

Kou vows to enhance governance level through legislature's supervisory powers

Tony Wong

Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In reaffirmed yesterday that the legislature is committed to enhancing the government's administrative level and effectiveness by exercising its supervisory powers.

Kou made the remarks in a speech during a Spring Festival luncheon hosted by the legislature for local journalists and correspondents working for media enterprises in the mainland, Hong Kong and Portugal. Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) Director Inês Chan Lou also attended the luncheon held at MGM MACAU in Nape.

Kou noted that 2024 marked the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, the 3rd Anniversary of the establishment of the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, and the year in which the zone's first-phase development goals were achieved. Last year was also the inaugural year of the government implementing its

plan for appropriately diversifying Macau's economy (2024-2028), Kou pointed out.

Xi's visit boosts confidence in 'One Country, Two Systems'

In this important historic moment, Kou said, President Xi Jinping "once again" visited Macau, attending the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland and the inauguration ceremony of the sixth-term government of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR), where he delivered an important speech, which, Kou said, has greatly boosted local residents' confidence in the institutional advantages brought about by the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and the development prospects that it provides for Macau, inspired residents to explore new horizons and create new glories, and motivated them to make greater achievements in Macau's development and strive for the great goal of building China into a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation.

Kou said that Xi's speech highly acknowledged the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" principle with Macau characteristics, providing a clear direction for Macau's future development and fundamental guidance for Macau to make better achievements.

Positive interaction & sincere cooperation

In the current legislative term – which started on October 16, 2021 and is scheduled to end on August 15 this year, Kou said, 2024 was the busiest year for the Legislative Assembly, during which, he said, all legislators, with an active and pragmatic work attitude and a strong sense of political responsibility, diligently performed their duties in accordance with the law. Working in unity with the government, fostering positive interaction, and engaging in sincere cooperation, Kou said, the legislature continuously enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of its work last year, ensuring that all tasks were carried out and completed in a solid, orderly and steady manner.

Continued on p.6



Legislative Assembly (AL) President Kou Hoi In addresses yesterday's Spring Festival luncheon hosted by the legislature at MGM MACAU in Nape. – Photo: Ginnie Liang



Macau players celebrate scoring during the men's Ice Hockey placement 13-14 match against Bahrain at the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, yesterday. Macau won the game 4-3. – Xinhua

Israel says Hamas announcement 'complete violation' of Gaza truce

JERUSALEM – Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz yesterday called an announcement by the Palestinian militant group Hamas that it would postpone the release of hostages a "complete violation" of the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

"Hamas' announcement to stop releasing Israeli hostages is a complete violation of the ceasefire agreement and the deal to release the hostages. I have instructed the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] to prepare at the highest level of alert for any possible scenario in Gaza," Katz said in a statement.

Earlier, the Palestinian militant group Hamas said it was postponing the next release of hostages held captive in Gaza "until further notice," accusing Israel of failing to meet its commitments.

"The release of the prisoners [Israeli hostages], which was scheduled for next Saturday, February 15, 2025, will be postponed until further notice, pending the occupation's compliance and retroactive fulfilment of the past weeks' obligations," Abu Ubaida, spokesman for the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said in a statement. – AFP

– (More on p.10)

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The Macau Post Daily

China deplores US-Japan statement interfering in its domestic affairs

China deplores and strongly opposes the latest joint statement made by the United States and Japan concerning China, as the statement is brazen interference in China's domestic affairs, foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said yesterday. – Story on p. 7

Teacher fatally stabs 8-year-old student at S Korean school: Yonhap

A teacher stabbed an eight-year-old student to death at an elementary school in South Korea yesterday, local media reported, citing authorities.

– Story on p. 9

'Good morning, teacher!' Senegal introduces English in nurseries

"Good morning, teacher!" a chorus of Senegalese five-year-olds responded at a school where English has been introduced alongside the official language of French.

– Story on p. 11

Taipa's Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen to partially close to traffic for pipework

Yuki Lei

The section of Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen (孫逸仙博士大馬路) between Rotunda Ouvidor Arriaga (亞利雅架圓形地) and Rotunda Dr. Sun Yat Sen (孫逸仙博士圓形地) in Taipa will be partially closed to traffic for about a month on Thursday as part of a piping project, to coincide with the inauguration of a new residential building, according to a press conference yesterday.

The Transport Bureau (DSAT), project contractor and Public Security Police (PSP) held the joint press conference at the DSAT headquarters yesterday.

Ruan Qisheng, the project manager, said: "This project is the core of the operation of the building's water supply, electricity supply, drainage and other infrastructural facilities," pointing out the direct impact of the peripheral piping connections on the completion and official acceptance of the whole building and the delivery procedures: "Failure to complete the connection in time will result



A representative of Shing Lung Construction & Engineering Company Limited as well as officials from the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and an officer from the Public Security Police (PSP) address yesterday's press conference about the temporary traffic measures on Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen in Taipa. — Photos: Yuki Lei

in...delaying the deadline for handing over the building's flats to their owners".

According to yesterday afternoon's press conference, the pipework will take 120 days and are expected to be completed by June 12, covering the area from Rua de Zhanjiang to the pedestrian walkway alongside Rua dos Açores, as well

as the zebra crossing and pavement at Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen. Two trees and part of the flower beds there will be temporarily removed until the works are completed.

Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen will be closed to traffic in phases between Saturday and March 15, with traffic closure towards Rotunda Dr. Sun Yat Sen and the conversion of the other lane to reverse traffic between Saturday and March 1 and the closure of Rotunda Ouvidor Arriaga on March 2-15. Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in Taipa will remain open to limited traffic this Thursday and Friday.

The Transport Bureau said it expected that traffic heading



This image shown during yesterday's press conference shows the section of Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen in Taipa where the pipework will start on Saturday.

towards Lago Building (also known as Lakeside Building) and the Friendship Bridge will be diverted to Rua do Porto (波爾圖街); traffic heading towards Estrada Governador Nobre de Carvalho (嘉樂庇總督馬路) will be diverted to Rua de Nam Keng (南京街), Avenida de Guimarães (基馬拉斯大馬路) and Avenida Olimpica (奧林匹克大馬路); while traffic heading towards Cotai will be diverted to Avenida do Estadio (運動場道) and Rua do Colégio (學院路).

During the closure period, i.e. from Sunday to March 15, the bureau will temporarily reinstate vehicular traffic on Avenida do Estadio towards

Rotunda da Piscina Olímpica on a trial basis. It is expected that 24 bus routes will be affected, including routes 21A, 25, 25AX, MT4, 36, 50, 50B, N2, N3, N5 and N6, according to the press conference.

In anticipation of the huge impact on traffic during the construction period, the Public Security Police said that additional traffic police officers would be deployed to patrols and step up law enforcement against illegal parking and occupation of loading and unloading areas. The police also appealed to the public to plan their routes in advance and stagger their trips to avoid the construction sections. ■

Indonesian waitress steals 12 bottles of perfume

William Chan

A female Indonesian non-resident worker (NRW) has been arrested for stealing a dozen boxes of perfume containing small bottles from a local shop, Public Security Police (PSP) Lam Keong said in a regular press conference yesterday.

The 25-year-old suspect surnamed Merissa works as a waitress.

According to Lam, the police received a report from an employee of a shop on the city's main square, Largo do Senado, that a woman had stolen two bottles of perfume worth 1,520 patacas in total.

The police identified Merissa as the suspect and intercepted her in Cotai on Thursday. Subsequently, the police found 11 boxes of perfume with labels of the shop still intact in her flat in the city centre.

Under questioning, Merissa told the police that she had stolen a total of 12 boxes of perfume worth 10,790 patacas on several occasions, and gifted one of them to her compatriot who had already left Macau.

Merissa has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft charge. ■



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows evidence including boxes of perfume stolen by the Indonesian suspect.

UM hosts tours to enhance public knowledge of campus

Adrian Vallesteros

In order to increase public awareness of what life might be like at the University of Macau (UM), the public university has been holding campus tours called "A Day at UM", which, according to a UM statement on Friday, have become quite popular because they attract participants from all over the world.

According to the statement, "international students agree that the campus tours have helped them quickly familiarise themselves with the campus environment". The statement noted that the tour is not limited to international students but also available by appointment for groups, organisations, families, prospective students, and academic staff visiting for exchange programmes.

"A Day at UM" is a free tour organised by the university's Communications Office (CO), which has led over 2,300 such tours, according to the statement. Groups of 10 or more members can attend per session. Two sessions of the tours, each lasting about an hour and a half, are offered from Monday through Saturday. The tours are available in English, Putonghua, and Cantonese.

The tours are guided by UM's Public Relations (PR) Student Ambassadors, being "docents" to introduce the campus facilities and a brief history of UM, and



This undated handout photo taken from the website of the University of Macau (UM) yesterday shows international students taking part in a campus tour conducted by a UM Student Ambassador (right).

share interesting stories and anecdotes about UM, aiming to enhance visitors' understanding of the university", according to the statement. The Student Ambassadors lead guests around the UM campus, including the University Gallery and the UM Library, who also have the opportunity to visit the iconic "Wall of Great Wisdom".

Additionally, the statement highlighted that guests will have the opportunity to participate in interactive games during the tour, in which souvenirs will be given to them as a way to remind them of their experience at UM. Major campus buildings also provide the UM Audio Tour, available in the

Putonghua, Cantonese, and English languages. It is globally accessible to virtually explore UM's campus amenities and surroundings through video tours and the "360° Virtual Tour" webpage: <https://www.um.edu.mo/visitors/campus-tour>. ■

*The word "docent" has different meanings depending on the context and region: In the United States, a docent is a volunteer or trained guide who leads tours in museums, art galleries, zoos, or historical sites. They provide educational information and insights to visitors. In Europe, a docent is a title for a senior academic position, often equivalent to an associate professor or lecturer. — DeepSeek

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Macau Weather

CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.
LIGHT RAIN LATER.
FORCE 3 TO 4 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 98%.



14°C~20°C

Source: SMG

Police bust 2 illegal currency exchange dealers

Ada Lei

A man and a woman from the mainland were arrested on Thursday for engaging in an illegal currency exchange case, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The 45-year-old female suspect surnamed Fang told the police that she is jobless. The 41-year-old male suspect is Fang's younger

brother, who told the police that he is a businessman.

According to Leng, the police received a report about an illegal currency exchange activity from a casino in Cotai on Thursday. The police later that day confirmed that Fang had given HK\$15,000 cash to a gambler, while the gambler had transferred 14,625 yuan to Fang's bank account in return.

The police discovered that Fang and her brother had repeatedly engaged in illegal currency exchange activities in casinos in Cotai, and that Fang and her brother lived in an illegal inn on Avenida do Coronel Mesquita (美副將大馬路). The police has confiscated the HK\$15,000.

Under questioning, Fang admitted to making a profit of HK\$400 when exchanging money for the gambler, while Fang's brother refused to cooperate.

Fang and her brother were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Friday, facing illegal currency exchange charges, according to Leng. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: AdaLei

Police warn of AI-enabled scammers impersonating customer service

William Chan

The Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a statement yesterday that according to recent news reports scammers are impersonating Google customer services and using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to simulate real human voices in order to defraud their victims.

The statement noted that victims who had fallen prey to the scammers have had their accounts hacked or blocked, with the fraudsters inducing the victims to reset their passwords in order to steal their account credentials.

The statement underlined that although the local police have so far not received any reports by

victims about fraud cases using AI deep fakes in Macau, they will closely monitor the situation in Macau and its neighbouring regions. If such cases emerge in Macau, they will immediately issue a warning to the public, according to the statement.

The statement urged the public to verify the authenticity of any messages about purported blocked or stolen accounts, as well as to be vigilant about disclosing personal, financial and security-sensitive information online.

Suspected fraud should immediately be reported to the Judiciary Police's Anti-Fraud Enquiry hotline on 8800 7777 or the crime report hotline at 993 for assistance. ■



This poster provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday warns residents of the threat by AI-enabled scams.

Lawmakers to study feasibility of launching driving licence penalty points scheme: Lei

Ginnie Liang

Directly-elected lawmaker-cum-unionist Ella Lei Cheng I, who chairs the Legislative Assembly's (AL) 1st Standing Committee, said yesterday that her committee is currently reviewing the government's road traffic amendment bill and discussing the feasibility of launching a driving licence penalty points scheme, involving the new government and legislature's legal advisors, as well as taking into account the view of all stakeholders.

Lei spoke to reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's Spring Festival lunch hosted by the legislature for some 130 local Chinese-, English and Portuguese-language media representatives at MGM MACAU in Nape.

Lei said that her committee has discussed the principles of the bill and submitted a list of detailed questions to the government, waiting for the government's response before scheduling the next meeting to continue reviewing the bill.

As the recent spate of bus-related traffic accidents resulting in

injuries has aroused public concern, Lei pointed out that the causes of each incident had to be analysed in depth, such as whether they were related to road design, including problems such as "unreasonable" positioning of zebra crossings and blind spots on bends, adding that if it was confirmed that any of the incidents was related to road design, immediate rectification should be made by the government to eliminate the potential hazards.

Lei stressed that apart from road design problems, there was also a need to step up road safety awareness campaigns, as she received reports from residents that pedestrians jaywalk on roads such as Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro (aka "San Ma Lou" in Cantonese), which was posing a serious danger to motorists and pedestrians alike.

Therefore, it was necessary to step up public awareness of road safety, especially for tourists unfamiliar with the road conditions in Macau, so as to raise the awareness level, Lei said. ■



Directly-elected lawmaker-cum-unionist Ella Lei Cheng I, who chairs the Legislative Assembly's (AL) 1st Standing Committee, talks to reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's Spring Festival lunch hosted by the legislature for the media, at MGM MACAU in Nape.

— Photo: Ginnie Liang

SmarTone to cease operations in Macau on June 5

Ginnie Liang

Chief Executive (CE) Sam Hou Fai announced in an executive order published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday that telecom operator SmarTone – Mobile Communications (Macau) Limited will officially cease the provision of mobile communication services in Macau on June 5.

According to the Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT), SmarTone has cooperated with rival telecom operator CTM, allowing SmarTone customers to join service plans offered by CTM, ensuring that customers' SIM card-based information and communication

technology services are not affected.

No complaints or feedback have been received from members of the public, according to CTT.

Listed in Hong Kong in 1996, SmarTone is a subsidiary of Sun Hung Kai Properties. It began its pursuit of 5G development in Hong Kong in May 2020, but never launched 5G service in Macau.

After SmarTone's exit from the local telecom market, there will be only three telecom operators running 4G services, namely CTM, and China Telecom (Macau) Company Limited and 3 Macau, with the former two running 5G services as well. ■



This is the SmarTone logo downloaded from the telecom operator's Facebook account last night.

Septuagenarian suffers CO1 poisoning in shower: SSM

Ginnie Liang

The Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement yesterday that a 79-year-old man was diagnosed with carbon monoxide (CO1) poisoning on Sunday while showering.

According to the statement, the local man was showering in his flat in Alameda da Tranquilidade (永寧廣場) in Iao Hon district at 3 p.m. The statement pointed out that he felt dizzy after showering for 30 minutes, and collapsed.

After being discovered by a family member, the statement said, an ambulance was called and the patient taken straight to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre.

The statement pointed out that he was diagnosed with carbon monoxide poisoning and was hospitalised for hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), adding that he was in a stable condition yesterday.

The statement underlined that the gas water heater is installed in the flat's bathroom, which has been in use for 10 years, but as there is only an extractor fan but no window nor flue pipe installed in the bathroom, the toxicity accumulated, causing the incident.

The statement reminded residents that when suffering carbon monoxide poisoning, one experiences dizziness, vomiting and fainting, a condition that

is potentially fatal. The bureau stressed that when using gas appliances, one must ensure that the area is well ventilated as otherwise carbon monoxide could collect.

The statement noted that there are ways to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, such as ensuring that the room is ventilated, choosing quality gas appliances and using them properly, and installing carbon monoxide alarms in rooms that have gas appliances.

The statement urged anyone affected by carbon monoxide poisoning to stay calm, leave the room immediately and go to an open area, loosen their clothing and seek medical help promptly. ■

ABOUT The Young Post

The Macau Post Daily's The Young Post will be published every Monday to present and discuss topical issues that may interest not only the younger but also all the other generations.

FOOTBALL EDITION



'Macau Youth GBA Tournament 2025' concludes

Interview by Rui Pastorin

The two-day PSG Macau Youth GBA Tournament 2025 concluded on Sunday at the Macau Workers Stadium, filled with excitement as teams of different age groups vied for prizes.

The stadium is located on Istmo de Ferreira do Amaral (亞馬喇土腰 [關閘馬路]).

Organised by PSG (Paris Saint-Germain) Academy Hong Kong and Macau, a total of 28 football teams from around the Greater Bay Area (GBA) competed during the tournament across the U9, U11, U13, and U15 age groups.

The U9 and U11 championships were won by IVO (Macau), while the U13 and U15 championships were respectively won by the teams Gala (Macau) and SASL (Macau).

Moreover, special prizes such as the "Donnarumma Award - Best Goalkeeper" and "Katoto Award - Best Female Player" were also given out.

Speaking with the *Post* after Sunday's awards presentation, PSG Academy Hong Kong and Macau CEO Yannick Ngassa said that the event more than met expectations, adding that he hadn't expected that many people or media.

Ngassa added: "This is a testament that the youth in Macau really need such a tournament or arrangement in order for them to, you know, find some joy in what they're learning", adding that one cannot just keep training and not have a way to "expose" one's talent.

He also highlighted the importance of having the opportunity to showcase your skills and knowing that there's a path that can be pursued. He added that when you see a path for a sport that you love the most, along with a path to work hard towards, your hard work doubles.

As an example, a child who is asked to train twice a week and doesn't know the purpose, they might wonder why they have to when they don't see a path. But if they know that they have to do things like prepare for tournaments, everyone will work hard as everyone wants to be psychologically on top, according to Ngassa. "It's about the opportunity given to this kid to showcase what they love the most".

Moreover, Ngassa said that he was very happy with the tournament's success, adding that he was looking forward to seeing it double its size to having 50 teams coming from all over the GBA, and possibly, even some special teams from outside of these cities. He said that the organisers are looking forward to having over 2,000 or 3,000 families coming over to Macau.

Ngassa noted in his speech that the next event is tentatively slated to be held in March 2026.

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) is a professional football club based in Paris, known for competing in Ligue 1 and being one of the most successful clubs in French football.



PSG Academy Hong Kong and Macau CEO Yannick Ngassa (centre) delivers a speech after Sunday's tournament at the Macau Worker's Stadium near the Barrier Gate checkpoint.



Photos taken on Sunday by Rui Pastorin.

New association vows to focus on women's health

Yuki Lei

The Association for the Concern of Women's Health in Macau held yesterday its inauguration ceremony, with the aim of promoting women's health education, health care knowledge and enhance the community's awareness of women's health needs.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the ceremony at Metropole Hotel Macau in Nam Van, Flora Cheong Sou Peng, the association's founding chairperson, quoted research as pointing out that women have three more organs with more risks for them to come down with diseases than men, but "many women, in general, do not pay attention to this". She said: "Women's health issues start to develop from the age of nine, which can also be said to be from nine years old to the fifties and beyond,

and even the old age of 65," with hormonal and endocrine* disorders being more serious in women than in men.

According to Cheong, the association has been established to promote women's health education, advocate the importance of women's health, promote family harmony and well-being, and foster the healthy development of civic society.

Cheong briefed the media on the association's future work plan, during which she revealed that the association will hold its first health talk focusing on the immune system and endocrine system in the middle of next month. ■

**The endocrine system is a network of glands and organs in the body that produce and secrete hormones, which regulate various physiological processes. – DeepSeek*



Macau Association for the Concern of Women's Health Chairwoman Flora Cheong Sou Peng delivers a speech during the association's inauguration ceremony at Metropole Hotel Macau in Nam Van yesterday. – Photo: Yuki Lei

Macau to resume accepting US-bound parcels today

Yuki Lei

The Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) announced last night that it would resume parcel services to the US from today, adding, however, that "adjustments to the US postal service policies cannot be ruled out at any time".

The Hongkong Post announced earlier yesterday that it would resume acceptance of mail for shipments to the US from today, in the view of the fact that the US authorities have confirmed that they would not impose a tariff on mail containing goods sent from Hong Kong to the US.

In the statement, the bureau reminded members of the public about the possible delays in the delivery of mail to the US by saying that the "previous suspension of related services by the United States Postal Service may have caused a backlog of mail. ■



This image downloaded from Wikipedia shows the Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau's (CTT) logo

Macau logs only 3,057 residential property deals in 2024, developer calls for more favourable conditions

Yuki Lei

The Financial Services Bureau (DSF) has announced that only 3,057 residential real-estate transactions were recorded last year – and Ung Choi Kun, who heads the Association of Property Agents and Realty Developers of Macau, told reporters yesterday that "the industry is now in an unfavourable environment", with the number of transactions dropping from their peak nine years ago to just 20 percent last year, adding he hoped that the government would create more favourable conditions to restore the confidence of the public and investors in Macau.

According to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC), the average index of overall residential property prices for the whole of 2024 stood at 215.8, a decrease of 11.7 percent year on year, while the spot index of 232.7 and uncompleted residential property index of 268.7 have dropped by 11.3 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively.

"The real-estate industry, as the underlying foundation of economic development, addresses the spatial demand of various industries while also fostering development of carriers... In particular, the '1+4'* diversified industries, as well as traditional small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), need to rely on the support of real estate in order to achieve sustainable development," said Ung, who described the role of the real-estate industry as an important force in promoting the city's economic diversification and urban renewal.



Association of Property Agents and Realty Developers of Macau Chairperson Ung Choi Kun, a former lawmaker, speaks to the media on the sidelines of yesterday's media luncheon at Gourmet House in Zape. – Photo: MPDG

The Association of Property Agents and Realty Developers of Macau held yesterday a media luncheon at Gourmet House in Zape.

Ung said in a speech that the number of old buildings of 40 to 50 years and above in Macau has been on the rise, which "not only affects the aesthetics of the city, but also has an impact on, and even poses hidden dangers to the safety and comfort of the living environment", suggesting to the government that land should be put up for public auction to tie in with the construction of replacement flats for residents of the city's old quarters in need of redevelopment.

In addition, Ung also urged the government to pay more attention to the rising default rate of non-performing loans of banks in the financial sector; draw in investors and outstanding young talents needed by various diversified industries by opening up the

"Policy on Granting Macau Stay Permits to Non-local Graduates of Tertiary Institutions"; promote the in-depth integration of the "1+4" industries with the real-estate sector; set up a hi-tech industry incubation centre to assist in the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and create a landmark complex to provide quality space for the development of employment and various industries. ■

** According to previous statements by the local government, the "1+4" strategy aims to reinforce Macau's function as "One Centre" for integrated tourism and leisure, officially known as the World Centre of Tourism and Leisure, while facilitating the development of four emerging industries: big health; modern financial services; high-tech; and conventions, exhibitions, sports, and the commercial and trade industries.*

Green Day performs in Macau



This photo taken in 2024 and downloaded from Wikipedia yesterday shows US band Green Day's lead vocalist and guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong (left to right), bassist and backing vocalist Mike Dirnt and drummer Tré Cool performing.

Review by Rui Pastorin

American rock band Green Day* marked their first stop in Asia for their ongoing The Saviors Tour with a concert at Galaxy Arena in Cotai on Sunday.

The night saw high energy from guitarist and lead vocalist Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist and backing vocalist Mike Dirnt and drummer Tré Cool, as well as from their session musicians, with the audience sharing their enthusiasm in a show that had many standing up, jumping up and down, and even singing along.

The set list included tracks from their 14th studio album "Saviors", which was released in January last year and, according to Wikipedia, was nominated for Best Rock Album at the "67th Annual Grammy Awards".

The band kicked off the concert with the first track from the Saviors album titled "The American Dream is Killing Me". Songs from the band's discography including "Basket Case", "Longview", "Minority", "Boulevard of Broken Dreams", "Wake Me Up When September Ends" and "21 Guns", to name a few, also rocked the night as the

band delivered a great performance.

The band will be continuing the Asia leg of their tour with their next performance slated for tomorrow in Bangkok.

The tour, according to the Green Day website, is set to conclude in São Paulo, Brazil in September. ■

**Formed in 1987, Wikipedia notes that the band is one of the best-selling bands, having sold around 75 million records worldwide as of 2024, adding that they have been nominated for 20 Grammy Awards, winning five of them.*

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 1.84 pct higher

Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 1.84 percent to close at 21,521.98 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises

Index jumped 2.09 percent to end at 7,946.81 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index climbed 2.65 percent to close at 5,286.66 points.

– Xinhua

Local man cheated out of 8,900 yuan in concert ticket scam: police

Ada Lei

A local middle-aged man has lost 8,900 yuan (9,778 patacas) in a concert ticket scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Leng, the victim met a man from the mainland in May 2023 and exchanged WeChat IDs with him. The victim saw his

post on WeChat moments about a concert in the mainland in July 2024. He was interested in the concert and contacted the man, offering to buy two tickets for him.

The victim transferred 8,900 yuan to the suspect for the “tickets” through an online payment in June 2024. The suspect told the victim that the concert had been rescheduled for January 26, 2025

and promised to give him the “tickets” before that day. Before the concert, the suspect kept coming up with different excuses as to why he didn’t have the “tickets” yet.

As the victim did not receive any tickets for the concert, he suspected he had been scammed and reported the case to the police on Friday.

The police are investigating the case. ■



An excavator works at the rescue site in Junlian County in the city of Yibin, Sichuan Province, yesterday. Rescuers are working around the clock to locate survivors after a landslide hit the area on Saturday. The landslide occurred at about 11:50 a.m. on Saturday in the mountainous village of Jinping in Junlian County under the city of Yibin. As of Sunday, local authorities confirmed one person to be dead, 28 missing, and two injured.

— Xinhua

Kou vows to enhance governance level through legislature’s supervisory powers

Continued from p.1

In advancing legislation concerning the safeguarding of national security and its complementary systems, Kou underlined, the local legislature has always considered the safeguarding of the nation’s sovereignty, security and development interests as its guiding principles as far as the respective legislative work is concerned.

Last year, Kou noted, the legislature completed its legislative work on a government-initiated bill regulating the private possession and use of weapons and related items, providing a solid legal guarantee for the construction of a national security defence line and the effective prevention and resolution of various types of latent risks and dangers. Kou also said that the legislature’s passage of the bill highlighted its sense of responsibility as the MSAR’s legislative organ in advancing the steady and far-reaching implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” principle.

Macau enacted amendments to its law on safeguarding national security in 2023.

Kou also said in his speech yesterday that with the objective of ensuring the better implementation of the “patriots governing Macau” principle and further improving the enforcement mechanism for safeguarding national security and the MSAR’s security, the legislature enacted amendments to the Chief

Executive Election Law in 2023, and enacted amendments to the Legislative Assembly Election Law and to the MSAR’s oath-taking law last year, ensuring the smooth completion of the chief executive election last year while also providing an institutional guarantee for the upcoming legislative election to be held later this year.

In addition, Kou said, in alignment with the local government’s work on deepening its administrative reform, enhancing governance efficiency, further improving e-government, optimising the city’s business environment, and improving the quality of public services, the legislature passed a number of government-initiated bills last year, such as amendments to the e-government law, a bill enabling electronic submission of court documents, amendments to the Civil Registration Code, a bill on vehicle registration, and a bill enabling the digital formalities for property, commercial registrations and notarisation procedures.

Kou thanked the Central People’s Government and the Hong Kong and Macao Work Office (HKMWO) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee as well as the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government and the Foreign Ministry Commissioner’s Office in the MSAR for always supporting the local legislature’s work. He

also expressed his gratitude to the local government for its sincere cooperation with the legislature and for strongly supporting its work.

Kou noted that this year marks the final year of the current legislative term as well as the inaugural year of the MSAR’s sixth-term government, adding he expects the legislature to have an intense workload in the coming months. In terms of legislative work, Kou said, nine bills are still being reviewed by any of the legislature’s three standing committees after the passage of their respective outlines during plenary sessions.

In addition, Kou noted, the new local government is scheduled to deliver its first policy address to the legislature later this year, which will be followed by Q&A sessions about the policy guidelines to be presented by the government’s five policy secretaries.

For the future work, Kou pledged that the local legislature will adhere to the principle of “One Country” and leverage the advantages of “Two Systems”, ensuring the steady and far-reaching implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems” cause and aiming to enhance the MSAR’s governance level and effectiveness through the exercise of its supervisory powers.

Kou also pledged to improve the legislature’s institutional structure and promote its high-quality development in a steady and progressive manner. ■

Europe should strengthen economic ties with China as US tariffs raise trade tensions: German business leader

BERLIN – Europe should take a more proactive role in global trade and strengthen economic ties with China to safeguard its interests, rather than passively react to US policies, said a German trade group leader in an interview with Xinhua.

Michael Schumann, chairman of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade, urged Europe to adopt an independent approach to its economic interests and resist passively accepting the fallout of US policy decisions.

Schumann emphasized the need for Europe to enhance economic cooperation with China to uphold the openness and stability of the global trade system.

Noting that the new US measures were in line with US President Donald Trump’s previous trade policies and were not surprising, he stressed that tariffs were not an effective solution to trade imbalances.

Schumann warned that Europe could not afford to be a passive observer of US trade policies. He called on the European Union (EU) to strengthen trade and investment ties with China, arguing that closer economic cooperation would enhance Europe’s global competitiveness.

Germany is also grappling with domestic political and economic uncertainty. Schumann noted that the country’s upcoming federal election in late February could bring significant political shifts.

“The German economy is under immense pressure. We need policies based on national

interests rather than ideological considerations,” he said. “Good relations with China are in Germany’s interests.”

Schumann stressed that stronger trade relations with China will not only support Germany’s economic recovery but also align with its long-term strategy in the global market.

With changing geopolitical dynamics, Europe should maintain an open, fair and inclusive trade system, rather than follow the United States toward protectionism, Schumann said.

“Trump’s return is reshaping global geopolitics. Europe must carefully weigh its options and act in its own interests. Strengthening EU-China relations is clearly part of that strategy,” he said.

Schumann also called on European leaders to take a more active role in shaping global trade policies.

“Germany has long supported multilateralism,” Schumann said, adding protectionism may offer short-term benefits, but threatens global economic stability and growth in the long run.

The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the EU. Schumann said that the long history of cooperation has provided a strong foundation for future engagement.

“If we look at those five decades, we can take confidence and should motivate ourselves to come back to constructive engagement with China,” he said.

— Xinhua

New freight train route links Chongqing with Afghanistan

CHONGQING – A freight train, loaded with communication equipment and other products, departed from Chongqing Municipality yesterday and is expected to arrive in Afghanistan in 12 to 15 days.

This marked the inauguration of a new direct freight train route, which passes through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and other countries, between Chongqing and Afghanistan.

The communication equipment aboard the train, manufactured by Chinese telecom firm ZTE, will be used in the development of local communication networks in Afghanistan.

“Via direct freight train services, the transportation duration has been reduced by three to five days compared to previous road transport, and logistics costs are expected to be cut back by 15 to 20 percent,” said Liu Jianfeng with ZTE.

“The successful launch of the direct freight train from

Chongqing to Afghanistan marks another effort in deepening our economic and trade cooperation with Central Asian countries,” said Xu Runqiu, an executive at the Yuxin’ou (Chongqing) supply chain management company.

In recent years, Chongqing has been striving to elevate itself into a comprehensive inland hub, with the number of China-Europe freight trains and those heading to Central Asian countries departing from the city, along with cargo volumes, growing.

To date, more than 18,000 trains covering over 50 regular routes linking the city with European and Central Asian countries have been dispatched, reaching over 100 hub cities and regions across Asia and Europe.

In March 2011, the China-Europe freight train (Yuxin’ou) service was launched from Chongqing to Duisburg, establishing a direct overland trade corridor between China and Europe. — Xinhua