

FM Commissioner Liu briefs media, diplomats, chamber reps on 'two sessions'

Staff Reporter

Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa briefed Macau's English- and Portuguese-language media, diplomats accredited in Macau, foreign delegates to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao), local academics, and representatives of chambers of commerce based in Macau about the nation's "two sessions" that were held in Beijing earlier this month.

The term "two sessions" denotes the concurrently held annual sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Liu, a former assistant foreign minister, is a member of the CPPCC National Committee.

In his 1 1/2 hour presentation at the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Zape, Liu, who holds a doctorate in management science, underlined the achievements of this year's "two sessions", detailed the nation's "whole-process people's democracy in practice", pointed out the



Foreign Ministry Commissioner Liu Xianfa speaks during yesterday afternoon's presentation at the Commission about the achievements of the nation's "two sessions" in Beijing. - Photo courtesy of TDM

country's "institutional strengths" and called for "joining hands to achieve Macau's brighter future".

On the economic front, Liu, who worked as a senior executive

in China's petrochemical industry and as a high-ranking official in the central authorities' economic, trade, resource conservation and environmental protection

departments before joining the diplomatic service, underlined the fact that China last year was the No.1 contributor to global growth, accounting for 30 percent of the

world's economic growth. He also pointed out that 62 of the world's 153 lighthouse factories* are based in China.

Liu also introduced his audience to the "Six Little Dragons" - half a dozen enterprises consisting of Game Science, DeepSeek, Unitree Robotics, DEEP Robotics, BrainCo and Manycore Tech - "all 'tech startups' that have risen to prominence in Hangzhou over the past two years and hold significant influence with their respective industries".

During his presentation in highly proficient English, Liu also stressed the important guidance that President Xi Jinping gave Macau and Hong Kong during his inspection visit to Macau last December and also his pivotal comments while attending several meetings during this month's "two sessions" in Beijing, such as when reminding NPC deputies that "technological innovation and industrial innovation constitute the fundamental pathways for developing new quality productive forces."

Continued on p.3

France would be 'speaking German' without US: White House

WASHINGTON, DC - The White House yesterday rejected a call by a French member of the European parliament for the return of the Statue of Liberty, saying that France would be "speaking

German" without US help in World War II.

"My advice to that unnamed, low level French politician would be to remind them that it's only because of the United States of

America that the French are not speaking German right now, so they should be very grateful to our great country," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

- AFP

Court sets July 3 trial for Portugal's ex-PM Sócrates

LISBON - Portuguese former prime minister José Sócrates will stand trial from July 3 on fraud and corruption charges, a court ruled yesterday.

Socrates, 67, faces 22 charges including money-laundering, forgery

and corruption dating to his term in office from 2005 to 2011.

The Lisbon court announced the trial date for him and around 20 other defendants after a meeting between judges and lawyers.

Socrates responded in a

statement sent to Portuguese media: "The case is still in the investigation phase so there cannot be a trial."

His co-defendants include businessmen accused of financial crimes.

- AFP

China's digital industry reports revenue, profit growth in 2024

BEIJING - China's digital industry operated steadily in 2024, with increases in both revenue and profits, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) showed yesterday.

The industry's business revenue reached 35 trillion yuan last year, a 5.5 percent year-on-year increase. Total profits grew 3.5 percent year on year to 2.7 trillion yuan, according to the MIIT.

Notably, the added value of major manufacturers of computers, communication devices and other electronic devices grew 11.8 percent, up 8.4 percentage points from the previous year.

Boosted by artificial intelligence

(AI), cloud platforms and other emerging business activities, the country's software sector recorded 10 percent growth in business revenue, which reached 13.7 trillion yuan.

According to this year's government work report, the country will "accelerate the digitalization of manufacturing, foster a number of service providers with both industry expertise and digital know-how, and bolster support for the digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises."

The country is also advancing an "AI Plus" initiative, which calls for collective efforts to effectively combine digital technologies with China's manufacturing and market strengths.

- Xinhua

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The Macau Post Daily

PLA drills a 'just and necessary' move to safeguard peace in Taiwan Strait

A Chinese mainland spokesperson yesterday said the drills conducted by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) near Taiwan are a "just and necessary" move to safeguard national sovereignty and peace in the Taiwan Strait. - Story on p. 7

Stench of death as Sudan army, paramilitaries battle for capital

In a war-ravaged neighbourhood of Sudan's capital Khartoum, the stench from a gaping sewage pit is unbearable as Red Crescent workers pull a bloated body from deep underground. - Story on p. 11

Bolsonaro blasts election ban as 'denial of democracy'

Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro, who is accused of backing an attempted coup, told supporters in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday that a ban on him seeking re-election next year amounted to a "denial of democracy." - Story on p. 12

15 'mousers' yet to be caught at Jockey Club: ANIMA

Yuki Lei

The Macau Jockey Club (MJC) and ANIMA Macau jointly held a cat adoption campaign on Sunday at the MJC site in Taipa, resulting in the adoption of 22 "mousers" at the former racetrack – and ANIMA said in a statement yesterday that 15 "working cats" were still at the site to be caught, hoping to complete the process by next Tuesday.

ANIMA issued a statement yesterday summarising Sunday's adoption drive, expressing the animal protection group's sincere gratitude to everyone who attended and supported the event, and thanking the nine volunteers who helped make it a success.

According to the statement, at the start of the adoption campaign, a total of 83 felines had been captured at the Macau Jockey Club site. On Sunday, 22 were successfully adopted, leaving 61 cats and kittens behind.

The statement added that three of the 61 cats were found to have feline distemper* and would be taken to a veterinary clinic by the Macau Jockey Club for treatment, which would cover the related medical expenses, underlining that the three unwell cats would be taken care of by ANIMA after recovering from the disease.

In the statement, ANIMA expressed its relief that the cats would not need to be sent to Zhuhai, noting that the other 58 "working" cats caught at the MJC will be examined for feline distemper this week, and then gradually taken to several local animal protection organisations for homing, comprising the Cats and Dogs Guardian Angel Association (Macao) with seven cats, a shelter called 波天地 in Chinese with three cats, the Abandoned Animals Protection Association of Macau (AAPAM)

with seven cats, Catfee with 15 cats, and ANIMA with 20 cats.

ANIMA also thanked Mary Jean Reimer, a Hong Kong solicitor, who had earlier offered to provide space for cats.

According to earlier media reports, over 100 "working cats", i.e., mousers, lived at the former racetrack which was shut down on April 1 last year. The site is slated to be revert to the government on the first of next month. The cats' "job" was it to catch rodents in the club's stables, former staff members have told local media. ■

*Feline distemper, also known as feline panleukopenia, is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening viral disease that affects cats. It is caused by the feline parvovirus (FPV). The virus attacks rapidly dividing cells, particularly in the bone marrow, intestines, and lymphoid tissues, leading to a range of severe symptoms. – DeepSeek



One of the 22 cats awaiting adoption sits in a cage during Sunday's campaign co-hosted by the Macau Jockey Club (MJC) and ANIMA Macau at the MJC site in Taipa. – Photo: Yuki Lei

Police nab 3 mainlanders for loansharking, falsely imprisoning gambler

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) busted a casino loansharking case on Friday, arresting a man and two women from the mainland, PJ spokesman Chao Teng Hin said at a regular press conference yesterday.

The 44-year-old male suspect surnamed Zhuang, the 35-year-old female suspect surnamed Tang, and the 30-year-old female suspect surnamed Duan, told the police that they are jobless.

According to Chao, the police received a call from a man on Friday who reported that his friend, a middle-aged man from the mainland, was being held against his will in a hotel guest room in Cotai due to debts from high-interest loans.

Around 4 a.m. on Friday, the victim had borrowed HK\$200,000 from a person, who is now a fugitive, at a casino under the following terms: the victim had to pay 30 percent of the winnings of each bet as "interest". He had to write down his personal information and provide a fingerprint on a piece of paper. And each bet could not

exceed HK\$30,000.

The fugitive accompanied the victim and collected "interest" while the suspect Tang monitored the gambling. After losing all his money, the victim was taken to the hotel guestroom by Zhuang, Tang, and Duan where he was held against his will. However, the victim took the opportunity to call his family for help, and his friend reported the case to the police later that day. The police intercepted the victim afterwards as he was leaving the room with Tang and Duan and arrested them, and they also arrested Zhuang who was still in the room. Chao did not say why the victim and his captors were leaving the room when the police arrived there.

Chao noted that the victim was charged HK\$70,000 in "interest" and was held for 3 hours and 30 minutes. The police confiscated a mobile phone and HK\$8,000 from Tang.

The suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of false imprisonment and usury, according to Chao. ■

14 items worth 40,000 patacas stolen from gold jewellery shop: police

Ada Lei

A local man was arrested on Friday for stealing seven items of gold jewellery from a local shop and committing fraud, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The 30-year-old suspect surnamed Kam works as a salesperson. According to Chao, the owner of a local gold jewellery shop reported to the police on Thursday that 14 items of gold jewellery had been stolen, resulting in a loss of approximately 40,000 patacas. The police discovered that Kam, who had been a part-time employee at the shop, had visited the shop on March 6 and March 11 pretending to be looking to purchase some gold items. It was then that he committed the theft.

The police apprehended Kam in a street in the central district on Friday. Under questioning, Kam admitted to stealing seven items of jewellery from the shop and pawning the stolen items for 13,300 patacas. He claimed that he had gambled away all the money.

Chao noted that the theft of the remaining seven pieces of jewellery required further investigation, and there may be accomplices involved.

According to Chao, Kam has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges of theft and fraud. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

Police nab mainlander for stealing cash

Ada Lei

A man from the mainland was arrested on Thursday for stealing 200 yuan and 300 patacas, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lei Chan Hong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The suspect surnamed Yang is in his fifties. He told the police that he is jobless.

According to Lei, on February 27 a male non-resident worker (NRW) sought help from police officers on patrol in Praça das Portas do Cerco in front of the Barrier Gate checkpoint. He reported that the zip of his black backpack had been opened and that 300 patacas and 200 yuan had been stolen.

The police used CCTV surveillance to track down the suspect and identified him as Yang, who had approached the victim from behind, opened his backpack and taken the

cash inside before leaving Macau through the Barrier Gate checkpoint. On Thursday, the police apprehended Yang at the Barrier Gate checkpoint as he

was re-entering Macau.

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



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a PSP officer escorting the suspect into a police station.

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Source: SMG

Health Bureau logs 6.6 pct rise in organ donation registrations

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This image displayed by the Health Bureau (SSM) on its organ donation website calls for members of the public to register as an organ donor.

Yuki Lei

The Health Bureau (SSM) launched an online registration service for organ donations in September 2018 – and the bureau has announced that since then the number had reached about 6,380 organ donation registrations as of the end of last year, of which over 4,420 had completed the whole registration process, representing a 6.6 percent increase in total registrations between the end of 2023 and the end of last year.

The bureau announced the figure last month in a reply to a written interpellation by lawmaker Ron Lam U Tou submitted in mid-January. Lam released the written reply to the media on Saturday.

In his interpellation, Lam expressed concern about the government's sluggish efforts to raise the number of registered organ donations in Macau. Citing international experiences with cadaveric organ donations and statistics from neighbouring regions, the bureau underlined that worldwide there were only single-digit numbers of donors per million people each year, and that the organ donation rate in countries and regions with predominantly Chinese populations was generally low.

Cadaveric organ donation refers to the process of transplanting organs from a deceased donor to a living recipient. These organs are harvested shortly after the donor's death, provided consent has been given.

The bureau further noted that the local Working Group on Organ Transplantations was established to actively promote organ donations through registration, outreach, and solicitation of donations. Since its inception in September 2017, the families of potential donors have been contacted and persuaded to go ahead with the donation in 10 cases only. However, no organ donations were carried out due to the specific conditions of the 10 cases and the wishes of the families involved.

According to the statement, a liaison mechanism has been set up between the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre and private local hospitals, through which members of the working group will proactively follow up on potential cases as needed and provide organ donation counselling to the families concerned.

In the statement, the bureau highlighted its commitment to enhancing the acceptance of organ donations among local residents through various awareness-raising activities and promotions by medical experts, such as by improving the organ donation registration feature on the "Macao One Account" and optimising the existing organ donation webpage.

Meanwhile, in response to Lam's written question regarding the cost of dialysis treatment, the bureau noted that dialysis treatment is not a free medical service. However, it added, a medical assistance mechanism has been implemented for those who cannot afford the treatment due to financial constraints, with nearly 95 percent of the 990 dialysis patients in Macau recorded in 2023 having received free medical treatment or been exempted from dialysis fees.

Dialysis treatment is a medical procedure used to remove waste products and excess fluid from the blood when the kidneys are no longer able to perform these functions effectively. ■

'Southbound travel for Guangdong cars' set to 'positively impact' Macau's economy: Kevin Ho

Yuki Lei

The proposed policy allowing southbound travel for Guangdong cars via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) is expected to be launched this year, starting with Hong Kong – and in a recent interview with the *Post*, Kevin Ho King Lun, chairman of The Industry and Commerce Association of Macau, said that the policy would "positively impact" Macau's economy, describing it as a "good phenomenon with a reversal of the [economic downward] trend" for the city.

Hong Kong's Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Mabel Chan, noted in a blog posted on Saturday that preparations are underway for the launch of southbound travel for Guangdong vehicles this year. According to the "Administrative Measures for Guangdong Vehicles Entering and Leaving the Automated Carparks at the Hong Kong side of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Zhuhai Checkpoint", released by the Department of Transport of Guangdong Province, cars approved to enter and exit the car parks via the Zhuhai checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge will be prohibited from entering the urban areas of Hong Kong during the initial phase of the scheme, and they must return on the original route upon leaving Hong Kong. The application system for Guangdong vehicles will open in batches, and successful applicants must leave Hong Kong and return to the mainland within six months of entry.

In a WeChat conversation with the *Post* last week, Ho underlined that the "southbound travel for Guangdong cars" would represent a positive reversal for Macau's struggling economy, adding he believed that once the relevant policy was implemented in Macau, it would strengthen exchanges between Macau

and the rest of the country, particularly within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), and further promote the integration of Macau residents into the Greater Bay Area.

Ho is a prominent businessman, school principal and local deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC).

Regarding the view by some in civil society that the implementation of the "Macau cars going north" policy had negatively impacted local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and reduced local spending power, Ho said "this is not the case", adding that many locals choose to go to the mainland not only for the prices but also for the diverse range of goods available there. On the contrary, he said, many mainland tourists visit Macau and spend generously because of the "unique" travel experience it offers them.

Ho emphasised that the public should not always attribute economic issues to policy changes, adding he believed that the southward movement of Guangdong vehicles would effectively further increase the flow of tourists to Macau: "We currently have a daily quota of 2,000 vehicles travelling from Macau to Zhuhai, and each vehicle can carry an average of four to five people, allowing for a maximum of 10,000 people daily. However, there is an average of 100,000 mainland visitors in Macau each day".

He went on to say that in the future, the "southbound travel for Guangdong vehicles" policy was expected to complement Zhuhai's "one-week-one-visit" policy for travelling to Macau as well as the "one-permit-multiple-visits" policy introduced by the Guangdong-Macau In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, to further drive the development of Macau's economy: "If we can provide



This file photo taken on March 3 shows Kevin Ho King Lun, chairman of The Industry and Commerce Association of Macau, posing at the local airport after talking to journalists before departing for Beijing to attend this year's plenary session of the National People's Congress (NPC). – Photo: Yuki Lei

1,000 quotas per day for entry into the urban area and there are no quota restrictions for the car parks at the Macau side of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint, this would have a positive impact on the economy". Ho also said he believed that the initiative would be effective in boosting the economy of Macau's entire community, not just its tourist attractions.

While bridging the gap of Macau's consumption outflow, Ho said he agrees that any traffic pressure on Macau after the launch of the southbound travel for Guangdong cars could be reduced by "scientifically" setting a daily quota on the number of vehicles from the neighbouring province entering Macau and making "reasonable" use of the large car parks at the Macau side of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint. ■

FM Commissioner Liu briefs media, diplomats, chamber reps on 'two sessions'

Continued from p.1

Liu also introduced his audience to the new concept of "embodied AI: artificial intelligence equipped with a physical body, which allows it to better interact with the surroundings, often through sensors and robotic arms." He stressed that "experts believe that a number of humanoid robot models will enter mass production this year in China, marking a

significant milestone in the application of AI technology".

The presentation was followed by an informal exchange of views among the guests and foreign ministry officials, including Liu, during an afternoon tea gathering in the building. ■

*Lighthouse Factories are advanced manufacturing facilities recognised for their cutting-edge use of technology,

automation, and innovation. They serve as global benchmarks for efficiency, productivity, and sustainability in industrial production. These factories are often part of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0), leveraging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, big data analytics, and digital twins to optimise operations. – DeepSeek



Commissioner Liu Xianfa (centre) poses at the Commission with representatives of Macau's English- and Portuguese-language media before yesterday's presentation about the achievements of the nation's "two sessions". – Photo courtesy of TDM

Twin pandas Moboboo & Mocacaa take centre stage at new exhibition

Rui Pastorin

An exhibition entitled “Moboboo and Mocacaa Sports Paradise Themed Illustration Exhibition” is taking place at the free-admission 10 Fantasia Gallery until April 30, with the works on display featuring twin giant pandas as its centre stage.

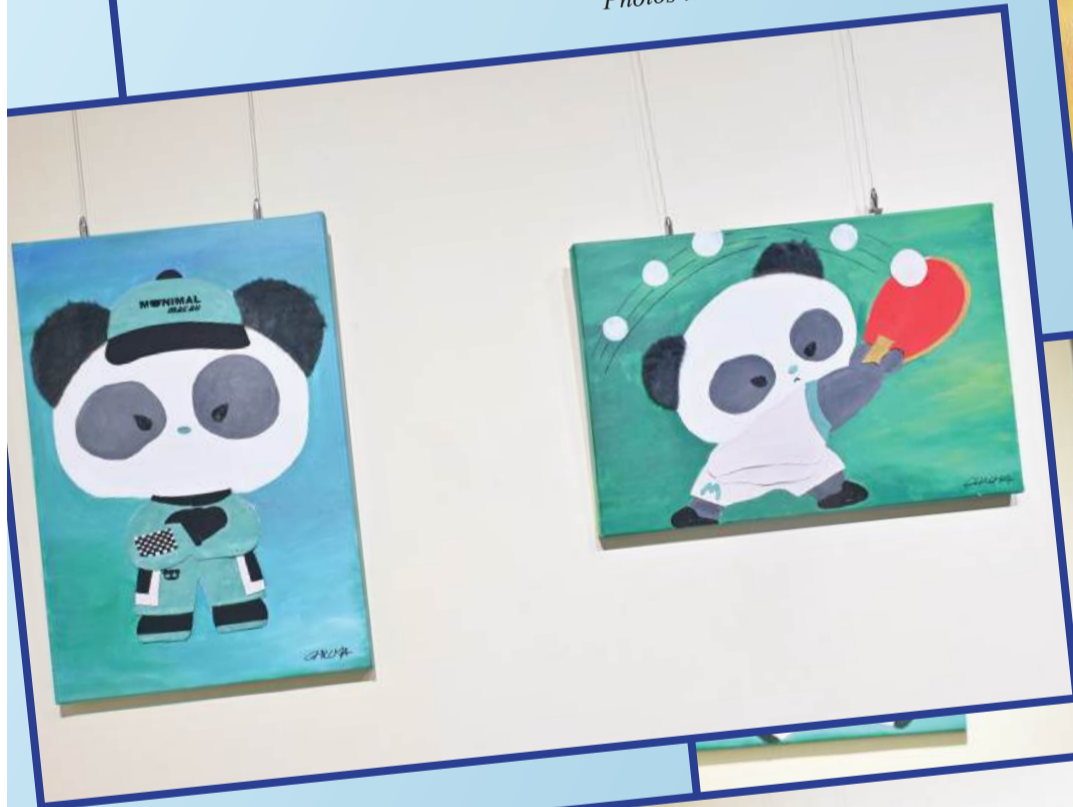
Displayed in the gallery’s room B07, the works on display feature giant twin pandas named Moboboo and Mocacaa, the brainchildren of local illustrator Zoe (何嘉怡). Each character finds itself portrayed as taking part in various sports. From being fight-ready by donning boxing gloves or wearing traditional karate attire (aka karate gi) to playing football, table tennis and fencing, each depiction features the character engaging in sport.

The works were created through mixed media and acrylics, but exhibitiongoers will also be greeted with a large statue of the two characters dressed in car-racing leathers displayed in the centre of the room.

A recent statement displayed at the exhibition noted that the both pandas are also sharing the joy of sport, conveying “a positive lifestyle attitude to the public”, which strengthens physical health and brings “endless joy and vitality”.

10 Fantasia Gallery is located on Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro (瘋堂斜巷). Exhibitiongoers may view the works throughout the exhibition period from Tuesdays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The gallery is closed on Mondays. More exhibition details can be found by visiting the 10 Fantasia website.

Photos taken recently by Rui Pastorin



Police probe columbarium niche cemetery fire

Tony Wong

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) announced yesterday that the plaques of “over 10” columbarium niches for holding urns in a public cemetery were blackened by smoke yesterday afternoon, in response to which it has reported the incident to the police.

In a follow-up statement last night, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said that they have launched an investigation into the case in which 17 columbarium niches had been blackened by smoke in “varying degrees”.

The case occurred in Nossa Senhora da Piedade Cemetery (望廈聖母墳場) in the peninsula, located between Avenida do Coronel Mesquita (美副將大馬路) and Montanha Russa Garden (螺絲山公園).

The city has six public cemeteries, comprising two each in the Macau peninsula, Taipa island, and Coloane island.

An IAM statement yesterday evening said that when IAM officials were carrying out a regular inspection in Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Mercy) Cemetery yesterday afternoon, they found that the

plaques of “over 10” niches in one of the columbaria there had been blackened by smoke.

The statement said that the bureau has reported the incident to the police requesting that they carry out an investigation.

The bureau has been contacting the families of the respective deceased.

The statement urged those who pay tribute to their ancestors in public cemeteries to always use the joss paper burners set up there for burning their offerings, after which they should only leave after confirming that all flames have been completely extinguished, the statement said.

Last night’s PJ statement said that shortly before 4 p.m., cemetery staff found a fire near some columbarium niches and called the emergency services, the firefighters arrived at the scene when the fire had gone out.

The PJ statement said that PJ confirmed that 17 columbarium niches had been blackened by smoke to “varying degrees”.

No one was injured in the incident, the statement said, adding that the police launched an investigation into the case. ■



This handout photo released by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows an IAM inspector checking some of the columbarium niches blackened by smoke in Nossa Senhora da Piedade Cemetery yesterday.

‘My China Journey In 30 Objects’

Rui Pastorin

A talk entitled “My China Journey In 30 Objects” took place yesterday at the University of Saint Joseph’s (USJ) Ilha Verde Campus, with the event being part of the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China.

The around one-hour long packed event featured Jaime Adriano FlorCruz*, ambassador of the Philippines to China, who, according to yesterday’s introduction, has lived in China for over 50 years and was a foreign correspondent who covered China for over four decades.

FlorCruz started off his career in China as a reporter for *Newsweek* magazine. He went on to join *Time* magazine’s Beijing bureau in 1982 and was bureau chief from 1990 to 2000. He later joined CNN as correspondent and bureau chief from 2001 to 2014, according to the event introduction.

FlorCruz spoke about his life and experiences alongside China’s development over the past 50 years, while also presenting representative objects that he collected over that period.

“I’ve kept them because I feel like they’re not just objects. They’re stories. Around these objects are actually people, stories of people, places, incidents”, FlorCruz remarked.

FlorCruz said that he arrived in China on August 21, 1971 with



Jaime Adriano FlorCruz, ambassador of the Philippines to China, delivers his talk “My China Journey In 30 Objects” at the University of Saint Joseph’s (USJ) Ilha Verde Campus. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

a group of 14 other Filipino youth leaders for a study tour. It was a time when, due to the political situation back home, it was not possible to enter mainland China, though they had found a way. However, the situation had changed abruptly in the Philippines and what was meant to be a three-week stay became indefinite.

Choosing to learn more, FlorCruz went on to detail his time in China, from days working on a farm and a fishing boat, his time at Peking University, to some of the memorable stories he had witnessed and covered as a journalist. He noted that it was also his time on the farm and on the fishing boat that he started learning Putonghua, later enrolling in Beijing Language and Culture University (then the “Beijing Language Institute”) where

he spent two years intensively learning the language.

Yesterday’s attendees were not only able to learn more about FlorCruz, but how much China has changed, offering an account of what China was like back then to what it is today. ■

*FlorCruz was also the first non-American journalist chosen for the Edward R. Morrow Press Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and, among other roles, was a professor at Peking University’s School of Journalism and Communication. – Source: event introduction

His full title is His Excellency Jaime Adriano FlorCruz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the People’s Republic of China

Rotary Blood Donation Day to take place on Saturday

Rui Pastorin

The Rotary Blood Donation Day is slated to take place this Saturday at the NOVA Mall in Taipa, with the event continuing the aim of ensuring that there is enough supply of blood reserves in Macau.

The event, initiated by the Rotary Club of Macau’s past president Alfredo Ritchie in 2001, marks its 25th year and is organised by Macau’s eight rotary clubs in conjunction with the Macao Blood Transfusion Service of the Health Bureau (SSM), according to a statement yesterday by the Rotary District 3450.

The statement noted that, according to the latest figures,

13,740 people donated blood last year, a year-on-year decrease of 3.2 percent. The statement added that the number of blood donations was 20,587 and 2,899 were first-time donors, a decrease of 13.6 percent.

Moreover, citing the latest data from the Blood Transfusion Service, the statement noted that the number and percentage of first-time blood donors have been declining year by year, dropping from 30 percent in 2018 to 21.1 percent, being mainly due to a decrease in the number of blood donors among university and secondary school students.

The statement pointed out: “The number of university students donating blood in 2024 had

decreased significantly compared to previous years, dropping by 3.5 percent. The number of secondary students donating blood has been on a downward trend since 2019, remaining at a low level of around 2 percent, whereas in 2015, 9 percent of blood donors were secondary school students”.

The declining participation of youngsters could possibly lead to a shortage in the city’s blood supply in the future, the statement pointed out, with a special appeal made by the organisers for youngsters in Macau to donate blood.

The Rotary Blood Donation Day is slated to take place from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Nova Mall on Saturday. ■



This photo shows guests attending yesterday’s press conference at NOVA Mall in Taipa.

– Photo: MPDG

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.77 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong’s stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.77 percent to close at 24,145.57 points.

The Hang Seng China

Enterprises Index ticked up 0.57 percent to 8,928.45 points. The Hang Seng Tech Index bucked the overall trend, dipping 0.14 percent to 5,872.81 points.

– Xinhua

Govt presents awards to 10 hotels eager to ensure water quality



Flanked by representatives of the 10 hotels which received awards, Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) Director Susana Wong Soi Man (centre), lawmaker Cheung Kin Chung (sixth from right), who chairs the Macau Hoteliers and Innkeepers Association, and Guo Xiaohui (sixth from left), an official from the Central People's Government Liaison Office in Macau, pose for a group photo during yesterday's ceremony at Grand Plaza Restaurant in Areia Preta district. — Photo: Tony Wong

Tony Wong

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) yesterday presented awards to 10 hotels that have “promised” to participate in the bureau’s “Safe Water Use in Buildings” programme.

The programme, which was launched in 2018, covers buildings with internal tap-water supply systems, such as high-rise residential, industrial and office buildings as well as hotels. Due to the need to ensure sufficient water pressure to units on the upper floors, high-rises require the installation and use of internal tap-water supply systems, officially known as secondary water supply systems.

The programme aims to encourage property management companies and condominium owners’ management committees as well as hotel operators to ensure the maintenance of their buildings’ secondary water supply systems.

Yesterday’s award-presentation ceremony was held at Grand Plaza Restaurant in the podium of the government’s high-rise rental residential building for senior citizens on Plot P in Areia Preta district.

To participate in the programme, the respective property management companies, condominium owners’ management committees, or hotel operators are required to meet a string of criteria aiming to demonstrate that

they are ensuring the good condition of their buildings’ secondary water supply systems.

The bureau will issue a certificate to qualified buildings after the respective entities submit documents proving that they are maintaining the buildings’ secondary water supply systems well.

Participating entities are required to implement various measures such as cleaning the water tanks at least once every six months and hiring a testing institution to carry out quality tests of water sampled from the water tanks at least once every year.

The bureau will issue a “junior-level” certificate to buildings after the respective entities submit records indicating regular inspections of the water supply systems as well as documents proving that the water tanks have been cleaned at least once every six months.

Buildings will be issued with a “senior-level” certificate after the respective entities submit water quality testing reports compiled by testing institutions, in addition to meeting the aforementioned requirements.

Delivering a speech during yesterday’s ceremony, DSAMA Director Susana Wong Soi Man said that as of last month, more than half of the high-rise buildings in Macau had participated in the programme.

As of last month, Wong said, 414 high-rise buildings had been issued with a “junior-level” certificate while another 414 high-rise buildings had been issued with a “senior-level” certificate.

Wong did not elaborate on the categories of the buildings.

Wong noted that Macau recorded nearly 35 million visitor arrivals last year, adding that as the hotel sector is one of the main pillars ensuring Macau’s status as a World Tourism and Leisure Centre, hotels’ water quality directly determines the experience of tourists in Macau and its image.

Consequently, Wong said, her bureau has intensified its efforts to extend participants of the programme, where her bureau was in talks with the Macau Hoteliers and Innkeepers Association, aiming to encourage more hotels in the city to join the programme.

Wong praised the association’s chairman, lawmaker Cheung Kin Chung, for his efforts to talk with representatives of the sector, thanks to which 10 more hotels have “promised” to join the programme.

Cheung said in a speech yesterday that his association will work on raising the standards for hotels to clean their water tanks. He also pledged that his association will ask more hotels to join the programme. ■

New policy supports unveiled to encourage consumption

Analysis

BEIJING – A new plan to expand consumer spending unveiled on Sunday is expected to encourage consumption and drive economic growth in China. The country has maintained its position as the world’s second-largest consumer market and largest e-commerce market for over a decade.

Data released yesterday shows that retail sales of consumer goods – a major indicator of the country’s consumption strength – climbed 4 percent year on year in the first two months of 2025, 0.5 percentage points higher than the same period in 2024.

Despite the positive data, consumer confidence remains weak due to multiple factors, and it remains imperative that consumption is boosted and domestic demand is expanded, Li Chunlin, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said at a press conference yesterday.

The plan is composed of 30 policies across eight sections, the first seven of which outline specific actions for implementation, including demand-side initiatives such as income enhancement for urban and rural residents, and measures to support consumption capacities.

On the supply side, actions are aimed at improving the quality of services consumption, upgrading bulk consumption and enhancing consumption quality.

The eighth section emphasizes the need to enhance supportive policies related to investment, finance, credit and statistics.

STOCK, REAL ESTATE MARKET STABILITY

For the first time, the consumption support plan emphasizes the need to stabilize the stock and real estate markets.

Previous consumption policies focused primarily on the supply side, emphasizing that supply drives demand creation. However, the latest policies also prioritize the demand side, aiming to boost household incomes and ease financial burdens, Li noted.

He cited measures such as those related to reasonable wage growth and scientifically adjusted minimum wages, both of which are highlighted in the consumption support plan.

To enhance property incomes, the plan calls for a multifaceted approach, including the stabilization of the stock market, strengthened strategic reserves and market stabilization mechanisms, and the accelerated removal of barriers preventing long-term funds – such as commercial insurance funds, the national social security fund and the basic pension insurance fund – from entering the market.

To meet housing consumption needs in an improved manner, efforts will focus on curbing the downturn and restoring the

stability of the real estate market, according to the plan.

Financial authorities have been encouraging medium and long-term funds to enter the capital market to stabilize stock performance further.

Since last year, Chinese policymakers have introduced a range of measures, including financial stimuli and regulatory adjustments, to bolster the property sector. These include mortgage rate cuts, decreased down payment requirements, eased purchasing restrictions and financing coordination mechanisms to enhance funding support for developers.

BETTER CONSUMPTION, WELL-BEING

By connecting consumer spending to broader social goals like elderly care improvement, child care support and work-life balance, the plan embeds consumption growth within China’s broader development objectives, signaling that consumption is being positioned not just as an economic goal but as a means to enhancing quality of life.

Solid investments will continue to be made. For example, ultra-long special treasury bonds totaling 300 billion yuan will be issued to support consumer goods trade-in programs in 2025, doubling the 2024 figure.

The programs, which kicked off last March, drove equipment purchases and investment up by 15.7 percent in 2024, contributing 67.6 percent of overall investment growth, and boosted sales of bulk durable consumer goods by over 1.3 trillion yuan, according to the NDRC.

Following its “employment first” policy, the central government plans to allocate 66.74 billion yuan in employment subsidies in 2025 to support local employment and startup assistance programs, said Fu Jinling, an official of the Ministry of Finance.

China will consider establishing a child care subsidy system. It will guide eligible regions to include rural migrant workers, individuals engaged in flexible employment, and individuals engaged in new forms of employment who are covered by the basic medical insurance for employees, in the country’s childbirth insurance program, according to the plan.

Regarding elderly care, the country will increase fiscal subsidies for basic old-age benefits and basic medical insurance for rural and non-working urban residents in 2025. Additionally, basic pension benefits for retirees will be raised appropriately.

The country will work to implement its paid annual leave system, ensuring that workers’ rights to rest and vacation are legally protected. It will also prohibit the unlawful extension of working hours, according to the plan.

— Xinhua

HK real estate tycoon Lee Shau-kee dies at 97

HONG KONG – Lee Shau-kee, founder of Hong Kong’s Henderson Land Development Company Limited, died yesterday at the age of 97.

The company said on its website that Lee died peacefully yesterday evening surrounded by family. Born in Shunde in Guangdong Province, Lee came to Hong Kong as a teenager and later founded the Henderson Land Group. He was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal in 2007.

John Lee Ka-chiu, chief executive of the Hong Kong

Special Administrative Region, expressed sorrow over the passing of the businessman and extended condolences to his family.

“Lee Shau-kee was an outstanding business leader and entrepreneur who had made significant contributions to Hong Kong’s economic development, as well as the city’s prosperity and stability,” said the chief executive.

Lee Shau-kee had made outstanding contributions to education and community service in the past decades, including his

generous donations to a number of universities and tertiary institutions in Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland, as well as his ardent support for the development of higher education and talent development, the chief executive noted.

John Lee also acknowledged his efforts to promote education with special concern on the development of education and research in Chinese communities through the founding of the Lee Shau Kee Foundation and the Hong Kong Pei Hua Education Foundation. — Xinhua