



# LRT passengers exceed 230,000 during CNY Golden Week

Yuki Lei

The Hengqin Line of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) was officially opened on December 2 last year – and the government-owned LRT operator said yesterday that it saw a surge in ridership, reaching more than 230,000 passengers over the mainland’s eight-day Chinese New Year (CNY) Golden Week, from January 29 through February 4, but no separate figures were yet available on the number of trips made on the new Hengqin Line.

The government-appointed Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council held a regular closed-door meeting yesterday at the Islands District Public Services Centre in Seac Pai Van, during which officials from the LRT operator, Macau Light Rapid Transit Corporation Limited (MLM), as well as the Transport Bureau (DSAT) were invited to brief members of the council on the optimisation of the carrying capacity and public transport frequency at the Macau side of the Hengqin joint checkpoint to be able to handle the increase in passengers under the mainland’s new policies of “One-Week, One-



A passenger walks towards the entrance to the LRT Seac Pai Van Line in Coloane yesterday.

– Photo: Yuki Lei

Trip” and “Multiple-Entry” travel permits for Zhuhai and Hengqin residents, respectively. The remarks were made by the council’s deputy convener, Leong Chon Kit, and

fellow member Wong Chon Kit at a post-meeting press briefing.

According to the briefing, the LRT operator reported a daily average of 25,300 passengers last

month, a “significant” increase of more than 10,000 passengers compared to the number before the opening of the Seac Pai Van Line and Hengqin Line – the former

of which came into operation on November 1 last year.

In an announcement released earlier this month, the LRT operator pointed out that last month’s average daily ridership of 25,300 is the second highest since the opening of the railway system in 2019.

LRT cards and Macau Pass are still the only electronic payment modes for LRT passengers to access the railway system’s gates directly – and in response to the growth in passengers, such as during the CNY Golden Week, Leong quoted the LRT officials as saying during yesterday meeting that it has increased the number of ticket counters and set up additional temporary counters to make it easier for passengers to purchase tickets and pass through the gates, and that, “basically, it would take only about 30 minutes to ease the peak crowds”. Leong also quoted the LRT officials as noting that the operator would study the feasibility of increasing more payment options, such as by introducing one-day, five-day and even monthly passes, or by accepting alternative e-payment methods at self-service ticket kiosks.

Continued on p.3

## Gaza ceasefire to end if hostages not returned by Saturday: Netanyahu

JERUSALEM – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that if the Israeli hostages held in Gaza are not returned by Saturday, the ceasefire with Hamas will be canceled, and Israel will resume “intensive fighting” in the war-torn enclave.

In a video statement, Netanyahu said the move was unanimously approved by his Cabinet ministers during a four-hour meeting held in the afternoon.

Under the decision, “if Hamas does not return our hostages by noon on Saturday, the ceasefire will end, and the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) will resume intense fighting until Hamas is decisively defeated,” he said.

Netanyahu’s remarks came a day after Hamas announced that the handover of hostages scheduled for Saturday would be postponed until further notice.

On Monday, Abu Obeida, spokesman for the Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said in a statement that during the past three weeks, the resistance leadership has monitored Israel’s failure to abide by the terms of the ceasefire agreement.

Accordingly, the handover of the hostages will be postponed until further notice and until Israel ensures adherence to the deal and compensates for the past weeks retroactively, Obeida noted. “We affirm our commitment to the terms

of the agreement as long as the occupation commits to them.”

These developments came after an Israeli delegation returned from Qatar, where indirect talks were held regarding the next phase of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas.

Under the current ceasefire, which took effect on January 19 after 15 months of war, 21 hostages – 16 Israelis and five Thais – were released from Gaza in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian detainees freed from Israeli jails. During the first phase of the agreement, which spans six weeks, 33 Israeli hostages and about 2,000 Palestinian detainees are expected to be released. (More on p. 10) – Xinhua



Palestinians walk past the heavily-damaged Roots Hotel in western Gaza City yesterday, amid the current ceasefire deal in the war between Israel and Hamas. – AFP

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### China willing to promote AI development with other countries: Vice Premier

China is willing to work with other countries to promote development, safeguard security and share achievements in the field of AI, President Xi Jinping’s special representative Zhang Guoqing said in Paris on Monday.

– Story on p. 7

### ‘Ridiculous and lame’: S Africans mock Trump proposals

On the streets of Johannesburg’s student district, US President Donald Trump’s offer to accept white Afrikaners as refugees landed as both “ridiculous” and “lame”, among South Africans of all races.

– Story on p. 11

### YouTube, the online video powerhouse, turns 20

YouTube has evolved from a dinner party lark 20 years ago into a modern lifestyle staple poised to overtake US cable television in paid viewership.

– Story on p. 12



# Civic leader calls to develop theme park

Yuki Lei

The government-appointed Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council held yesterday its second plenary meeting for this year, during which council member Leong Meng Ian said that construction of a theme park in Macau should be considered.

Leong is a community leader from the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (colloquially known as Gung Luen).

Leong said: "Apart from the needs of tourists, in order to enhance the appeal of Macau for local residents, it's essential to prioritise leisure activities that cater to their interests, encouraging them to stay and spend in Macau," urging the government to make effective use of recovered idle plots – such as the site next to the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge in Taipa which was originally planned to be developed into an "Ocean World" theme park – by fully utilising and optimising



The government-appointed Taipa and Coloane Community Service Consultative Council holds a regular meeting at the Seac Pai Van Community Complex in Coloane yesterday. – Photo: Yuki Lei

the coastline to develop thematic ancillary facilities and green areas with local characteristics.

Referring to the successful examples in Hong Kong and Zhuhai, Leong urged to the government to develop a harbourfront space with a view to improving the city's image through new tourist attractions.

The "Ocean World" site, located

next to the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge in Taipa, adjacent to Estrada Almirante Marques Esparteiro, occupies an area of about 134,891 square metres. The site has been idle for more than two decades upon completion of its reclamation and land formation works. In 2020, the local government reclaimed the plot.

Back in 2005, Macau's then Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam Pak Yuen told the media that many foreign investors and developers were "very interested" in developing theme parks in Macau, but many of these projects were still in the initial planning stage at that time and would only be submitted to the government after

their completion.

In 2010, Macau Theme Park and Resort Limited announced that it would spend 10.4 billion patacas on a 200,000-square-metre site between Avenida do Aeroporto and Macau East Asian Games Dome to build a large-scale, non-gaming theme park. However, the company's director Arnaldo Ho Yau Heng told reporters in 2018 at that time that, as a result of the new Land Law which came into effect in 2014, the development project that had been proposed for the construction of "Hello Kitty Land" or an amusement ride-themed facility was not approved by the government.

Meanwhile, during yesterday's meeting at the Islands District Public Services Centre in Seac Pai Van, several fellow members also called on the government to pay attention to the continuous improvement of recreational facilities and the expansion of sitting-out areas in Taipa and Coloane. ■

## IAM urges public to stop eating NZ made unsalted butter

Ginnie Liang

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) warned the public yesterday about eating an unsalted butter product imported from New Zealand under the brand name "Anchor", as it might contain plastic contaminants.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) was recently informed by Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency that the problematic product, namely "Pure New Zealand Unsalted Butter", with a net weight of 5 kilograms, and best-before-date of December 1, 2025, was found to contain plastic contaminants.

The Macau Health Bureau said in a statement 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. ■



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows the problematic New Zealand-made unsalted butter product marketed by the "Anchor" brand.

## Local man cheated out of 2,000 yuan in concert ticket scam: police

Ada Lei

A local middle-aged man has lost 2,000 yuan (2,199 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 saw a post on Douyin (a Chinese version of TikTok) about selling tickets for a concert on January 26 in the mainland. He was keen to

attend the concert and contacted the seller on January 13, to buy two tickets.

The suspect told the victim that the "tickets" would cost 8,600 yuan in total and required him to transfer 2,000 yuan to his mainland bank account as a deposit and promised that he could receive the "tickets" after January 20. The victim trusted the suspect and transferred 2,000 yuan to the suspect's mainland bank

account on January 20. However, the victim could not reach the "seller" after paying 2,000 yuan as he was blocked by the scammer.

As the victim did not receive any tickets for the concert and was blocked by the fraudster, he suspected that he had been scammed and reported the case to the police on Monday.

The police are investigating the case. ■

## Local man cuts motorbike's seat: police

William Chan

A local man has been arrested for cutting open the seat of a motorbike, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The 61-year-old suspect surnamed Lei told the police he is a construction worker.

In December, the motorcycle owner reported that the seat of his bike had been damaged by someone, estimating the repair

cost at 800 patacas. Police identified the suspect as Lei with the aid of CCTV footage. They summoned Lei to a police station on Monday.

Under questioning, Lei confessed to the crime, claiming he believed that the victim had tampered with his motorcycle, prompting his supposedly retaliatory action.

Lei, who faces property damage charges, has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). ■



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a police officer escorting the local suspect to a police station in the northern district.

## Elderly woman loses 1.09 million patacas in 'fake police' scam: police

Ada Lei

A local elderly woman has lost 1.09 million patacas in a "fake police" scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Leng Kam Lon said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Leng, a bank staff member discovered abnormal activity in a bank account of an elderly woman and reported the case to the police on Monday. The victim had received a call in December 2024, in which a man claimed to be a "mainland police officer".

The "police officer" alleged that the victim's personal information had been used for criminal activities. The victim provided her personal information, including her bank account password and authorisation codes to the "police officer" as he had requested, and she also made several deposits into her bank account.

Leng noted that all the money in the bank account had been transferred to others accounts, in which a total of 1.09 million patacas has been lost. ■



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

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### Macau Weather

**CLOUDY.**  
**PERIODS OF RAIN.**  
**MIST.**  
**FORCE 2 TO 3 EAST TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 75% AND 98%.**



16°C~19°C

Source: SMG



## USJ to host its 4<sup>th</sup> Macao-wide English poetry contest, registration underway

Rui Pastorin

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) is set to host the fourth edition of its Macao-wide English Poetry Writing and Recital Contest, this year themed “Mini me in a wide wide world”, open for students to register until March 14.

According to a recent statement on the private Catholic university’s website, the contest categories are “Elementary School” and “Secondary School”, which are respectively from students from Primary 3 to 6 and Form 1 to 6. The University category is open to Bachelor’s and Master’s degree students, including those from the mainland and locally enrolled international students. The contest is not open to winners of previous contests.

Expanding on the theme, the statement said that the contestants are “expected to imagine themselves as a young child travelling to a place and create a vivid poem of their experience from their viewpoint”. All submissions must be in English.

The statement said that the top three winners per category will win cash prizes, with the top prizes for the Elementary, Secondary and University categories being 1,500 patacas, 3,000 patacas and 5,000 patacas respectively. Poems can be submitted from March 17 to April 3.

The statement added that the Final Contest Recital, which will again take place at the Ilha Verde campus’s Fátima Auditorium, is tentatively slated for May 17. Finalists must be present at the recital contest, otherwise they will be disqualified, the statement pointed out.

Those interested must pay an application fee of 10 patacas before the registration deadline. More information on the contest and notes for participants, such as the submission format, are available on <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/event/the-4th-macao-wide-english-poetry-writing-and-recital-contest/>

According to an article by the Post on May 29, 2024, the previous edition of the contest drew in over 500 poetry submissions. ■

## 2025 First Division football league to kick off next Wednesday

Yuki Lei

This year’s First Division football league will kick off next Wednesday at the Lin Fong pitch, Macau Football Association President Lai Pak Leng announced yesterday.

The association held a Chinese New Year media luncheon at Casa Real Hotel yesterday, during which Lai gave a brief presentation on the association’s programme for this year, which includes hosting international tournaments such as the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers Playoff and the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Qualifiers Playoff in September, as well as competing in the U20, U18, and U16 tournaments of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Games in November.

According to Lai, the tasks of his association this year also include “a four-year plan focusing on coach training and youth football development, enhancing grassroots football, and organising football activities for all age groups with the aim of increasing



Macau Football Association General Secretary Chan Keng Hou listens to a reporter’s question on the sidelines of yesterday’s media gathering at Casa Real Hotel in Nape. – Photo: Yuki Lei

the number of male and female football players in Macau”, with a view to continually optimising the development of the association’s vision.

Matches for the new season’s First and Second divisions will continue last season’s format, starting with a single round-robin followed by further divisions into a championship group and a relegation group. The First Division will play a double round-robin, while the Second Division will play a single round-robin. Other groups, including the Third Division, Youth, Junior, Reserve, Advanced, and Fun divisions, will start sequentially. Additionally, U14 and U12 groups will be introduced to provide more competition opportunities for young players.

In terms of women’s football, the association plans to switch the women’s group competition to an eleven-a-side format this year, aiming to better align women’s football with international competitions, its General Secretary Chan Keng Hou said, adding that more international friendlies will also be arranged for women’s football this year. ■

## Woman drowns in hotel pool: police

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) announced in a statement early yesterday morning that a woman died in hospital after drowning in a hotel swimming pool in Zape on Monday.

The woman is a 40-year-old mainlander, who went for a dip in the swimming pool with her family on Monday, the statement said.

The PJ statement said that the woman and her family members went to the pool at 4 p.m., the

statement said, adding that she was found unconscious in the middle of the pool at 4:40 p.m. after which the hotel staff and other hotel guests helped pull her out of the water, and called the emergency service.

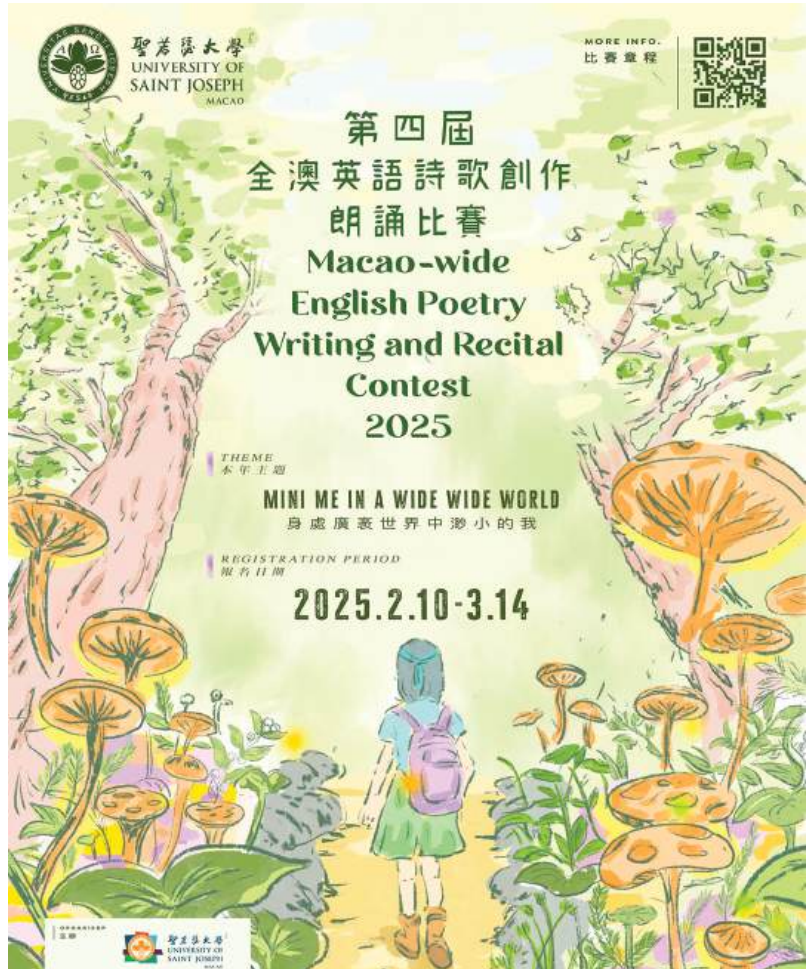
The woman’s heartbeat was restored for a while, but she eventually died.

A statement by the Fire Services Bureau (CB) yesterday identified the hotel where the case occurred

as Harbourview Hotel.

Upon preliminary examination of the body, no injuries involving possible criminal offences were found on the surface of the body, the statement noted.

The actual cause of death has yet to be confirmed by forensic examination, according to the statement, which noted that the Judiciary Police have initially classified the case as a dead body found. ■



This image downloaded from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) website last night promotes the upcoming “4<sup>th</sup> Macao-wide English Poetry Writing and Recital Contest”.

## LRT passengers exceed 230,000 during CNY Golden Week

Continued from p.1

According to the press briefing, considering that the transport hub platform on the second floor of the Macau side of the Hengqin checkpoint was only fully opened to the public in November last year, the DSAT official briefed the council members on the transport facilities of the Macau side, noting that there were currently

five day-bus routes and one night-bus route running directly to and from the Hengqin checkpoint, while in terms of the taxi service, the official said: “Taxi drivers will be notified based on the passenger flow at a specific location, allowing them to better assist and pick up passengers as needed”.

The press briefing noted that the DSAT official also responded

to the concerns raised by several council members, including the adjustment to certain bus routes, the provision of shuttle buses for airport passengers during the hours the Light Rail Transit was not running, as well as arrangements for cross-border bus services, by saying that the relevant arrangements would be made “when necessary”. ■

## Rainie Yang to perform at The Venetian Arena next month

Rui Pastorin

Taiwanese singer and actress Rainie Yang Cheng Lin is slated to perform at The Venetian Arena in Cotai on March 15, with tickets to go on sale from 12 noon on Friday.

The upcoming concert is part of the “Rainie Yang LIKE A STAR World Tour”, which has been held in many cities since 2020, integrated resort (IR) operator The Venetian Macao noted in a recent statement.

Titled “Rainie Yang Another STAR

Concert”, the statement said that Yang will be performing songs such as “Ambiguous Love”, “Traces of Time in Love” and “Rainie & Love”, adding that she will present her vocal talent and “signature blend of emotion and energy”.

Wikipedia notes that the singer-actress, who was born and raised in Taipei and whose father’s ancestors were from Guangdong, started her career in 2000 as a member of girl group “4 in Love”, which disbanded in 2002. She launched a successful solo

career with her album “My Intuition” in 2005. The Venetian Macao statement said that she has released 12 studio albums.

The statement added that she has a successful career in the entertainment industry as an actress, singer, TV host, and variety show star.

The concert is set to start at 8 p.m. and tickets are priced between 480 and 1,680 patacas, with ticketing details available on [www.cotaiticketing.com](http://www.cotaiticketing.com) and [www.macauticket.com](http://www.macauticket.com). ■



This poster recently provided by The Venetian Macao promotes the “Rainie Yang Another STAR Concert”, which will take place at The Venetian Arena on March 15.



# Croatian jazz singer to perform with GBA musicians



William Chan

Croatian jazz singer Ines Trickovic will be performing with local Macau musicians at the Sifang Art Space on Avenida do Almirante Lacerda on March 14, she told the *Post* in an online interview last week.

Trickovic, who lived in Macau for several years before the COVID-19 pandemic and performed in Macau many times, will this time be joined by saxophonist Lam Chak Seng, guitarist Chan Hon Chong, drummer Fanfan Cheung, and Zhuhai-based double bassist Liu Ao.

The performance will feature traditional jazz styles with an emphasis on bossa nova, bebop\*, and swing.

Born in 1982 in Croatia, Trickovic described her country as a well-developed and cultured nation, despite its modest size, boasting a rich heritage of jazz and classical music traditions. Her musical style incorporates elements of traditional Croatian vocal sounds, characterised in the interpretation of long notes, breath control, and the use of voice as a specific instrument, influenced by the folk tradition of acapella singing. Trickovic's singing style reflects the distinct vocal qualities of Balkan female voices, typically sopranos with robust timbre, capable of sustaining breath through phrases and conveying emotional depth through vocal dynamics.

Trickovic emphasised the uniqueness of the voice as an instrument, noting that while formal education can provide theoretical knowledge and technical skills, true singing ability is innate and cannot be fully taught. Despite challenges during her school years due to Croatia's fight for independence, she pursued a musical path without formal training, relying on her natural talent and early experiences in children's choirs and performances with various bands.

Reflecting on the history of jazz, Trickovic highlighted the tradition of self-taught singers and the importance of innate talent and musical expression over formal education. She recounted her journey of becoming a professional jazz singer, collaborating with renowned musicians in the United States without a formal jazz degree, underscoring the significance of one's performance quality over academic credentials in the music industry.

Throughout her career, Trickovic pointed out that she has been dedicating hours of daily practice since she was very young to hone her technique, master jazz harmony, develop scat singing\*\* skills, and internalise songs by ear. Her commitment to continuous improvement and hard work, often exceeding that of formally trained musicians, has been instrumental in her success and recognition as a seasoned performer with 25 years of professional experience.

Trickovic noted that her journey serves as a testament to the power of dedication, talent, and stage presence in the music industry, emphasising that one's abilities and performance quality ultimately define success, transcending the need for formal education credentials. Her advice to aspiring musicians echoes her own experience: focus on honing your craft, showcasing your talent on stage, and becoming so proficient that your skill speaks for itself.

The jazz quintet is set to perform on Friday, March 14, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for 188 patacas. The poster provides instructions for purchasing tickets.

\* "Bebop" is a style of jazz that emerged in the 1940s. It is characterised by fast tempos, complex chord progressions, and intricate melodies. Key figures in bebop include musicians like Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk. The style marked a shift from the dance-orientated swing music of the previous decade to a more artistic and improvisational form of jazz. – Poe

\*\*Scat singing is a vocal improvisation technique used in jazz music where the singer uses nonsensical syllables and sounds instead of traditional lyrics. This form of expression allows vocalists to mimic instruments and explore melodies and rhythms freely. Scat singing often includes the use of varied vocal techniques, such as slides, growls, and vocal runs, making it a dynamic and creative aspect of jazz performance.

Notable scat singers include Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, who are known for their innovative and influential contributions to this style. – Poe

WHITE DAY — INES TRICKOVIC — MARCH 14

Macau Sifang Art Space  
\*\*\* PRESENTS \*\*\*

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AND FRIENDS

**WHITE DAY JAZZ CONCERT**

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14 MAR 2025  
FRIDAY 8PM

SIFANG JAZZ WORKSHOP  
14 MAR 2025 | FRIDAY 8PM | JAZZ IN MACAU | WHITE-ALENTIN'S DAY  
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TICKETS: MOIPSS PERSON, DOC 6218096 REMARKS NAME: JAZZ



Ines Trickovic performs at the Shanghai International Arts Festival in 2023. – Photos provided by Trickovic



## Ilha Verde residents urge govt to improve nature conservation, fire safety

Ginnie Liang

Several Ilha Verde residents yesterday urged the government to take concrete steps towards the conservation of Colina da Ilha Verde (“Green Island Hill”) and the restoration of Casa de Retiros da Ilha Verde (“House of Retreats of Green Light”).

The group gathered at Government Headquarters yesterday at 11 a.m. to submit their petition to Chief Executive Sam Ho Fai, expressing frustration over the perceived lack of progress on long-promised initiatives, including plans to develop Colina da Ilha Verde into a municipal park, which have yet to get off the ground.

The group called on the government to refine and expedite the implementation of the urban renewal plan for Ilha Verde, highlighting their recent concerns, including a fire at a construction site in the district.

Although the fire was quickly extinguished, no subsequent fire prevention measures have been introduced, the group said in its petition, adding that the accumulation of abandoned vehicles in the area poses a potential fire hazard if not properly managed.

In addition to fire safety concerns, the group also raised issues regarding the deteriorating condition of Colina da Ilha Verde, where ancient trees on the hill are

reportedly being destroyed by termites, leading to a decline in their numbers.

Furthermore, signs of landslides have been observed on certain slopes, raising fears for public safety, and the group urged the government to strengthen fire safety measures and prioritise the conservation of Colina da Ilha Verde to protect both the environment and the community.

The group also said that the impact of the government-ordered visual corridor on the southern side of Colina da Ilha Verde has restricted the maximum allowable building height in the area, which has particularly affected Fok Tak San Chuen, a neighbourhood with several five-story tenement buildings that lack lifts.

Under current regulations, any future redevelopment of these ageing structures would require reducing the number of floors, making it impossible to install lifts, according to the group, adding that especially the elderly are concerned about the lack of specific relocation plans and the potential decline in their quality of life.

Therefore, the group petitioned the government to relax the area’s height restrictions, allowing buildings to be reconstructed with seven or more floors so that lifts can be installed, thereby improving accessibility for older residents. ■



Several Ilha Verde residents hand a petition addressed to the Chief Executive to an official (third from left) in front of Government Headquarters yesterday.

— Photo: Ginnie Liang

## Lawmaker urges govt to suspend flyover project for Zone A-Nape link



Vehicles drive along Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen on the Nape waterfront near the Macau Science Centre (MSC) on Monday where construction of a sea-crossing flyover linking with Zone A (left) started late last year.

— Photos: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

Lawmaker-cum-current affairs commentator Ron Lam U Tou is urging the new government to suspend the ongoing project to build a sea-crossing flyover connecting the Zone A land reclamation area and Nape and tell the public as soon as possible about its decision on whether to revert the plans for the Zone A-Nape link back to an undersea tunnel as originally planned.

Lam made the remarks at MGM MACAU in Nape while speaking to reporters after a Spring Festival luncheon hosted by the legislature for the media on Monday.

Initially, the government planned to build an undersea tunnel for the future link between Zone A and Nape, before deciding in 2023 to build a sea-crossing flyover instead.

The new government headed by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai took office on December 20 last year.

The ongoing Zone A-Nape link project with a price tag of 2.18 billion patacas, which got off the ground in October last year, is to build a 1,550-metre-long vehicular overpass running between an area near the Kun Iam Statue on the Nape waterfront and the southern area of Zone A, including a 900-metre-long coastal water-spanning section running under the Macau-Taipa Friendship Bridge and landing

in Nape near the Macau Science Centre (MSC).

### ‘No eco-assessment nor public consultation’

Speaking to the media on Monday, Lam noted that previously when the government carried out a study on the feasibility of building an undersea tunnel connecting Zone A and Nape, it launched an environmental assessment while also gathering opinions from residents.

Lam said that, however, when the previous government announced its decision in 2023 to build a sea-crossing flyover for the Zone A-Nape link instead, it neither launched an environmental assessment nor consulted members of the public on the matter.

The previous government underlined last year that it had decided to build a sea-crossing flyover, instead of an undersea tunnel, for the Zone A-Nape link after considering various factors such as landscape protection, construction costs and technical difficulties, the impact of the respective construction projects on nearby existing facilities, and the extent to which a flyover or an undersea tunnel would be able to improve traffic conditions.

Some lawmakers, including Lam, as well as civic leaders and heritage activists have said that



Lawmaker-cum-current affairs commentator Ron Lam U Tou talks to reporters at MGM MACAU in Nape after Monday’s Spring Festival media luncheon hosted by the legislature.

the height of the flyover project would exceed the official height limit for an area surrounding Guia Lighthouse on the top of Guia Hill.

The government said last year that the Zone A-Nape flyover, with its top to be 25.8 metres above sea level, is not legally defined as a building because of which it is not subject to the official height limit aiming to protect the view of Guia Lighthouse.

Lam said on Monday that “many” residents have said that the Zone A-Nape link should be an undersea tunnel instead of a sea-crossing flyover with the aim of ensuring the better protection of the view of Guia Lighthouse.

Lam said that after raising the issue with the previous government, he has also expressed his views on the matter to the current government.

Lam underlined that the government should respond to the “clearly seen” public opinion concerning the Zone A-Nape link and, consequently, suspend the ongoing project.

“Due to the clearly seen public opinion, I do not think the current government would continue with the flyover project, and decide to suspend it,” Lam said.

Lam said that if the government did decide to continue with the ongoing flyover project, he would gather signatures from residents for a petition. ■

## Throwing objects from height without criminal intent can only lead to fine: govt

Tony Wong

The government has underlined that the police cannot file a criminal complaint against an individual who has not caused death or injury or property damage after throwing objects from a height, i.e., upper floors in a building, and, instead, the authorities can only fine him or her for violating municipal regulations.

The Office of Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak referred to the issue in a reply to a written interpellation made by directly-elected lawmaker Lei Leong Wong early last month. The office made and signed the reply late last month, copies of which were released by Lei’s office to the media on Monday.

In his written interpellation,

Lei referred to a case in December last year where a local man threw a cleaver out of his flat’s window in Fai Chi Kei “due to emotional problems”.

According to police announcement at that time, no one was hit in the incident, nor any property damage was caused.

In its reply to Lei’s interpellation, Wong’s office noted that if evidence proves that an individual has the intent of causing death, injury or property damage by throwing an object from a height, his or her act constitutes a criminal offence.

Moreover, the reply noted that, according to municipal regulations, those who throw objects from their flat’s window or balcony face a fine

of 600 patacas.

The reply said that concerning the case in December, no death nor injury nor property damage was caused, and neither did anyone file a complaint against the case, because of which the case was not classified as a criminal one.

The reply said that, consequently, the authorities fined the person in line with municipal regulations.

Lei’s interpellation also asked whether the government would study the possibility of criminalising the offence of throwing objects from a height.

Wong’s office replied that the matter required a cautious study, as the government first needed to hear civil society’s views on the matter. ■

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 1.06 pct lower

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.06 percent to close at 21,294.86 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index dropped 1.31 percent to end at 7,842.72 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index slid 2.73 percent to 5,142.31 points. — Xinhua