

O Lam portrays National Games as 'vivid lesson in patriotism'

Yuki Lei

The Macau segment of the upcoming 2025 National Games will take place on November 7-20 – and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam said at a press conference yesterday that “we will fully utilise the opportunity of hosting the National Games to launch patriotic education and publicity activities to stimulate patriotic fervour in the community”.

The 15th National Games, co-hosted by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, will kick off on November 9 in Guangzhou and conclude on November 21 in Shenzhen. Among the 19 competition events, five will be hosted by Macau, comprising Table Tennis, Men’s U18 3-a-side Basketball and U18 5-a-side Basketball, Women’s Volleyball, and Karate. The Cycling Road Men’s Individual Time Trial will be the only event co-organised by Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, spanning across the three regions via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB).

According to yesterday’s press conference at the Macau Science Centre in Nape, the schedule for Macau’s competition events is as follows: Table Tennis at Galaxy Arena in Cotai on November 7-20;



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam delivers a speech during yesterday’s press conference about the upcoming 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD) and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NSOG), at the Macau Science Centre in Nape. – Photo: Yuki Lei

3-a-side Basketball at Wynn Palace on November 12-15; 5-a-side Basketball at City of Dreams in Cotai and Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion’s Pavilion A in the Macau peninsula on November 10-18; Volleyball at The Venetian Arena and Macau East Asian Games

Dome’s Pavilion A in Cotai on November 7-19; and Karate at the Forum Macau (澳門綜藝館) in Zape on November 6-8. O noted that in line with the principle of “simplicity, safety and excitement”, the venue facilities will all be existing ones, with only essential

enhancements and upgrades.

Heading the Macau Organising Committee for the 15th National Games as well as the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD) and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NSOG), O announced yesterday that trial tests



for the competition events will be held between April and June, aiming to ensure that all work is fully coordinated and in the best possible condition for the arrival of the three Games’ athletes.

According to the press conference, the trial run encompasses various areas, including staff movement, competition logistics, network systems, volunteer services, award ceremonies, and staff reception. O added that the registration of volunteers will reopen from March 6 to 10, encouraging enthusiasts to take part and contribute to the Games.

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WHO probes mystery illness cluster in Congo

GENEVA – The World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday its experts were investigating a new, unidentified cluster of illness in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) after two previous mystery outbreaks earlier this year.

The WHO said the Bolamba zone in the western province of Equateur reported 12 people who fell ill, including eight deaths, in January.

Earlier this month, 158 cases and 58 deaths were reported in the Basankusu zone.

And last week, 141 people fell ill in Basankusu zone. No deaths

have been reported so far.

“Increased disease surveillance has identified a total of 1,096 sick people and 60 deaths in Basankusu and Bolomba fitting a broad case definition,” the UN health agency added.

The definition includes “fever, headache, chills, sweating, stiff neck, muscle aches, multiple joint pain and body aches, a runny nose or bleeding from nose, cough, vomiting and diarrhoea.

“The Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing many concurrent crises and outbreaks,

putting a further strain on the health sector and the population,” the WHO added.

A national rapid response team, including WHO health emergency experts, has been deployed in the field to investigate the situation and determine if there is an unusual pattern, the organisation said.

They are conducting interviews, disease surveillance and treating diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever and meningitis.

Initial laboratory tests have proven negative for Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus disease.

Around half of the samples tested positive for malaria. Further tests are to be carried out for meningitis, said the WHO.

Food, water and environmental samples will also be studied for contamination.

“This outbreak, as well as previous outbreaks in the DRC are of significance to the rest of the world and we need to keep a close eye and assist with diagnosis and treatment,” said Zania Stamataki, associate professor in viral immunology at the University of Birmingham in Britain.

Amanda Rojek, senior clinical fellow at Oxford University’s Pandemic Sciences Institute said that while one disease might explain all cases, “we frequently see situations where there might be a mixture of more common illnesses contributing to case numbers”.

An initially unexplained spate of deaths in southwestern DRC in October-November last year was eventually put down to malaria and common respiratory infections, compounded by malnutrition.

The DRC is one of the world’s poorest countries. – AFP

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The Macau Post Daily

Alibaba ramps up AI investment to innovate business landscape

The Qwen foundation model, developed by China’s Alibaba Group, has spawned over 100,000 derived models, claiming the top spot globally. This advancement comes as the e-commerce giant continues to ramp up its investment in AI. – Story on p. 7

UK govt seeks guarantees BBC did not pay Hamas for documentary

UK culture minister Lisa Nandy yesterday said she had demanded “cast-iron” guarantees that the BBC did not pay Hamas for a documentary on Gaza that has sparked controversy for the British broadcaster. – Story on p. 10

In Brazil’s Amazon, dolphin therapy aids people with disabilities

Floating in the Rio Negro (“Black River”) in the Brazilian Amazon, Luiz Felipe, who has Down Syndrome, beams as he hugs a pink dolphin during a special therapy session. – Story on p. 12

Govt 'considers' strengthening measures to improve people's livelihoods: Sam

Yuki Lei

In view of the recent calls for the government to adjust the amount of its annual "wealth-sharing" handout scheme, with special emphasis on the needs of the underprivileged, as well as to increase the old-age pension and introduce a childcare allowance, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai told reporters yesterday that the government would "consider", "actively consider", and "consider all" such concerns respectively, emphasising the government's commitment to achieving fairness and precision in its policies, with possible adjustments to be made based on feedback from various community sectors.

Speaking about the government's handout scheme, Sam clarified that the measure was introduced in 2008 in response to high inflation and financial turmoil, with a view to sharing the "fruits of economic development". He went on to say that the initial amount disbursed to each local resident was a few thousand patacas and so far the cumulative total has reached to 92.1 billion patacas.

Sam said that, despite the fact that the overall inflation rate remains low, "the measure is still necessary this year", but any potential improvements, such as the exact amount that each

resident is entitled to receive, will be determined by considering the overall economic environment and the city's tax revenue.

According to the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC), Macau's Composite Consumer Price Index for last month rose by 0.57 percent year on year and 0.17 percent month on month.

Sam also quoted the gambling revenue in December last year to illustrate the current overall economic environment in Macau: "Our budget in November last year was based on gambling revenue of 20 billion patacas per month, resulting in a small surplus. However, looking back, the actual surplus in December was only about 18 billion patacas".

He stressed that people's livelihoods and the underprivileged were his key concerns, but it was also essential for the government to avoid creating a significant fiscal imbalance, adding that expenditure on social services and people's livelihoods is a fixed cost, and last year about 10 billion patacas was allocated for livelihood and welfare allowances, 14 billion patacas for education, and 12 billion patacas for healthcare.

Concerned about the declining birth rate in Macau and the increasing

ageing population, Sam said that the government will "actively consider" to introduce a childcare subsidy as long as it is financially viable, aiming to signal to the community that "we are supporting young mothers and fathers, as well as the younger generation, in taking on this significant social responsibility".

On the old-age pension, Sam pledged that the government would study and consider ways to acknowledge the care and concern of the entire local community for the older generation, specifically "those retirees who have made contributions to society".

Sam made the remarks on the sidelines of the Macau Chinese Enterprises Association's Spring Gala at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape. ■



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai speaks to the media on the sidelines of the Macau Chinese Enterprises Association's Spring Gala at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape yesterday. — Photo: MPDG

Macao Philatelic Catalogue XII to be available from Saturday

Rui Pastorin

The Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) said in a statement yesterday that the Macao Philatelic Catalogue XII, which covers information on all philatelic products issued from

2023 to 2024, will be available for sale from Saturday onwards.

The catalogue "recalls the themes and design of the stamps and records each special moment", according to the statement.

Priced at 100 patacas, the statement noted that those

interested can pick up the catalogue at the General Post Office's Philatelic Shop in the city centre, as well as at the Communications Museum. It will also be available at the post office on Rua do Campo starting Monday. ■

O Lam portrays National Games as 'vivid lesson in patriotism'

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"Macau's participation in hosting the National Games for the first time signifies the nation's trust and support for Macau and holds far-reaching significance for the city's sports and socio-economic development... We will fully leverage the radiation effect of this sports event to appropriately diversify the city's economy and better integrate into the overall situation of the nation's development," O said, adding she hoped that society as a whole would recognise the importance of the social functions of sports through the National Games.

Describing the National Games as "a vivid lesson in patriotism", O said that since its inception in 1959, the event has witnessed the transformation of the nation's sports industry from weak to strong, reflecting the historical progress of Chinese-style modernisation.



Pun Weng Kun, coordinator of the preparatory office for the organisation of 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD) and the 9th National Special Olympic Games (NSOG) in Macau, poses after speaking to the media yesterday at the Macau Science Centre in Nape. — Photo: Yuki Lei

will take place in April, in which, according to Pun, "audience participation is indeed a crucial aspect of the tests".

In terms of venues, Pun admitted that not all test events will take place in the same locations as the main event, with the possibility that some individual events held at Forum Macau will be changed to the Macau East Asian Games Dome, and vice versa. However, he expressed confidence that the test runs, as well as the main events, would be conducted smoothly across all areas.

Additionally, Pun noted that the event director of the General Administration of Sport and the organising committee from Guangdong Province have recently visited Macau and were "very satisfied" with the venues: "Everyone appreciates Macau's venues".

When asked about ticketing, Pan said that Guangdong Province was responsible for the ticketing process, and that the tendering process was currently underway. He also said that the Macau organising committee aims to give local residents priority in purchasing tickets while also seeking to attract more tourists and sports fans to Macau.

Meanwhile, the two NGD and NSOG badminton events will be held on December 9-14 at the Macau East Asian Games Dome's Pavilion A and Forum Macau, respectively. ■

Trial run to take place in April-June, Pun says 'almost 100 percent' aligned

Speaking to the media after the press conference, Pun Weng Kun, coordinator of the preparatory office for the organisation of the three National Games in Macau, said that preparations for the competitions in Macau have entered the countdown stage, adding that the setup was already "almost 100 percent" aligned with the National Games model.

According to Pun, a raft of test runs will be held between April and June, covering the network system, timing and scoring as well as the volunteer coordination, to be followed by tests for table tennis, basketball, volleyball, and karate. He said: "We will review what needs to be improved or whether there are any inadequacies after the tests, and under the guidance of the General Administration of Sport, we will improve them one by one."

The trial run for table tennis

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Sands China holds 'Concert of Love in Seoul'



This handout photo provided by Sands China earlier this week shows a performance during the recently held "Concert of Love in Seoul" at The Venetian Theatre in Cotai.

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator Sands China held the "Concert of Love in Seoul" at The Venetian Theatre in Cotai on February 15, the event being the most recent highlight of the "Sands China Performing Arts Programme" which featured three renowned musicians from South Korea.

Organised in collaboration with the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macao Orchestra (OM), the statement noted that the first half of the concert saw soprano Lee Myung-Joo, who recently made her debut in the title role of *Madama Butterfly* (its original Italian title) at Opéra de Québec in Canada, perform several arias from operas by Italian composer and "the King of Opera" Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924).

The Macao Orchestra also performed Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" Fantasy Overture under the baton of conductor Sunwook Kim, who the statement said is the youngest and first Asian winner of the Leeds International Piano Competition in the UK.

The statement added that "The Goddess of Flute", Jasmine Choi, then performed alongside the orchestra, presenting her debut of a reimagined rendition of "Butterfly

Lover". Choi, who is recognised as "one of the best flutists in the history of music" by British publication *Sinfini Magazine*, also performed the Korean folk song "Arirang" with the orchestra during the encore.

The day after, Sands China also held the "Meeting with the Artiste – Jasmine Choi", which invited 140 local wind instrument enthusiasts, students and musicians.

Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "By hosting this concert with South Korean artists and its associated meeting - in celebration of love over the Valentine's Day weekend - we aim to enrich lives through the unifying power of music that transcends borders and provide inspiration to music enthusiasts".

The meeting with the artiste also aimed at enhancing cultural exchanges between local youths and international musicians, while "improving their musical skills and expanding their global horizons", Wong said.

He added: "Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in introducing a diverse array of non-gaming entertainment options, including arts, cultural, and sporting events, to further elevate the city's cultural offerings for both residents and visitors."

MGM COTAI to offer Michelin-starred Thai culinary delights

Kristina Vallesteros

Integrated resort operator MGM is set to launch next month its "Gastronomic Journey with Star Chefs" series of 2025.

Slated to take place on March 7 and 8, the statement said that 2-star Michelin chef and owner of Thai restaurant Baan Tapa Culinary Space from Bangkok, Chudaree "Tam" Debhakam (Chef Tam), who was chosen as *Asia's 50 Best Restaurants*, will "present traditional Thai flavours with a modern flair" at Aj at MGM COTAI.

The two-day culinary showcase will include a five-course dinner tasting menu featuring Chef Tam's signature dishes. Highlights include *Dong Dang Noodles*, a Northeastern Thai rice noodle dish made with Firefly squid and fresh black squid ink; Wagyu Beef Mosaic with Blackened Curry and Jasmine Coconut Rice in Bamboo leaf; and Tom Jiew, a Thai clear soup made with "fresh ingredients from Tapa Garden".

The statement said that Chef Tam is the first female Thai chef to achieve two



This undated handout photo provided by MGM earlier this week shows chef-owner of the Thai restaurant Baan Tapa Culinary Space, Chef Chudaree "Tam" Debhakam.

Michelin stars, while also earning the 2024 *MICHELINThailand Young Chef Award*. Renowned for its "strong sustainability initiatives", the Chef's restaurant Baan Tapa Culinary Space ranked among *Asia's 50 Best Restaurants* for two consecutive years in 2023 and 2024, the statement noted.

The meal is priced at 1,888 patacas per guest, with an additional 700 patacas for wine pairing. More details are available on <http://www.mgm.mo>.

Wynn now part of LinkedIn's 'Future Ready Programme'

Rui Pastorin

Wynn said in a recent statement that it has been invited by LinkedIn to join its Future Ready Programme, making it the only Macau enterprise to join it.

The integrated resort (IR) noted in the statement that the programme was recently launched in Hong Kong in conjunction with 14 "leading organisations from core industries in Hong Kong and Macau". It will utilise the talent pool of over 1 billion members around the world to "equip enterprises with necessary tools and resources through data-driven insights analysis, targeted upskill initiatives and knowledge exchange, thus navigating workforce transformation, driving a culture of innovation, and equipping professionals

in Hong Kong and Macau with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing job market", the statement said.

Through the programme, the statement pointed out that Wynn will get assistance from LinkedIn in preparing talent plans and long-term retention strategies through tailored analysis reports, while exclusive events and quarterly executive roundtables will also be held.

The statement added that the company believes that participation in this programme will help attract and retain top talent, equip staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the future and enhance Wynn's "soft power", according to the statement.



This undated handout photo downloaded from Wynn's website last night shows representatives from various organisations during the recent launch of the Future Ready Programme.

GEG hosts 'IR Youth Programme Talent Development Showcase and Ceremony'

Rui Pastorin

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) hosted its "GEG IR Youth Programme Talent Development Showcase and Ceremony" on Wednesday to recognise the achievements of programme participants, according to a statement on the same day from the integrated resort (IR) operator.

The statement noted that the IR Youth Programme has been held in partnership with the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) since 2023 and has provided over 180 local talents with employment opportunities in areas such as F&B and Integrated Resort services, and is curated to include up to 300 hours of professional courses and vocational training.

Speaking at the ceremony, DSAL Director Wong Chi Hong said that with the bureau's conjunction with GEG, they "have implemented nine specialised programmes to date and achieved ideal results. We appreciate GEG's support and collaboration in nurturing local talent in Macau, offering diverse training opportunities, and actively encouraging employees to obtain nationally or internationally recognised professional certifications, which helps establish a

sustainable career pathway for local residents."

Meanwhile, GEG Group Director of Human Resources and Administration Eileen Lui Wai Ling was quoted by the statement as saying: "The GEG team spent six months to thoughtfully design the courses and training programmes to ensure they are practical and beneficial for the participants".

Lui added that participants "achieved an average of four industry-recognised certifications through this programme, with some having successfully seized upward mobility opportunities, which is truly encouraging".

The IR Youth Programme covered a range of pre-employment, on-the-job, and professional certification training, along with training on GEG's "Asian Heart" service philosophy, while experienced industry professionals and department heads also served as mentors.

The statement quoted Moses Chan, a GEG staff member who completed the programme, as saying that it "offered diverse training and numerous practical opportunities, significantly enhancing my comprehensive vocational skills in a short time and benefitting my career development."



This handout photo taken and provided by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) on Wednesday shows guests and participants posing during the "GEG IR Youth Programme Talent Development Showcase and Ceremony".

Sam vows to 'thoroughly study' residents' views on Zone A-Nape link

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai pledged yesterday that the government will "thoroughly" study civil society's various views about the future vehicular link connecting the Zone A land reclamation area and Nape (皇朝區) with the aim of making a final decision on how the link should be constructed.

However, the chief executive also pointed out that the future height of the ongoing Zone A-Nape flyover project, which got off the ground late last year, would be lower than that of the Macau-Taipa Friendship Bridge, in response to the view that the sea-crossing flyover would affect the view of Guia Lighthouse.

Sam made the remarks while speaking to reporters at The Plaza Restaurant in Zape after attending a Spring Festival gala hosted by the Macau Chinese Enterprises Association.

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 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).

Some lawmakers, civic leaders and heritage activists have said that the height of the flyover project would exceed the official height limit for an area surrounding Guia Lighthouse on the top of Guia Hill, urging the government to halt the ongoing project and revert to an undersea tunnel as originally planned.

The government said last year that the Zone A-Nape flyover, with its



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

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.

Speaking to reporters when asked about the Zone A-Nape link project, Sam noted that construction projects are intensively being carried

out in Zone A, which will be a very important residential neighbourhood in the future where there will also be a number of schools, because of which its traffic link with the peninsula will be very important, he said.

Sam pointed out that while the government had already hired a construction consortium last year

to carry out the Zone A-Nape link project, he has been aware of the various opinions raised in civil society concerning the project, including its possible impact on the view of the UNESCO World Heritage-protected Guia Lighthouse and even possible violation of view-protection regulations.

Sam underlined that the extent to which the ongoing the Zone A-Nape link project would adversely affect the view of the UNESCO World Heritage-protected Guia Lighthouse would depend on the project's construction design, according to which, he noted, the flyover would run under Friendship Bridge, the height of which is, consequently, higher than that of the future flyover.

Sam said that Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam will thoroughly study the matter, including considering the various opinions raised in civil society. ■

Takeaway ordered to stop business over rodent infestation: IAM

Ginnie Liang

A takeaway, "Do Mao Mao Shop" (躲貓貓外賣店), was found to be infested with rodents yesterday, and its owners were ordered to suspend their business for deep cleaning and disinfection and to destroy all the live seafood and fresh food on the premises, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said in a statement yesterday.

The statement said that IAM officers received a report yesterday saying that a takeaway in the northern district was infested with rodents.

Upon receiving the report, the bureau dispatched inspectors to the eatery located on Rua Sete do Bairro da Areia Preta (黑沙環第七街) immediately, and found that the shop had inadequate rodent

prevention and control measures, while the food handling area was not properly installed with rodent-proof facilities and there were signs of a rodent infestation in the shop.

The bureau also requested the takeaway to remove its online platforms adding that the bureau would take legal action if there is any violation of the Food Safety Law.

The statement highlighted the responsibility of the food trade to draw up effective pest control plans, conduct regular inspections of pipes and other facilities and equipment, regularly clean and reduce the accumulation of debris on the premises, and properly store foodstuff with the aim of "effectively" preventing rodents and other pests from entering, hiding and reproducing there. ■



This handout photos provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows IAM inspectors at the "Do Mao Mao Shop" (躲貓貓外賣店) eatery investigating the takeaway's rodent infestation and hygiene issues.

Police record 14,298 crimes in 2024, up 6 pct

William Chan

Macau's total number of reported crimes in 2024 increased by 6.0 percent year-on-year, reaching 14,298, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak announced yesterday.

He noted that the figure also reflects a 0.8 percent rise compared to pre-pandemic 2019, which saw 14,178 suspected crimes.

Macau recorded its first COVID-19 case in January 2020.

Wong presented Macau's 2024 crime statistics during a press conference held at S. Francisco Barracks yesterday.

Increase in violent crime

In 2024, although there was only one homicide case – related to illegal currency exchange activities – violent crime overall rose by 7.4 percent to 290 cases. This included 48 robberies, 48 rapes, 44 cases of arson, 51 cases of selling and trafficking in drugs, and 61 incidents of illegal imprisonment.

Wong noted that the rise in rape cases compared to both 2023 (43 cases) and 2019 (41 cases) can be categorised into two groups: non-local victims, with incidents mainly occurring in hotel rooms, potentially related to prostitution, and local residents, where some cases happened in bars after the victims had been drinking. He added that in many instances, victims and suspects were already acquainted.

Gambling-related crimes jump by 32.5 pct

During the conference, Wong highlighted a 32.5 percent rise in gambling-related crimes, bringing the total to 1,456 cases. He noted that the new law criminalising illegal currency exchanges in and around casinos, effective since last October, contributed to this increase, with police cracking down on 89 illegal

currency exchange operations last year. Wong added that the rise in gambling crimes also correlated with a boost in tourism. However, he reassured the public that the new law would effectively curb other gambling-related offences.

Spike in computer crimes, dip in phone scams

Computer crimes also saw a significant uptick, with a 71.6 percent increase to 992 cases in 2024, including 689 incidents of online credit card fraud. Conversely, phone fraud cases decreased by 16 percent to 355. However, "placing fake order" scams surged by 2.1 times to 40 cases.

Wong underlined that in relation to the fraud cases, the police have been collaborating closely with banks, preventing or reversing 597 transactions totalling nearly 110 million patacas. Furthermore, after being notified by the Macau police, mainland authorities were able to freeze over 500 bank accounts associated with fraud cases in Macau, preventing losses of around 11 million yuan. The funds have gradually been returned to the victims, Wong added.

Regarding Monday's film shoot accident, where a mainland driver lost control during filming and injured 12 extras, Wong reiterated that the police had previously opposed the shooting methods used by the mainland film crew. Wong said that he was "shocked" upon learning of the incident, as earlier meetings had clearly warned against high-speed driving. Wong underscored the need for strict adherence to safety protocols to prevent future accidents.

He also pointed out that due to the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) approval of the film shoot, current laws lack enforcement provisions to lay charges in such incidents. Public Security Police (PSP) Commissioner



Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak addresses yesterday's press conference at the S. Francisco Barracks about Macau's 2024 crime statistics. — Photo: William Chan

Ng Kam Wa confirmed that the police had clearly expressed their disagreement with the crew's plans for high-speed car drifting, and though the crew had promised compliance initially, they ultimately did not adhere to the deal. The police have since told the bureau to halt the crew's filming in Macau.

In response to a reporter's enquiry about Wednesday's fire incident in which a 61-year-old local man lost his life in Lok Kuan Building in Seac Pai Van, Wong underlined that certain investigatory details should remain undisclosed due to procedural concerns. Wong reassured the public that investigations into the causes of death are always thorough and that any necessary disclosures will respect individual privacy and legal permissions.

The Judiciary Police (PJ) said in a statement yesterday that the victim was a person with long-term mental problems and a record of self-injury. The statement also pointed out that the still preliminary investigation ruled out the possibility of homicide. ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.29 pct lower

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.29 percent to close at 23,718.29 points. The Hang

Seng China Enterprises Index dipped 0.66 percent to end at 8,734.58 points, and the Hang Seng Tech Index fell 1.22 percent to close at 5,881.01 points. — Xinhua

DSEDT announces 67 service points for elderly to renew their Macau Pass

Yuki Lei

The government has recently announced that holders of the latest version of the Senior Citizen Macau Pass will benefit from an additional 300 patacas in consumer spending discount as part of the new phase of its “Community Consumption Grand Prix” – and the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) yesterday announced 67 service points for card renewal.

The consumer promotion campaign will be held on March 24. During the period of the campaign, i.e., between March 24 and June 1, Senior Citizen Macau Pass holders are entitled to enjoy the special offers by topping up their card at 100 designated service points, which will be announced in due course.

However, according to a DSEDT statement, due to the fact that the microchip used in the old

version of the Senior Citizen Macau Pass cannot be used for topping up the card to receive the instant discount, cardholders are required to visit one of the 36 elderly, family and community service centres coordinated by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) between March 6 and May 20 to obtain a new card, which will be provided free of charge.

The statement noted that the card exchange process will take six to 10 working days, during which the balance of the old card will be automatically transferred to the new one.

The applicant, or a designated representative, only needs to collect the new card at the specified service point according to the card collection date indicated on the card voucher. They must bring the relevant documents, which include the original or a signed copy of the applicant’s ID card, as well as the

original ID card of the person acting on their behalf.

Senior citizens who have lost their card before topping up for the concessions can also apply for a replacement card at the service points in person or through a representative with the applicant’s original ID card during the card renewal service period, which will also take six to 10 working days, and the first-time replacement fee is free of charge, the statement noted.

Local residents who are 65 years old and have never applied for a Senior Citizen Macau Pass must apply in person at the Macau Pass Customer Service Centres located in Nape, the northern district of the peninsula, and in Taipa, the statement added.

According to the statement, the service points for card renewals include the Macau peninsula’s Family Service Centre of the Macau



This poster provided by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) yesterday reminds holders of the latest version of the Senior Citizen Macau Pass to top up their card at designated service points for 300 patacas in discounts.

General Union of Neighbourhood Associations and Family Service Centre of the Macau Women’s General Association, Taipa’s Elderly Centre of the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations and Community Integrated Service

Centre of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions, as well as Seac Pai Van’s Community Integrated Services Office of the Alliance for Common People Building Up Macau.

More details can be found on the DSEDT website. ■

Mainlander nabbed for theft after using lost Macau Pass Card

Ginnie Liang

A mainlander was arrested on Sunday for theft after picking up a Macau Pass Card he found in the street and spending about 800 patacas with it, a Public Security Police (PSP) spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the suspect is in his forties a non-resident worker (NRW) who works as a chef in Macau.

PSP officers received a report from a local man last year that he lost a Macau Pass Card in Taipa and found three unidentified spending records on the card through the Macau Pass online system, according to the spokesperson.

According to the spokesperson, the card belongs to the man’s son, who is 10 years old, who had lost it in Avenida de Guimaraes (基馬拉斯大馬路) in Taipa when walking.

The son told his father he had lost the card and they reported the matter to the police together.

With the assistance of the citywide CCTV surveillance system, PSP officers intercepted the suspect at the Barrier Gate checkpoint when he re-entered Macau on Sunday, and he admitted to committing the offence by picking up the Macau

Pass Card and spending money with it, then discarding it.

There was only five patacas left on the discarded Macau Pass Card, the spokesperson said, adding all the money was spent in local supermarkets.

The suspect has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a theft-by-finding charge, according to the spokesperson. ■



This undated photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the mainland theft suspect to a police station.

Staff scammed out of goods worth 160,000 patacas by ‘logistics service provider’

Ginnie Liang

A staff member of a local enterprise was scammed out of goods worth 160,000 patacas by a “logistics service provider” online, a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the victim met a person through an instant messaging service last year, who claimed to be able to ship a batch of goods from Hong Kong to Macau within one week.

Believing the person to be a logistics service provider, the victim provided the warehouse pick-up address in Hong Kong, only to find that the goods, a batch of game consoles, had been removed, but the victim’s company had never received the goods, the spokesperson said.

However, the scammer kept delaying the date of delivery, and



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Kim Fong looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference. – Photo: Ginnie Liang

the staff member finally suspected fraud and reported the case to the police, claiming a total loss of 160,000 patacas. ■

House of Dancing Water to return in May

Rui Pastorin

City of Dreams’ (COD) “House of Dancing Water” is slated to return in May, integrated resort operator

Melco Resorts & Entertainment said in a statement last night.

The production debuted in 2010, but had been suspended during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Produced by “Our Legacy Creations”, the statement noted that the production is recreated and directed by Giuliano Peparini, the artistic director of LA-based Peparini Studios. It features nearly 300 cast, crew and “behind-the-scenes heroes” from over 30 countries, the statement said.

The statement quoted Melco Resorts and Entertainment Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho Yau-lung as saying that the production has further strengthened COD’s portfolio and “set a new standard of excellence and innovation in leisure and entertainment.”

Tickets will be available from March 10. ■



This undated handout photo provided by Melco Resorts & Entertainment last night shows the performance venue for the House of Dancing Water.

CCAC detects case of falsifying attendance records

Rui Pastorin

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) announced in a statement on Wednesday that it has recently detected a case involving the chief of a station of the Fire Services Bureau (CB) suspected of falsifying attendance records and concealing that he had been absent from duty during work hours.

According to the statement, an investigation was initiated last year upon receiving a tipoff, discovering

that the person involved left Macau twice when he was supposed to be on duty between December 2023 and May 2024.

The chief, the statement said, also left his post for more than an hour on three occasions, returning only to clock out, attempting to disguise his absence.

The statement said that the case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), as well as reported to the Fire Services Bureau for possible follow-up action. ■