

9 legislative election nomination forms handed out already: CAEAL

Yuki Lei

The direct and indirect elections for the Legislative Assembly (AL) are scheduled for September 14 – and during a press briefing, Seng Ioi Man, president of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Committee (CAEAL), said that by noon yesterday, nine individuals had already collected their nomination-committee application forms, repeatedly stressing that any attempts to influence voters through coercion, fraud, or other improper means are criminal offences punishable by law.

Seng, accompanied by fellow CAEAL members Louie Wong Lok I, Mak Kim Meng, Lai U Hou, Ng Wai Han, and Daisy Ho In Mui, made the remarks while speaking to the media after the committee's closed-door meeting at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo.

According to Seng, as of noon yesterday, nine individuals had collected nomination-committee application forms, none of which had been returned so far, urging those planning to set up a nominating committee to fill in and submit their application forms by June 6 to ensure that the legal composition of the nominating committee is officially confirmed.

Seng reminded the public that only those who have officially established their nominating committees will be permitted to



Members of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Committee (CAEAL), including CAEAL President Seng Ioi Man (centre), attend yesterday's meeting at the Public Administration Building on Rua do Campo before speaking to the media in the afternoon. – Photo: Yuki Lei

submit their lists of candidates and election platforms by June 26. Distribution of the application forms commenced on March 6.

CAEAL urges residents to report coercion, fraud, or improper influence

Before addressing media enquiries, Seng said that the CAEAL was actively reviewing

and assessing recent comments and online posts regarding the solicitation of voter support for forming a nominating committee, quoting a member of the public who reported feeling “pressured” to submit a specific number of nomination forms.

Seng emphasised that the signing of nomination forms by voters to support the setting-up of a nominating committee is

a crucial right granted by law, serving as a political gesture that reflects the voters' willingness to participate in the committee.

Seng reaffirmed that no individual seeking nomination or being involved in electioneering may engage in coercion, fraud, professional duress, or offering any advantages to manipulate voters in forming a nominating committee or to influence their voting decisions: “These actions are not permitted by law”. He urged anyone who feels they have been coerced or deceived into signing the nomination form to report the matter immediately to the CAEAL or the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), providing as much specific and detailed information as possible: “We encourage the public to share their thoughts and insights with the CAEAL, and we are committed to taking these perspectives seriously in our follow-up efforts”.

Seng made it clear that the CAEAL has not received any reports indicating that nominations are the result of duress, adding that the law enforcement agencies will take measures to investigate any “coercion” cases and there are provisions in the Legislative Assembly Election Law to deal with such issues, i.e., the respective voter did not sign the nomination form voluntarily so that the nomination form is invalid as it involves a criminal offence.

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President Xi Jinping (front), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), waves goodbye to villagers while visiting the Zhaoxing Dong Village in Liping County of the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, on Monday. Xi paid an inspection visit to Guizhou on Monday and yesterday. – (More on p.7) – Xinhua

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China willing to jointly uphold genuine multilateralism with France: Wang Yi

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, said yesterday that China is willing to maintain close high-level exchanges with France and jointly uphold genuine multilateralism. – *Story on p. 6*

UN chief condemns 'intolerable' suffering in Gaza

UN chief António Guterres yesterday said Gazans were being subjected to an “intolerable level of suffering” following the most intense Israeli airstrikes in Gaza since a fragile ceasefire took effect. – *Story on p. 10*

UK cuts disability payments amid tight finances

Britain's Labour government yesterday announced contested cuts to disability welfare payments, which will save the Treasury more than £5 billion (US\$6.5 billion) by 2030 as the economy struggles with stagnant growth. – *Story on p. 12*

Police bust Texas Hold'em den, nab 10 locals

Ada Lei

Two local men were arrested on Friday for running an illegal Texas Hold'em* gambling operation, along with eight local gamblers allegedly involved in the case, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said during a regular press conference yesterday.

The 37-year-old alleged operator surnamed Chan told the police that he is a businessman. His 43-year-old employee is surnamed Wan. There were eight local male gamblers, aged between 30 and 46.

The Judiciary Police received a tipoff that illegal gambling activities were taking place in a residential building in Nape. On Friday evening, the police took action and intercepted Chan and Wan, the latter working for the former as the den's dealer, as well as eight gamblers in

the flat. Among them, seven were participating in the game, while one was watching them gamble. The police seized a large amount of chips, playing cards, a dealing machine, and two gaming tables used in the operation.

Under questioning, Chan told the police that he had been renting the flat for HK\$13,000 per month since August 2024 to operate an illegal gambling den. Each gambler placed bets ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 patacas per game. Chan took 5.0 percent of the wagers as "commission", earning 4,000 to 5,000 patacas per day, with a total income of 400,000 patacas. Wan was employed by Chan to deal cards, earning 500 patacas per day. The gamblers told the police that they had learnt of the den through an online chat group.

The 10 suspects were transferred

to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on Saturday. While Chan and Wan are facing charges of running an illegal gambling operation, seven of the eight gamblers are facing charges for participating in illegal gambling. The one who did not participate in gambling is facing a charge of being present at the gambling den.

According to Macau's gambling law, only gaming concessionaires are allowed to run games of chance as a business. ■

* Texas Hold'em is one of the most popular variants of poker, a card game that combines strategy, skill, and chance. Its key components are two to 10 players, a standard 52-card deck, the aim being to win chips by having the best five-card hand or by convincing other players to "fold" (quit) their hands. —DeepSeek



This undated and pixilated handout photo provided by the Judiciary Police (PJ) yesterday shows PJ officers watching the 10 suspects at the gambling den before taking them in for questioning.

Police arrest local man for stealing 4 phones

Ada Lei

A local man was arrested last Monday for stealing four mobile phones, Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Wong Chi Weng said during a regular press conference yesterday.

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

According to Wong, on March 6, an employee at a restaurant on Avenida de Artur Tamagnini Barbosa (巴波沙大馬路) reported that his mobile phone worth 3,300 patacas had disappeared. He had left it on a chair next to the cashier's counter while working. After reviewing the restaurant's surveillance footage, it was revealed that a man, later identified as Lin, had stolen the phone after having a meal there.

On March 9, a woman reported that she had lost her mobile phone worth 3,000 patacas, while shopping in a shop on Rua da Praia do Manduco (下環街). She had placed her phone in her shopping trolley before it disappeared. The police identified Lin as having stolen it through the shop's surveillance footage.

The police arrested Lin in Nam Van last Tuesday and found three mobile phones in his possession. One of the phones belonged to the woman, another belonged to a female friend of



This undated handout photo provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows PSP officers escorting the suspect to the Nam Van Police Station.

the suspect's mother, which he had stolen from their living room during her visit and was valued at 4,000 patacas, while the third was a phone he claimed as his own but could not unlock, leading to suspicions that it was also stolen. He also told the police that he had sold the man's phone in Hong Kong.

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

9 legislative election nomination forms handed out already: CAEAL

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Only registered voters are entitled to sign a nomination form. Each voter can only endorse one nomination form.

According to Seng, the CAEAL will conduct a briefing session next Wednesday to clarify the election process for the public and prospective candidates. Additionally, early next month, the CAEAL will meet with representatives from the city's gaming concessionaires in conjunction with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) to discuss the importance of neutrality for corporations and their employees during the election.

Asked by the media about individuals claiming to be teachers who have expressed certain election-related concerns on social media, alleging that their schools have pressured them to assist in collecting signatures for the formation of a particular nominating committee, Seng responded that the CAEAL will organise a briefing session with

school representatives to address such issues.

In response to social media concerns that some senior citizens were allegedly asked by social organisations whether they had signed certain nomination forms while seeking assistance for the Economic and Technological Development Bureau's (DSEDT) upcoming "Community Consumption Grand Prize" campaign, Seng clarified that the initiative is a government policy focused on health and welfare, with no connection to electoral matters. He noted that the CAEAL has tried to investigate the issue further but has been unable to gather any specific details through various channels, complicating their ability to follow up effectively.

Candidate disqualified in 7th election banned from this year's polling

Those planning to establish their nominating committee should aim to gather between 300

and 500 valid nominations – and there has been public concern that some major civil society groups may have collected more than 500 in total. Seng said in response to a reporter's question yesterday that so far the CAEAL has not encountered any such cases, adding that with over 300,000 registered voters, it was expected that candidates intending to run in the election will actively seek public support and work to establish a nominating committee before the June 6 deadline.

When asked whether a candidate disqualified from participating in the seventh Legislative Assembly elections four years ago could run in this year's polling, Seng referred to the amendments made to the Legislative Assembly Election Law, pointing out that individuals who have been deemed as not upholding the Macau Basic Law and who have failed to pledge allegiance to the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) are barred from standing for election for a period of five years. ■

Local woman loses HK\$894,000 in 'fake police' scam

Ada Lei

A local woman has lost HK\$894,000 (919,930 patacas) in a "fake police" scam, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Chao, a local young woman received a call on March 9 from someone claiming to be a "Shanghai police officer". The "police officer" alleged that her mainland-registered phone had sent out a large number of scam messages and requested she contact a "prosecutor" through

FaceTime. The woman booked a room at an inn in the northern district as instructed by the "prosecutor" and enabled screen sharing for "funds inspection".

The victim later discovered that she could not log into her online banking account. After consulting her bank, she discovered that eight transactions amounting to a total of HK\$894,000 had been transferred from her account between March 10 and 14 to four different Hong Kong accounts. She realised finally that she had been defrauded and reported the case to the police on Friday. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Chao Teng Hin looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

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Macau Weather

DRY.
MAINLY FINE.
FORCE 3 TO 4 NORTH TO NORTHEASTERLY WINDS, BECOMING EASTERLIES.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 35% AND 75%.



14°C~22°C

Source: SMG

Zhuhai-Macau 'door-to-door' hospital transfer service starts

Yuki Lei

The Unitary Police Service (SPU) announced on Monday evening that the Zhuhai and Macau governments held a joint ceremony earlier that day to launch a new "door-to-door" transfer service between designated hospitals in both places, marking a significant advancement in medical cooperation between Zhuhai and Macau.

According to the statement, the Zhuhai-Macau ambulance service will connect the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre in Macau with several hospitals in Zhuhai, including the Zhuhai Second People's Hospital, The Fifth Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University, Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Zhuhai), and Zhuhai Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine.

The agreement, signed in early January, emphasises prioritising patients' medical needs, safety, and interests while preventing the misuse of the service.

Additionally, the statement noted, the existing "vehicle-to-vehicle" patient transfers at border checkpoints will continue alongside the new "door-to-door" service for patients who do not qualify for cross-border transport.

The statement said the new service was launched with the aim of enhancing medical cooperation within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) while improving the overall satisfaction and well-being of residents in both Zhuhai and Macau.

Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long noted last year that there are currently five ambulances and three fire engines equipped with dual Guangdong-Macau licences. ■



This handout photo provided by the Unitary Police Service (SPU) on Monday shows Health Bureau (SSM) Director Alvis Lo Iek Long (second from right) giving a plaque to a representative from The Fifth Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University on that day's launching ceremony in Zhuhai.

IAM warns public about bottled water containing excessive mercury

Yuki Lei

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) urged the public yesterday to cease consumption of a bottled natural mineral water found to contain excessive levels of mercury, underlining that the retailers involved have been ordered to stop selling the problematic product.

According an IAM statement, the natural mineral water, branded as "溫泉水99", has a capacity of 2.0 litres and is sourced from Japan. The problematic product belongs to batch number 26.10.07+SF, which has been found to contain 0.00165 milligrams of heavy metal mercury per litre. The statement noted that the maximum limit for heavy mercury in natural mineral water in Macau is set at 0.001 milligrams per litre.

In the statement, the bureau pointed out that mercury is a heavy metal pollutant that can harm the nervous system if ingested in excessive amounts. However, it



This undated handout photo provided by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) yesterday shows the Japanese-made bottled water which has been found to contain excessive levels of mercury.

added, the mercury levels found in the problematic product are low and pose minimal risk of adverse health effects with regular, i.e., not excessive consumption.

The bureau reaffirmed its commitment to actively monitor the situation in order to ensure consumers' food safety. ■

ITTF world cup presented by GEG slated for next month



Sports Bureau (ID) President Luis Gomes (sixth from right) and Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Director of Corporate Affairs Buddy Lam Chi Seng (seventh from right) pose with guests attending yesterday's press conference at Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) in Cotai for next month's "ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup Macao 2025 presented by Galaxy Entertainment Group". - Photos: Rui Pastorin

Rui Pastorin

The week-long "ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup Macao 2025 presented by Galaxy Entertainment Group" is set to be held from April 14-20 and will again feature nearly 100 paddlers from around the world.

Details of the returning ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation)-sanctioned event were announced during a press conference at the Galaxy International Convention Centre (GICC) yesterday afternoon.

The competition, which made its Macau debut last year and makes its return to the Galaxy Arena in Cotai, will feature 96 players consisting of 48 male and 48 female competitors. Among them are the nation's Wang Chuqin, who is world men's singles number 2, and Sun Yingsha, world number one in the women's singles

and gold medallist in last year's women's final.

World number 2 in the women's singles Wang Manyu, also from the mainland, and French table tennis player Alexis Lebrun, a three-time French national champion, were also among the names mentioned during yesterday's press conference.

Sports Bureau (ID) President Luis Gomes said in his speech yesterday that previous table tennis events held in Macau, including the previous ITTF World Cup, have not only received support from members of the public, but "have also created a global craze for the sport, showcasing Macau's capability as a host city for international sporting events. The synergistic effects of large-scale events have propelled the development of Macau's sports industry and driven economic growth



This photo shows the mascot for next month's competition, along with the trophies up for grabs.

in sports tourism and related sectors".

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) Director of Corporate Affairs Buddy Lam Chi Seng noted in his speech: "We are confident that this year's event will carry forward the momentum built last year, drawing sports enthusiasts and visitors from around the world to Macau to experience the city's strengths in hosting international sports events and its unique charm as a shining pearl".

According to the event programme, April 14 to 16 will comprise a series of round-robin games, while the last 16, quarter finals, semi-finals and finals are set to be held on the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th respectively. Tickets will be on sale from noon tomorrow.

More event details can be found on www.ittf.com and www.sport.gov.mo ■

IC sets up Macao Pavilion at FILMART

Rui Pastorin

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has set up a "Macao Pavilion" at the ongoing Hong Kong International Film and TV Market (FILMART) 2025 in the neighbouring region.

Held until tomorrow at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, the setting-up of the pavilion is aimed at promoting Macau's film and television services, hoping to encourage more projects to be shot here and create more opportunities for the local industry's development, according to a recent statement by the bureau.

Local entities organised by the bureau to participate in the four-day event, which kicked off on Monday, include local government entities, as well as film and TV production companies. They consist of the Cultural Development Fund, Free Dream Films Production Company Limited, Macao Wing Chon Film Ltd., Cirrus Productions Limited, Type F Studio and E.C. Film Production Company Limited.

The statement added that during



This undated and unlocated handout photo provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) on Monday encourages "Film in Unique Macao".

the period, an introduction session about the "Subsidy Programme for Cinematographic and Television Filming in Macao" will also be held to "encourage more film and television projects to be shot in Macau and foster the development of the local film and television industry".

FILMART was described by

the statement as being "the largest cross-media and cross-sectoral trade fair for film and entertainment in Asia". The event's official website notes that last year's edition had over 760 exhibitors from 27 countries and regions.

More details can be found on hkfilmart.hktdc.com ■

These photos taken during Sunday's campaign show the performances by several local troupes which will participate in this coming Sunday's "2025 Macao International Parade". – Photos by Yuki Lei and event organisers



Local troupes aim to promote unity & multiculturalism at Macao Int'l Parade

Yuki Lei

This year's Macao International Parade is set to take place this coming Sunday – and representatives of two participating local troupes told the *Post* last Sunday they hoped to spread the message of unity, friendship and appreciation of multiculturalism, echoing the event's theme of "Love, Peace, and Cultural Integration".

The annual parade, jointly organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the city's six integrated resort (IR) operators, is fast approaching. In preparation, the organisers have been coordinating visits from performing arts troupes to various local communities over the past few days.

This year, the three-hour parade brings together 23 troupes from 15 countries and regions, as well as nearly 60 local troupes, with a total of about 1,800 performers. They come from a diverse range of countries and regions, including Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Morocco, Polynesia, Portugal and Spain in addition to the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong. Three other cities selected as this year's East Asian Capital of Culture, China's Huzhou, South Korea's Anseong, and Japan's Kamakura, will also participate in the event.

This Sunday at 3 p.m., as per tradition, the performing teams will begin their journey at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ruins of St. Paul's. They will navigate through the old streets and alleys of the city's old quarters, making their way to Largo de S. Domingos, where they plan to engage with spectators. The route will also take them past Largo do Senado and along Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Nam Van, aiming to offer a vibrant experience for all involved. The grand finale is set to take place at 6:30 p.m. on the main stage in Sai Van Lake Square, during which 20 selected local troupes will join their counterparts from elsewhere to compete for the Grand Prize.

On Sunday, several local arts groups, including the Macao FuLife Sports Club and the Santo Niño de Cebu in Macau Association, presented a community arts carnival in Iao Hon Market Park and the Lok Yeung Fa Yuen Building sitting-out area in Fai Chi Kei district.

Being the first time to participate in the upcoming parade, Macao FuLife Sports Club Founder Louisa Cheong Sin Yi said that in line with the parade's theme, a captivating carousel performance has been meticulously crafted, accompanied by a "stunning array of performance costumes" designed in the hope of catching the attention of the spectators.

In her remarks to the *Post*, Cheong underlined the unique characteristics of her group, saying that while all members share a passion for sport, they each engage in different athletic activities, adding that they work together and hope to perform in a way that celebrates the joys of life outside of the sporting realm.

According to Cheong, her fellow members hail from diverse backgrounds, including Portugal, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. Their goal is to present Macao through the distinct lenses of these various cultures, emphasising its "welcoming and vibrant character as a premier tourist destination".

Cheong also said that, given the unique nature of the parade and its usual performances at scenic locations, as well as the tight schedule, her group would step up its training this week and raise the complexity of its performance, adding she expected an enthusiastic response from spectators.

Philippine group keen to foster love & understanding

Having participated in the annual parade since its inception in 2011, Santo Niño de Cebu in Macau Association President Violetta Duran expressed happiness about being part of it every year when speaking to the *Post* on the sidelines of Sunday's community event, saying that her group's performance this year will highlight Filipino culture, with a special focus on one of the earliest ethnic communities in the Philippines, the Atas indigenous group from the southern Philippines, representing their rich history while showcasing unique costumes. Duran also emphasised the significance of presenting their cultural dances and traditions as an integral part of Macau's cultural landscape.

When asked about her expectations, Duran said she hopes to impress the spectators with their performance while learning from other participating groups, appreciating the diversity of cultures. She also encouraged everyone to foster love and understanding, urging them, through her group's performance, to share their unique cultural backgrounds with one another.

According to Duran, her group consists of 35 performers, all set to share their cultural heritage and to contribute to the event's theme of culture and tradition.



Comedy festival to be held in Macau & Hengqin for 2nd time

Tony Wong

After the Macau International Comedy Festival was held for the first time last year, the event will have its second edition this year, which will be held for five days next month, with comedies and other related activities to be held in Macau and Hengqin.

The 2nd Macau International Comedy Festival will be jointly organised by mainland-based comedy production company Mahua FunAge and cultural communication company Damai, both headquartered in Beijing, with the Macau government's Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), as well as two companies, Hengqin In-depth Cooperation Investment Group and Nam Kwong Culture and Creativity Industry Company Limited, as co-organisers.

A press conference about this year's festival was held at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape yesterday.

The upcoming festival will be held between April 9 and 13, with comedies, film screenings, forums, workshops and other related activities to be held in cultural facilities in Macau including those



Guests such as Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man (sixth from left), Mahua FunAge CEO Han Mei (sixth from right), and Guan Xiaojing (first from right), a manager of Hengqin In-depth Cooperation Investment Group, symbolically launch the 2nd Macau International Comedy Festival during yesterday's press conference. — Photo: Tony Wong

run by three gaming operators, MGM, Sands China, and Melco, as well as in Hengqin.

Last year, the festival was held for eight days in March.

IC President Deland Leong Wai Man said during yesterday's press conference that the continuous organisation of the Macau International Comedy Festival will "vigorously" promote the integrated development of Macau's cultural and creative industries with other

related fields, creating another unique cultural brand for Macau.

Leong expressed her gratitude to Beijing-based Mahua FunAge for again staging fun events for people in Macau and Hengqin as well as those elsewhere in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) by staging comedies next month.

Pledging that her bureau will continue to strongly support the organisation of the Macau

International Comedy Festival, Leong also said she expects Macau's status as a 2025 Culture City of East Asia to be able to attract more high-quality cultural projects to Macau, developing the city into an important bridge for the nation's high-standard opening-up as well as an important window of exchanges between Chinese and Western civilisations.

Mahua FunAge CEO Han Mei acknowledged during yesterday's

press conference that there is a lack of Chinese-language comedy playwrights because of which this time her company was calling for submissions of new works by comedy playwrights from the Chinese-speaking world.

About 300 comedy works were submitted, including those from Macau, of which six pieces were shortlisted earlier this year, including one from Macau.

Mahua FunAge Chief Financial Officer Cheng Leer said that the six shortlisted comedy works will be presented and assessed during a session which will be one of the activities in next month's comedy festival, when three winners will be chosen. The three chosen comedies will be staged during the next, third comedy festival.

Guan Xiaojing, a manager of Hengqin In-depth Cooperation Investment Group, said during yesterday's press conference that she expects the Macau International Comedy Festival to create opportunities encouraging more high-quality cultural projects from elsewhere to be launched in Hengqin, transforming Hengqin into a new international cultural hub. ■

Govt to announce clearer rules for film shooting: culture chief

Tony Wong

Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man said yesterday that her bureau will soon announce "more concrete and clearly defined" guidelines for crews to comply with for their film shooting in Macau.

Leong made the remarks while speaking to reporters at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape after yesterday's press conference about the upcoming 2nd Macau International Comedy Festival.

Leong's remarks yesterday came after the bureau suspended a crew's filming permission in Macau late last month following an accident where a driver lost control while drifting when the crew was filming on a closed section of road, injuring 12 other crew members.

The bureau said late last month that as the filming project was deemed to be technically demanding, the bureau had convened a meeting attended by representatives of other relevant public entities and those from the crew before the commencement of the shooting, where officials explicitly said that the location concerned was unsuitable for car drifting so that the crew's representatives were aware of

the local authorities' requirements.

Shortly after the accident late last month, the Cultural Affairs Bureau held a meeting with relevant public entities including the police. Based on the opinions raised by other public entities during the meeting, IC officials decided to suspend the crew's filming permission after concluding that the filming project had "obviously" disturbed public order and safety.

The bureau said late last month that it had ordered the crew to submit a report about the accident, adding that the bureau did not rule out the possibility of revoking the crew's filming permission for the whole project.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Leong said that after her bureau suspended the crew's filming permission, it was still assessing opinions collected from other relevant public entities. She said that if her bureau finally concludes that the crew on purpose adopted another filming method, thereby causing the accident due to its failure to comply with the authorities' requirements, her bureau would revoke the crew's filming permission for the whole project.

Leong also said that the accident created an opportunity for her



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) President Deland Leong Wai Man speaks to reporters at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) yesterday. — Photo: Tony Wong

bureau to review its procedures for assessing applications from crews for road filming permits, adding that her bureau will soon announce "more concrete and clearly defined" guidelines for crews to comply with.

Moreover, Leong also said that if a crew plans to carry out a technically demanding filming project, her bureau will require them to submit a more detailed filming proposal.

Leong also underlined that Macau has its unique advantages and strengths for attracting non-local film crews, adding that over 300 crews from outside Macau applied for filming permits last year, the highest on record. ■

Excitement builds for 2025 Macao Int'l Parade

Kristina Vallesteros

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) announced in a recent statement a series of activities for this Sunday's "2025 Macao International Parade", such as a vote for the one-day event's "Most Popular Team" and a photography contest.

Voting will be open until 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. The statement noted that participants can cast their votes via the parade's official website, or by scanning the QR code on the promotional materials available along the parade route on the day of the event.

Voters will have a chance to win a round-trip economy class ticket from Macau to any destination serviced by Air Macau, the statement said.

As for the photography contest, the statement noted that it is open to Macau residents aged at least 12. Participants must submit a maximum of five photos that "highlight the joyous scenes of the parade". Entries will be accepted until April 3. The prizes consist of the Champion Award, 1st Runner-Up Award, 2nd Runner-Up Award and 15 Merit awards. The statement added that the Champion and Runner-Up awards will not be given to the same participant, and each participant may only receive a maximum of two awards.

The parade celebrates the 26th Anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland. The event will showcase the talents of 23 artistic groups from 15 countries and regions, and nearly 60 local groups, bringing together an estimated 1,800 artists.



This photo recently provided by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) shows the winning photo of the "2024 Macao International Parade Photography Contest" taken by Li Chuyu.

The theme of the parade is "Love, Peace and Cultural Integration", facilitating interactive exchanges of culture and art, with the parade starting at the Ruins of St. Paul's (大三巴牌坊) and finishing in Praça do Lago Sai Van (西灣湖廣場).

For more information about the parade and its activities, one may visit the "Macao International Parade" website at www.icm.gov.mo/macaoparade or follow the IC's official WeChat account "IC_Art_Macao," along with the Macao International Parade Facebook page and the Macau activities website "Enjoy Macao". ■

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 2.46 pct higher

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's stock market ended higher yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 2.46 percent to close at 24,740.57 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 2.79 percent to end at 9,177.80 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 3.96 percent to end at 6,105.50 points. — Xinhua

Online investment fraudsters post fake news about Sam: police

Staff Reporter

The Judiciary Police (PJ) announced in a statement earlier this week that fraudsters ran a post on social media pretending to be a news report from the Chinese-language *Macao Daily News*, falsely claiming that “in a live television broadcast, Macau Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai accidentally revealed “shocking truths” because he was unaware that the microphone was still turned on”, with the purpose of attracting netizens to click on the link that directed them to a counterfeit investment platform. The statement did not elaborate on the purportedly “shocking truths” revealed by Sam.

The police made the announcement in a statement on Monday saying that they discovered the post earlier that day.

The statement noted that the counterfeit investment platform aimed to defraud potential victims of money.

Macao Daily News is Macau’s top selling Chinese-language newspaper, which also runs online instant news. ■



This poster released by the Judiciary Police (PJ) on Monday captures posts made by fraudsters pretending to be news reports from *Macao Daily News* about fake news for Sam Hou Fai.



Staff members work in the factory of a new energy company in Qingyun County of Dezhou City, Shandong Province, on Monday. In recent years, Qingyun has leveraged its advantages in green electricity resources to build the Zhongqing New Energy Green Near-Zero Carbon Industrial Park, which has attracted and nurtured dozens of new energy industry projects. — AFP

China willing to jointly uphold genuine multilateralism with France: Wang Yi

BEIJING — Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said yesterday that China is willing to maintain close high-level exchanges with France, strengthen strategic coordination, and jointly uphold genuine multilateralism.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks when having a phone conversation with Emmanuel Bonne, diplomatic adviser to the French President, at the latter’s request.

During the phone conversation, Wang requested Bonne to convey President Xi Jinping’s greetings to French President Emmanuel Macron.

The current international situation is increasingly complex and intertwined, with significant rises in uncertainty and instability, said Wang.

Noting that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in World War II, Wang said that it is essential for China and France, as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and comprehensive strategic partners, to enhance strategic communication at this significant historical juncture.

Wang said that China is willing to maintain close high-level exchanges with France, strengthen strategic coordination, jointly uphold genuine multilateralism, uphold the status

of the United Nations, protect the international trade order, ensure the stability of global industrial and supply chains, oppose unipolar hegemony, reject placing one country’s self-interest above the common interests of all nations, and prevent the world from returning to the law of the jungle.

In the current situation, it is of important and positive significance for China and Europe to resolve specific economic and trade frictions through consultation. China hopes that France will work with China to send a positive signal of unity and cooperation and promote the healthy and stable development of China-France and China-Europe relations, noted Wang.

Bonne requested Wang to convey Macron’s greetings to Xi. He said that France attaches great importance to and cherishes the friendship and mutual trust between France and China. Under the current complex international situation in particular, France looks forward to maintaining high-level exchanges and close strategic communication with China to jointly resist camp confrontation.

Bonne said that France opposes trade wars and tariff wars, and is willing to properly resolve economic and trade frictions through consultations with China, promote balanced and sustainable development of economic and trade relations between France and China and also between Europe and

China, and maintain the international economic and trade system based on World Trade Organization’s rules.

The two sides exchanged in-depth views on the Ukraine issue.

Bonne briefed Wang on the position of the French side, saying that France is willing to strengthen coordination with China and expects China to play an important role in reaching a just, stable and sustainable peace agreement on Ukraine.

Wang said that China has advocated resolving the crisis through dialogue and negotiation from the very beginning, and welcomes all efforts towards a ceasefire, which is a necessary step towards peace. At the same time, this process should respect the will of the parties concerned, should not be imposed by a third party, and should not only serve the interests of any one country.

China supports the achievement of a fair, lasting and binding peace agreement acceptable to all parties concerned, and believes that all parties and stakeholders should participate in the peace talks process in due course.

He also noted that China’s position has been recognized and supported by the parties concerned and most other countries, and China is ready to work with all parties, including Europe, to continue to make efforts for peace.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Iranian nuclear issue. — *Xinhua*

Arizona governor’s visit fuels fear, anger concerning industrial hollowing-out of Taiwan

Analysis

TAIPEI/BEIJING — The visit by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs to China’s Taiwan region this week has reignited concerns about the outflow of investments and supply chain resources from Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) to the United States.

Local media reported that Hobbs, who arrived on the island on Sunday, visited TSMC headquarters in Hsinchu and attended a dinner with the chip company’s key Taiwan suppliers.

Discussion of the visit surged on Taiwan’s popular social media platform, the PTT forum, highlighting increasing fears that the island’s semiconductor industry may face systematic dismantling.

“They are hollowing out Taiwan,” one post read, sparking replies such as, “What will be left in Taiwan?” and “TSMC’s exodus means Taiwan is disposable.”

A report by DIGITIMES, an IT industry media outlet, noted growing unease among Taiwan semiconductor firms.

Anonymous industrial insiders were quoted as saying that the push for TSMC and its suppliers to set up operations in Arizona is part of a broader US strategy to establish a whole supply chain that increasingly sidelines Taiwan.

TSMC, the world’s leading contract chipmaker, has been under pressure to increase its investments in the United States over the past few years.

With its first wafer fab in Arizona already in operation, the company in early March announced plans to expand its investment in advanced semiconductor manufacturing in the United States by an additional US\$100 billion, to build three new wafer fabs, two packaging facilities and an R&D center.

Pan Hua-sheng, associate professor at Yunlin University of Science and Technology in Taiwan, said the investment is “not the optimal choice but a short-term compromise.”

TSMC’s investment in the United States has actually gone against its long-held principle of industrial neutrality, Pan said, adding that the semiconductor industry has increasingly become a geopolitical tool, rather than one driven purely by market competition based on quality and cost.

Jiang De-gang, a researcher at the Taiwan International Strategic Study Society, said that the authorities of Lai Ching-te are sending Taiwan’s whole semiconductor ecosystem to the United States in a package.

An editorial published by *United Daily News* slammed Lai for deceiving the public regarding the TSMC case.

“Lai Ching-te is using TSMC as a cover for the inability of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) to respond to [US President Donald] Trump’s tariff policies,” the article said.

“He portrayed the relocation of our strategic industry to the United States as an expansion of industrial strength,” said the article, adding that a security crisis is being reframed by the DPP authorities as a “historic moment” in the island’s so-called relations with the United States.

An editorial in the Taipei-based *China Times* accused the DPP of treating TSMC as a bargaining chip to curry favor with Washington, warning that Taiwan could lose big in the process.

Despite the DPP’s claim that TSMC’s most advanced facilities will remain in Taiwan, people are skeptical.

“Why must the DPP insist on banking on the United States? Why shouldn’t the people of Taiwan doubt the US actions?” said Ho Yi-cheng, chief of Taiwan Youth Federation. “The action to hand over TSMC to the United States constitutes a genuine betrayal of Taiwan.”

Lai is selling TSMC and Taiwan’s semiconductor industry to Washington in the hope of gaining US support for his separatist agenda seeking “Taiwan independence” and repeated provocations to the mainland, said Chen Guiqing, a research fellow of the Beijing-based Institute of Taiwan Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

“This has given the United States more leverage to blackmail Taiwan,” Chen said. “The semiconductor industry is a pillar supporting the development of the entire economy of Taiwan. If this key industry is relocated, the next generation of Taiwan’s workforce and the island’s economic growth will face a bleak future.”

— *Xinhua*