated handout image recently provided by SJM Resorts shows the revitalised and reimagined “Made in Macau” retail space at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP).

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts has said in a recent statement that it has recently unveiled a new and revitalised look for its “Made in Macau” retail space at the new Shop 143B at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai.

The integrated resort operator has been operating the space at GLP since 2022, the statement said.

Located on Level 1 of the integrated resort, the retail space features eight local brands that sell products such as handmade bags, personal and skin care, snacks and creative products using artificial intelligence (AI). The brands are namely Wayuu Macau; Belongs Jewelry & Art; Cloé Jewelry & Art; Forest Bath; LIANA LIFE; DR.AI; Lovely Shop; and Macau Puyue.

Throughout the reimagined space are also images and design elements featuring SJM’s mascot “Sam the Rooster” wearing an “I love Macau” outfit.

The statement quoted SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu Fung as saying that the space “reflects SJM’s commitment to contributing to the community. We believe that a premium physical retail platform allows local MSMEs to break through marketing constraints, connect directly with international visitors, broaden their business opportunities, and play a vital role in Macau’s retail landscape”.

“We hope ‘Made in Macau’ will not only serve as a window showcasing Macau’s creativity but also as a convergence point of tradition and innovation, allowing visitors to deeply experience the city’s heritage”, Ho added.

The space is open from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Valentine’s Day offerings at JW Marriott Hotel Macau

Rui Pastorin

Valentine’s Day-themed dining offerings are set to be available at JW Marriott Hotel at Galaxy Macau in Cotai.

Valentine’s Day is celebrated on February 14.

According to a statement from the hotel operator, a Valentine’s Dinner Buffet will be available at Urban Kitchen on February 14 and 15, with Slow-roasted Orange-fed Australian Wagyu, Italian Beef Carpaccio, and Black Truffle Honey Glazed Ham among the highlights. Valentine’s desserts as well as international specialties will also be available.

The statement said that the buffet is priced at 788 patacas per adult and 395 patacas for children on February 14, with a free flow of drinks to be available, while one can add 158 patacas to upgrade to a free-flow of sparkling rosé and house wines. Meanwhile, on February 15, the prices are 728 patacas per adult and 395 patacas per child.

Moreover, at The Lounge, the Valentine’s Day



This undated handout photo provided by JW Marriott Hotel Macau earlier this week shows the Valentine’s Day Menu to be available at The Lounge.

Menu, priced at 1,288 for two, will be available from February 14 to 16, the statement noted. Offerings include premium oysters and caviar, a prelude to the menu’s seafood platter that features a whole Boston lobster, shrimps, half-shell mussels, conchs, and snow crab legs, along with a bottle of Perrier-Jouët Rosé Champagne

Bookings and enquiries can be made by contacting 8886 6228.

MGM, JCDecaux unveil Macau’s 1st distinctive smart bus shelter

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator MGM said in a recent statement that it has collaborated with JCDecaux* (Macau) Limited to set up Macau’s first distinctive smart bus shelter, which is located right outside MGM COTAI.

The statement said that the shelter has been in operation since January 27 and features a one-of-a-kind contemporary design that has “a perfect blend of functionality, sustainability, and smart technology while it harmonises with its surroundings”, the statement said.

The statement added that like other new bus shelters, smart features such as digital screens displaying real-time bus arrivals, weather updates, and civil protection messages are included. It also features USB charging ports and accessibility features such as a braille plate, along with a spacious waiting area for those with reduced mobility, according to the statement.

The statement said that the bus shelter’s design was generated using artificial intelligence (AI), drawn from crafted prompts from the MGM Design Team. The statement added that after the initial concept generation, further testing and validation were conducted in collaboration with JCDecaux (Macau) Limited to ensure the structural integrity, safety and overall functionality.

“This collaboration with JCDecaux (Macau) Limited demonstrates both parties’ commitment to optimise the public’s commute experience in the vicinity of MGM COTAI by providing ultimate comfort, convenience and real-time information to bus passengers”, the integrated resort operator said.

*JCDecaux is a global outdoor advertising company headquartered in France. It is known for its innovative advertising solutions, particularly in street furniture, transport advertising, and digital displays. Established in 1964, JCDecaux specialises in providing advertising space on various platforms, including bus shelters, billboards, and transit systems. – Poe



This undated handout photo recently provided by integrated resort operator MGM shows Macau’s first distinctive bus shelter outside MGM COTAI.

IAM to host kids' creative colouring competition on 'Chinese Dream, Homeland Ties'

Ginnie Liang

In order to strengthen children's national concept and sense of national pride, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) will organise a Children's Creative Colouring Competition themed "Chinese Dream, Homeland Ties" from February to March. All primary school students in Macau are eligible to take part in the competition, and winning entries will be displayed in public, according to an IAM statement yesterday.

There are two types of colouring sheets for the junior group (Primary 1 to Primary 3) and the senior group (Primary 4 to Primary 6), the statement said, adding that apart from Chinese characters, there are also design elements such as golden lotus flowers and auspicious cloud decorations, so as to convey to the children the close connection

between mainland and Macau, as well as the characteristics of the nation's traditional culture.

Participants will be required to colour in the shapes on the paper and can create their own designs within the reserved space to enrich the content of the original drawings, the statement said, adding that through drawing and colouring, children are encouraged to use colours instead of words to show the nation's unity and cultural richness, and to express their love for the country and the hope for national unity.

There will be one first prize, one second prize, one third prize, three merit prizes and 10 selected prizes in each of the two categories, the statement said, adding that winners will receive shopping coupons, book coupons and trophies, and the winning entries will be displayed at the



This image provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows one of the colouring sheets for its upcoming Children's Creative Colouring Competition themed "Chinese Dream, Homeland Ties".

IAM's Civic Education Resource Centre in Iao Hon district.

Colouring sheets are available

at the Civic Education Resource Centre from Monday to March 31,

and can be submitted within the

same timeline the statement said, adding that upon completion of the entries, participants are also required to fill in the application form and submit it to the centre.

For enquiries, members of the public can visit IAM's website at www.iam.gov.mo, or call its hotline at 2833 7676.

IAM to hold nature activities in Areia Preta

In addition, IAM said in a separate statement yesterday that it will organise two Chinese New Year nature activities in Areia Preta Park tomorrow and at the open space next to Flower City Park in Taipa on Sunday, from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be on-site handicraft workshops and games booths, in order to promote the bureau's greening message to members of the public, the statement said. ■

Macau govt to set up working group promoting Hengqin's development: Cheong

Tony Wong

The executive committee of the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin convened a meeting on Wednesday about the zone's high-quality development, where Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon said that with the objective of ensuring the implementation of President Xi Jinping's important instructions on Hengqin's development, the Macau government will set up a coordination group aiming to promote the zone's development, according to a statement published on the zone's official website yesterday.

Cheong heads the zone's executive committee. He is also the executive deputy director of the zone's management committee.

The zone's top decision-making body is its management committee, which is jointly headed by Guangdong Governor Wang Weizhong and Macau Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai.

The zone's executive committee, which is run under the management committee, is the body tasked with the zone's daily functioning and execution of tasks.

According to the statement, Cheong said during the meeting that the new working group will enable



This handout photo released on the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone's website yesterday shows Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon, who heads the zone's executive committee, addressing Wednesday's meeting about the zone's high-quality development.

Macau to strengthen its coordination with Guangdong Province to create synergetic effects in promoting the zone's development.

The meeting addressed the development path for the projected "Macau + Hengqin" modern industrial system, according to the statement.

Cheong also noted that the various speeches and instructions made by Xi during his inspection visit to Macau and Hengqin in December last year have provided clear directions for the zone to achieve its second-phase development goals. ■

9th History and Culture Ambassador Training Programme opens for enrolment

Ginnie Liang

In order to foster a deeper understanding of Macau's history and culture among local residents, especially the younger generation, the 9th edition of the "History and Culture Ambassador Training Programme", co-organised by the Macao Foundation (FM) and its History and Culture Committee as well as Macau Historical Education Association, will open for enrolment from Monday to February 28, the foundation said in a statement yesterday.

According to the statement, this year's programme will offer theoretical learning and study tours for secondary school students and members of the public, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the content and value of Macau's history and culture.

Since 2018, eight editions of this programme have been held, training nearly 1,000 ambassadors



This poster provided by the Macao Foundation (FM) yesterday promotes the upcoming 9th History and Culture Ambassador Training Programme.

of history and culture, and the programme has been well received by schools and the general public, the statement said.

According to the statement, the contents of the course include Macau's culture during the Ming and Qing dynasties, the social culture and development of modern Macau, the development of Macau's cultural heritage and World Heritage sites, the creation

of multimedia resources, and guided tours.

This year's course will further enhance the contents and add a new course on Macau's intangible cultural heritage, as well as arranging for the participants to go on a study tour after the course is over, and to teach them guided tours so as to learn more about Macau history and culture beyond theories and enhance their practical experience, so that they can pass on Macau's history and culture to the next generation.

The programme prospectus can be downloaded from the website of the Macao Foundation's History and Culture Committee <https://www.fmac.org.mo/hc/>. Those who are interested in participating in the programme can register online by logging on to the online registration system and filling in the relevant information free of charge. ■

Driver nabbed for drunk-driving: police

Yuki Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) on Wednesday arrested a drunken driver, whose alcohol concentration was 1.61 grams of alcohol per litre of blood, according to a regular press conference yesterday.

PSP spokesman Wong Chi Weng identified the suspect as a local man surnamed Ho in his thirties.

In the early hours of Wednesday, Ho in his car was stopped at a police roadblock in Rua da Ribeira do Patane (沙梨頭海邊) and found to be reeking of alcohol, according to Wong. Ho was given a breathalyser test which showed that his alcohol concentration was 1.61 grams of alcohol per litre of blood, confirming his drunk-driving offence, Lam said.

Under questioning, Ho admitted to having drunk alcoholic beverages in Rua do Visconde Paco de Arcos (巴素打爾古街) in the Inner Harbour area.

Ho, who told the police that he's unemployed, has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a drunk-driving charge. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows the drunk-driving suspect being escorted to a PSP station in Nam Van.

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 1.43 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 1.43 percent to close at 20,891.62 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index jumped 1.64 percent to end at 7,690.35 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 2.62 percent to close at 5,059.38 points. — Xinhua

Roadworks on thoroughfare in Taipa to start this month

Project needed for installing pipes & cables for new building

Tony Wong

Roadworks will be carried out on a section of Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen (孫逸仙博士大馬路), one of Taipa's main thoroughfares, later this month for the installation of underground pipes and cables for a newly completed residential building there, because of which the section will be partially closed to traffic in phases for about 30 days, according to a statement by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) yesterday.

The 700-metre-long Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen runs between Rotunda Dr. Carlos Augusto Corrêa Paes d'Assumpção (宋玉生博士圓形地), the roundabout outside the Altira Macau casino-hotel, and Rotunda Ouvidor Arriaga (亞利雅架圓形地), a roundabout located near Taipa Village.

Rotunda Dr. Sun Yat Sen (孫逸仙博士圓形地) is situated midway between the two ends of Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

The two-way Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen has two lanes in each direction.

According to yesterday's statement, the upcoming roadwork project will be carried out on the section between Rotunda Dr. Sun Yat Sen and Rotunda Ouvidor



Public buses, cars and taxis drive along Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen yesterday where a newly completed residential building (far, left) is located. – Photo: Tony Wong

Arriaga, where the newly completed residential building is located.

The statement said that the roadwork project is scheduled to start at around the middle of this month.

During the upcoming roadworks, vehicular traffic restrictions will be in place in the section as it will be partially closed to traffic in different phases and by different areas during the project's execution.

The statement underlined that with the aim of reducing the adverse impact of the project's

duration on the traffic in the area, the government will implement special measures aiming to reduce the length of roadworks requiring the section's partial traffic closure to 30 days plus from the originally planned 80 days plus.

In addition, the statement noted, the three public bus stops on Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen's section between Rotunda Dr. Sun Yat Sen and Rotunda Ouvidor Arriaga, namely outside the Chun Leong Garden, Chun U Villa, and Treasure Garden residential estates



This undated handout photo released by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) yesterday shows a DSAT official briefing members of the Traffic Consultative Council on site about the avenue's upcoming roadwork project, on the footbridge on the avenue's section between Rotunda Dr. Sun Yat Sen and Rotunda Ouvidor Arriaga.

respectively, will be suspended in phases during the project's execution. The statement advised public bus passengers on the affected routes to choose the stop before or after the suspended stop.

Yesterday's statement also said that the Transport Bureau, in collaboration with several other public entities, has recently held several sessions briefing representatives of the respective community associations, schools, kindergartens and creches as well as those from other affected sectors

about the upcoming roadwork project and the government's various special traffic measures to be implemented during the project's execution.

The government has also briefed members of the Traffic Consultative Council on site about the matter, the statement said.

The statement underlined that the opinions gathered during the briefing sessions will enable the government to further optimise its temporary traffic measures for the roadwork project. ■

'Ne Zha 2' becomes China's all-time top-grossing film, total forecast raised to 10 billion yuan

Xinhua writer Zhang Yunlong

BEIJING – "Ne Zha 2," the animated feature film that has taken China's box office by storm, has officially surpassed the 2021 war epic "The Battle at Lake Changjin" to become the highest-grossing film of all time in China.

Ticketing platform Maoyan has revised its domestic box office forecast for "Ne Zha 2" upward to an impressive 10.85 billion yuan (US\$1.51 billion), making it the first Chinese film ever projected to surpass the 10-billion-yuan mark in total earnings.

By 10:30 p.m. yesterday, "Ne Zha 2" had already grossed over 6.06 billion yuan. Just hours earlier, by 1:25 p.m. yesterday, the animated feature's earnings had exceeded 5.77 billion yuan – the previous record held by "The Battle at Lake Changjin" – in just eight days and five hours.

With these achievements under its belt, "Ne Zha 2" has firmly cemented its place at the pinnacle of China's cinematic history. This milestone comes on the heels of its predecessor, "Ne Zha," which grossed 5 billion yuan and topped the country's box office charts in 2019.

The sequel continues the story of the iconic character from Chinese mythology. Set after the events of the first film, it follows Nezha and Aobing as their souls are saved but their physical forms face dissolution. With the help of the immortal Taiyi Zhenren, who uses the Seven-Colored Lotus to reconstruct their bodies, the two heroes must face numerous challenges.

The film combines breathtaking animation with a rich narrative rooted in traditional folklore, taking audiences on an emotional journey that blends action, humor, and heart.

"Ne Zha 2" has captivated audiences and maintained its strong box office momentum since its release during the Chinese New Year.

The animated feature alone accounted for half of what has amounted to a historic 2025 Spring Festival holiday box office total – a total which surpassed 9.5 billion yuan from Jan. 28 to Feb. 4.

Its broad appeal is evident in its audience demographics. Over 30 percent of "Ne Zha 2" viewers attended cinemas in groups, a notably high figure

compared to other films, said Beacon analyst Chen Jin, citing data from the platform.

The sequel has drawn large numbers of young families, making it a film that resonates across all ages.

Additionally, "Ne Zha 2" has successfully attracted a significant number of viewers aged 30 to 39, a group that had largely retreated from cinemas in recent years, according to Chen. These mid-to-low-frequency moviegoers have returned to cinemas thanks to the film's exceptional word-of-mouth popularity.

This robust performance marks a major win for China's film industry, which faced a tough year in 2024, with box office revenues down 23 percent from 2023 and 34 percent from the pre-pandemic peak in 2019.

In this context, the record-breaking success of "Ne Zha 2" is being hailed as a much-needed boost for the sector.

Maoyan analyst Lai Li described the film as a major milestone, particularly for China's growing animation industry. "The success of 'Ne Zha 2' has set the tone for the year," Lai said. "It highlights the incredible resilience and growth potential of China's film market, and we're excited to see how the rest of 2025 unfolds."

Beyond its domestic box office figures, "Ne Zha 2" is poised to make waves internationally and act as a cultural bridge offering global audiences a glimpse into China's rich mythology and traditions.

Director Yang Yu, known as Jiaozi, has emphasized that the international success of Chinese cinema depends on the intrinsic charm of the works themselves. "It's about whether a script, a story and its characters can move audiences worldwide," he said in a video interview. "These are not things that can be outsourced."

Jiaozi also shared the personal journey the "Ne Zha" films have taken him on, explaining how the series has evolved from his own passion into a broad cultural phenomenon.

"The first step was creating something I loved, and domestic audiences loved it too," he said. "Over time, I've worked to improve it, to refine my craft. I believe that one day, new ideas, deeper meanings, and new soul will emerge from it, and the whole world will be able to appreciate it."

His views have been echoed by film industry experts. Rao Shuguang, president of the China Film Critics Association, attributed the film's extraordinary success to its fusion of traditional Chinese mythology and modern storytelling, which makes it highly relatable to contemporary audiences.

"The film proves that a good movie needs a compelling story, sharp storytelling, and well-developed characters," Rao told Xinhua, voicing hope that China will continue to produce high-quality films that engage audiences and draw more people to cinemas.

– Xinhua



Image courtesy of imdb.com.