

Sam expresses confidence in ensuring people's safety during expected 'Ragasa' onslaught

Casinos to close upon hoisting of Signal No.8

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai yesterday underlined the local government's confidence in ensuring the safety of people in Macau and minimising the potentially catastrophic impact of Super Typhoon Ragasa expected to pummel the city, thanks to its early and comprehensive preparations for worst-case scenarios, while urging residents to refrain from letting their guard down in preparing for the menacing arrival of the super typhoon.

The local observatory forecasts Ragasa to be "very close" to Macau tomorrow morning and says that it will hoist Signal No.8 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. today.

According to observers, typhoon warning signals No.9 (T9) or even No.10 (T10) – the two highest of Macau's five-level storm warning system – are expected to be hoisted if Ragasa comes particularly close to Macau.

The local government also announced yesterday that considering the probably major impact of Ragasa on Macau, all casinos will suspend operations once Signal No.8 is hoisted.

The government also announced in a statement yesterday that all school classes will be suspended today and tomorrow.

Sam yesterday convened and



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre) talks to the owner of a shop on Rua de Cinco de Outubro in the Inner Harbour district during yesterday afternoon's inspection visit to the area aiming to gain a better understanding of measures to tackle storm surge flooding there. – Photo: GCS

chaired a meeting with his five policy secretaries and several other senior officials, held at the Civil Protection Operations Centre in Taipa's Pac On district, about the government's ongoing preparations for Ragasa's expected onslaught. Sam and his five policy secretaries spoke to reporters after the meeting.

Sam expressed the government's confidence in tackling the potentially devastating impact of Ragasa at the start of yesterday's meeting, while the temporary closure of all of the city's casinos was announced by Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip while he was speaking to the media after the meeting.

Up to 2-metre floods expected

During yesterday's meeting, which was open to the media at the start, Sam noted that the local observatory forecast that Super Typhoon Ragasa was very likely to pass within 100 kilometres south of Macau tomorrow morning, when it was expected to



pass within a very short distance of Macau or even directly pummel the city, adding that its ferocity was expected to affect Macau for a relatively long time.

Consequently, Sam said, Ragasa was expected to result in a "very severe" storm surge in Macau, adding that the storm-surge flooding caused by the super typhoon could be expected to be comparable to that experienced during catastrophic typhoons Hato (August 2017) and Mangkhut (September 2018).

Sam said that the storm surge caused by Ragasa was estimated to reach up to five metres, resulting in flooding of two metres above road level in Macau's low-lying areas.

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South China goes all out, bracing for super typhoon Ragasa

GUANGZHOU – Bracing for the imminent super strong typhoon Ragasa, south China's coastal regions, particularly the densely populated Pearl River Delta, have suspended train and ferry services, closed schools and reinforced road facilities to ensure the safety of local residents.

Ragasa, the 18th named storm of the 2025 Pacific typhoon season, intensified into a super typhoon on Sunday, and is forecast

to likely make landfall along the central or western coastal areas of Guangdong Province tomorrow. Meteorologists have warned that Ragasa is moving rapidly while maintaining its strength, making it the most powerful typhoon to hit China this year.

Impacted by the typhoon, the northern area of the South China Sea and the coastal areas of southern China will be battered by strong winds and heavy rains from

today through Friday. Some regions in eastern Jiangsu and Anhui provinces will also experience heavy rainfall due to the typhoon's influence, according to the National Meteorological Center.

China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters yesterday activated a Level-IV emergency response in Guangdong, Hainan and Fujian, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management.

Guangdong yesterday raised its wind emergency response to Level II, with multiple cities announcing a series of suspension measures. The Level II response, the second-highest in China's four-tier warning system, was activated at 10 a.m. yesterday.

Schools will be closed, and work, production, public transport and business operations will be suspended starting today in the Pearl River Delta cities of

Yangjiang, Jiangmen, Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Dongguan, according to local flood control authorities' announcements.

Shenzhen and Huizhou will also close all primary schools, secondary schools and kindergartens today and tomorrow. Shantou will implement similar suspension measures across different areas, industries and time periods from today.

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The Macau Post Daily

Important Notice to Our Print Edition Readers

Dear Readers,
Due to Super Typhoon "Ragasa," the print edition of **The Macau Post Daily** will not be published tomorrow and on Thursday.

This decision was made to ensure the safety of our reporters, editors, designers and distributors, who will not be required to work in the office while Typhoon Signal

No. 8 or higher is in effect.

We appreciate your understanding. The well-being of our team is my main concern as publisher.

We will assess the situation

on Thursday afternoon and decide whether to relaunch the print edition on Friday at the earliest.

Please note: Our website will continue to provide regular updates

on Ragasa's latest movements.

Please stay safe! Look after yourself and your loved ones!

Sincerely,

– Harald Brüning

Chikungunya & dengue fever 'under significant control' in Macau: SSM director

Armindo Neves

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement that it co-hosted a conference yesterday with the Guangdong Provincial Health Commission and Hong Kong Department of Health (DH), officially called "22nd Tripartite Meeting of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao on Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases", and SSM Director Alvis Lo Iek Long said in a speech by video link that "chikungunya and dengue fever have been brought under significant control."

Yesterday's conference, which took place in Hong Kong, was attended in person by SSM Acting Deputy Director Tai Wa Hou, Guangdong Provincial Health Commission Deputy Director-cum-Guangdong Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Director Song Tie, and Hong Kong Director of Health Ronald Lam Man Kin.

Song said in a speech that since the beginning of this year, the three places have achieved "seamless"



Hong Kong Director of Health Ronald Lam Man Kin (centre), Guangdong Provincial Health Commission Deputy Director-cum-Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention Director Song Tie (left), and Macau Health Bureau Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Head Leong Iek Hou pose during yesterday's ceremony marking the signing of the one-day conference's minutes. — Photo: GCS

coordination in areas such as disease surveillance — for vector-borne diseases like Chikungunya — risk assessment, information sharing, and emergency response. The joint public health exercise, code-named

"Jingfeng", recently conducted in the runup to the 15th National Games and the 12th National Games for Person with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games, has also helped build

a multi-layered public health security network characterised by "integrated defence and multi-disease prevention," Song said.

Dr Lam said that Guangdong and Macau have demonstrated outstanding effectiveness in prevention and control, as well as high-efficiency response capabilities in dealing with the chikungunya outbreak, providing valuable points of reference for Hong Kong. Dr Lam also emphasised that the "Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme" and its measures for controlling various infectious diseases through vaccination have set an "exemplary" model.

In his speech by video link, Dr Lo pointed out that cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in the field of infectious disease prevention and control has been continuously deepening. Since July this year, the joint prevention and control mechanism has successfully brought Chikungunya and dengue fever "under significant control", considering the world's infectious disease challenges, Dr Lo said.

Dr Lo also said that the one-day conference was of great significance for strengthening regional collaboration, enhancing the effectiveness of prevention and control, and safeguarding public health.

According to the statement, the conference reviewed and summarised the cooperative achievements made by the three places since the previous one, in areas such as public health emergency response, infectious disease surveillance and prevention, and information sharing.

The statement also said that the conference consisted of in-depth exchanges and extensive discussions on key topics, such as the general epidemic situation of major infectious diseases in the three places; the prevention and control of seasonal influenza and other vaccine-preventable diseases; the current status and containment measures for Chikungunya and dengue fever; as well as infection control in healthcare settings, and the prevention, control and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance. ■

Police nab drunk driver for evading responsibility

Ada Lei

The Public Security Police (PSP) apprehended a local man on Saturday for drunk driving and evading responsibility, with his blood alcohol concentration standing at 2.77 grams per litre, PSP spokesman Lam Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

Lam identified the suspect as a 40-year-old car dealership owner surnamed Cheong.

According to Lam, the Public Security Police (PSP) received a report on Saturday night about a traffic accident near Praça do Lago Sai Van (西灣湖廣場). A car driven by Cheong crossed a solid line and collided with the right side of another vehicle. Upon arrival, the police discovered Cheong and a female driver at the scene. A breathalyser test indicated that Cheong's blood alcohol concentration was 3.14 grams per litre, confirming a drunk-driving offence.

Under questioning, Cheong admitted to drinking alcoholic beverages in a hotel in Cotai before driving. Through the hotel's surveillance footage, the police

discovered that Cheong had struck a flower pot outside the exit of the hotel car park before driving away. Lam noted that Cheong only admitted to driving under the influence, but denied evading responsibility.

Cheong has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing charges for drunk driving and evading responsibility. ■



Public Security Police (PSP) spokesman Lam Keong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference.

— Photo: Ada Lei

Young entrepreneurs receive awards in Macau, HK at same time

Khalel Vallo

The 6th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award Ceremony was simultaneously held in Hong Kong and Macau yesterday, with the Macau session taking place at the University of Macau (UM).

Organised by the Guangdong-HK-Macao Bay Area Entrepreneurs Alliance, the event honoured 79 young entrepreneurs, including eight from Macau. Among them, three are UM alumni.

According to a statement from the public university yesterday, over 3,000 participants joined the ceremony both online and offline, including Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu, Guangdong Vice

Governor Zhang Guozhi, Macau Secretary for Economy and Finance Anton Tai Kin Ip, and Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau Ying-wah.

In his online speech, Tai stressed that the awards have, over the past six years, consistently recognised young entrepreneurs with vision, innovation, and practical ability, who are now a driving force for the high-quality development of the GBA, the statement said, adding that the policy secretary encouraged them to seize new opportunities brought about by the nation's development, remain resilient, and uphold the mission of "serving the country and contributing to society".

Following a selection process assessed by academic institutions and invited experts, Macau's winners were named in two categories.

Two of the Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award are UM alumni: Si Iong Iong (Lok Fu Enterprise Holdings Ltd.), and Jones Chong Cho Lam (Chessman Entertainment Production Co. Ltd.).

Additionally, UM alumna Ng Si In, (Silver Bullet Technology Co. Ltd.) garnered the Best Entrepreneurship Award.

With eight awardees from Macau, the ceremony once again aimed to underscore the city's role in nurturing innovative entrepreneurial talent and its contribution to the development of the GBA, the statement said. ■



Official guests pose for a group photo during the 6th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award Ceremony at the University of Macau (UM) in Hengqin yesterday.

— Photo: Khalel Vallo

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MACAU POST

Macau Weather

VERY HOT.
CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY
INTERVALS.
A FEW THUNDERY SHOWERS LATER.
FORCE 5 TO 6 NORTH TO
NORTHWESTERLY WINDS,
BECOMING FORCE 7 TO 8
WITH GUSTS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
WILL RANGE BETWEEN
55% AND 95%.



26°C~33°C

Source: SMG

CTT holds briefing session on telecom agreement, licensing arrangements

Armando Neves

The Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) held a briefing session yesterday about its recently renewed telecommunication agreement with long-time operator CTM and licensing arrangements, aiming to ensure the stability of Macau's telecommunication services in line with the law, according to a CTT statement.

The session, which was held at the CTT headquarters at the General Post Office (GPO) on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, focused on the overall arrangements for telecommunication agreements and licences in Macau, the statement said. In order to ensure the smooth transition of telecommunication services in line with the implementation of the authorities' overall reform plans for the sector, the government decided to extend its telecom concession agreement with CTM for two more years, until September 30, 2027, the statement said.

The statement highlighted that the agreement has adopted the form commonly known as "one-year fixed agreement, one-year living agreement*", allowing the government to terminate the agreement upon 60 days' prior written notice, effective from October 1, 2026. During the contractual period, the government explicitly adopts the principles of "fairness, transparency, and user pays" in improving the concession duct**-sharing mechanism, charging CTM fees for using assets concerning other licence holders, the statement said.



Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) Director Derby Lau Wai Meng (centre), CTT Deputy Director Lao Lan Wa (left) and CTT Telecommunications Management Department Chief Choi Fan pose during yesterday's briefing session at the CTT headquarters. – Photo: Armando Neves

The statement pointed out that the government expects that all operators benefiting from these measures will ultimately pass on the benefits to their customers. Additionally, the government has mandated CTM to implement price

reductions for individual customers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), covering a range of services including commercial fixed telephony, broadband, and leased lines services, in response to public concern about telecom service pricing,

considering the arrangements for the short-term extension of the agreement.

Macau Institution of Engineers Chairman Joe Wu Chou Kit told reporters on the sidelines that the government's forthcoming policy on the open access to common ducts and telecommunication pipelines will promote competition in the telecom market and reduce public communication costs.

Wu emphasised that the enactment of the city's amended telecommunication law is a critical prerequisite, and he called for its swift submission by the government to the Legislative Assembly for debate, review and vote to regulate market liberalisation.

Macau Computer Chamber Chairman Au Ka Fai told reporters on the sidelines of the briefing session that the revision of the licensing system must keep pace with the times to ensure high-quality and affordable services, aligning with standards in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and elsewhere in the Chinese mainland. Au emphasised the significant potential of emerging fields such as cloud computing and virtual space leasing, particularly when combined with the resource integration advantages of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, to drive Macau's smart city development. ■

*A living agreement is a document or set of rules that is designed to be updated and changed over time. – DeepSeek

**Macau's extensive network of underground conduits (ducts) that house fibre optic cables and other lines. – DeepSeek

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2025

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Local students' artworks thank their teachers

Rui Pastorin

Members of the public can continue viewing works at the ongoing “2025 Teacher’s Day Poster and Comic Exhibition” (2025年教師節海報及漫畫作品展*) at the Centre of Educational Resources of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), with the exhibits presented until October 18.

Teacher’s Day** was celebrated in Macau, Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland on September 10, while China’s Taiwan region will celebrate it this Sunday, September 28.

Those entering the free admission venue will find creative posters and comics featuring both students and teachers, along with many scenes of gratitude. Aside from art, some of the works also include messages.

Each poster and comic were chosen from the bureau’s open call for submissions on works that convey messages of love and respect for teachers that ran until April, with the bureau’s website listing a total of 103 selected works by students ranging from primary to university that were chosen for the exhibition.

Selected students were awarded with certificates, stationery vouchers and commemorative envelopes for Teacher’s Day.

During its run, exhibitiongoers may visit the free admission venue from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, the exhibition is open between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 5:40 p.m., while the venue is closed on Sundays.

*This story is a continuation of a Post article titled “Macau students thank teachers with posters & comics”, which was published on September 17.

**The date for Teacher’s Day varies at different parts of the world. Australia celebrates it on the last Friday in October while the US celebrates it on Tuesday of the first full week of May, according to a list of Teacher’s Days on Wikipedia. For places such as Germany, Portugal and the Philippines, they celebrate it on October 5, which was established by UNESCO to be “World Teacher’s Day” in 1994.



Photos taken recently by Rui Pastorin

Macau Customs seizes 10 orchids, 24 bottles of spirits, 46 used smartphones in 6 days

Armindo Neves

The Macau Customs Service announced in a statement on Sunday that its officers have busted five smuggling cases in six days, seizing 10 orchids, 24 bottles of spirits, and 46 used smartphones.

Local customs identified the five smugglers as aged between 22 and 67, comprising mainland Chinese and local residents.

On September 12, customs officers at the Barrier Gate entry vehicle lane intercepted a car, based on an alert from the cross-border Risk Management System. A follow-up inspection revealed 10 potted orchids in a box on the backseat of the car.

The statement underlined that smuggling of orchids is a violation of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, customs officers at the Barrier Gate entry vehicle lane intercepted a

cross-border car under, also based on an alert from the “Risk Management System.” A follow-up inspection revealed 24 bottles of spirits hidden under the backseat of the car.

In two other cases, on September 13 and September 17, customs officers at the Qingmao pedestrian border checkpoint and Barrier Gate, respectively, noticed three males behaving abnormally, appearing to be nervous, while passing through the checkpoint, raising suspicions that they might be carrying undeclared items. Upon inspection, it was discovered that they concealed a total of 46 used smartphones around various parts of their bodies, such as wrapped around their waists and calves, in an attempt to smuggle them from Macau to the Chinese mainland.

According to Macau’s External Trade Law, the five smugglers face a maximum fine of 100,000 patacas each, while the seized contraband has been confiscated. ■



This undated handout provided by the Macau Customs Service on Sunday shows 10 potted orchids in a box on the backseat of a smuggler’s car.

Local woman loses 280,000 patacas in phishing scam: police

Ada Lei

A young local woman has fallen victim to a phishing message scam, resulting in a total loss of 280,000 patacas, Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Ho, the Judiciary Police (PJ) received a report on Friday from the woman, who said

that she had received a message from a purported local bank on Thursday. The fraudulent message informed her that the “online payment protection plan” for her e-wallet was about to expire. If she wished to continue using it after the expiration, she would need to pay 988 patacas for an extension. Wanting to cancel it, the victim was then instructed to contact the “customer service” in Hong Kong.

Through the phone number provided in the message, the victim contacted three individuals who claimed to be “bank staff”. During their communication, the scammers persuaded the victim to provide her bank account and credit card information, and instructed her to enable screen sharing.

Later that same day, the victim discovered multiple transactions in her bank and credit card accounts. Meanwhile, she lost contact with the “bank staff”. Suspecting she had been scammed, the victim reported a total loss of 280,000 patacas to the police on Friday. ■



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Ho Wai Lok looks on during yesterday’s regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

Macau details transport arrangements for Super Typhoon ‘Ragasa’

Rui Pastorin

The local authorities announced yesterday transport arrangements for Super Typhoon “Ragasa” concerning flights, ferries and public transport (buses and LRT), as Macau braces itself for the storm’s potential catastrophic impact on the city.

The local airport has put up a special notice on its website announcing that there will be a “significant reduction in flights” starting at 4 p.m. today, highlighting that the most substantial impact is expected tomorrow. Public broadcaster TDM reported that the airport expects 250 to 280 flights to be cancelled between today and tomorrow.

In terms of ferry services, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) said in its statement that the ferry service from Macau’s Inner Harbour to Zhuhai’s Wanzai district has already suspended operations, with the last sailing having taken place last night. Ferry services between Macau and Hong Kong will be cancelled today.

Customarily, Macau’s ferry services are suspended in the runup to the hoisting of Tropical Cyclone Signal No.8 (T8).

The DSAMA statement added that ferry services between Macau, Shekou and Fuyong (both in Shenzhen) will remain suspended until further notice.

Meanwhile, the “Emergency Rescue Command Office of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao



A departure screen at the local airport shows a number of cancelled and rescheduled flights due to approaching Super Typhoon “Ragasa” last night.

– Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

Bridge” (港珠澳大桥应急救援指挥部办公室) announced in its statement that after consultations between Macau, Guangdong and Hong Kong, the vehicular checkpoints of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HKZMB) will suspend border crossing services from 3 p.m. today while the delta bridge will also be closed.

Public bus services in Macau will be suspended once Typhoon Signal No.8 is hoisted. The Macau Bridge linking the peninsula’s Zone A and Taipa will also be closed during this period. Limited taxi services will continue also under T8 or higher typhoon warning signals (T9 and T10) “in line with the real situation,” the Transport Bureau (DSAT) said in a statement. Further details on

the suspension arrangements and resumption, including the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) service, can be found by visiting the DSAT dedicated page on https://www.dsat.gov.mo/dsat/events_detail.aspx?a_id=56755F1FB286B04F2C60033ABC974E9F

As usual during T8, the three other Macau-Taipa bridges (Friendship, Governador Nobre de Carvalho and Sai Van) will also be closed, except for the enclosed deck of Sai Van Bridge

Typhoon Signal No.8 is expected to be hoisted between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. today, according to the Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) website, which pointed out that there was a “high” possibility of it being issued. ■

CTT promotes Macao 2026 at Philakorea



This undated handout photo provided by the Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) yesterday shows guests and participants posing for a group photo at the Philakorea 2025 World Stamp Exhibition in Seoul, including CTT Director Derby Lau Wai Meng (centre, front).

Khaled Vallo

The Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) promoted the upcoming “Macao 2026 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition” (aka “Macao 2026”) during the Philakorea 2025 World Stamp Exhibition in the South Korean capital Seoul from last Wednesday through Sunday, according to a CTT statement yesterday.

As part of the programme, CTT hosted a reception on Saturday where CTT Director Derby Lau Wai Meng presented the preparations and highlights of Macao 2026 to representatives of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP), postal administrations, philatelic societies, dealers, jurors, and

commissioners, the statement said.

Lau stressed that with the support of the FIP, FIAP, the State Post Bureau of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the China Post Group, preparatory work is progressing smoothly and on schedule, the statement added.

She noted that official representative applications and booth requests have already been received from several countries and regions, aiming to reflect international confidence in Macau, the statement noted, adding that the exhibition will include a competition class and two thematic zones: the “Treasure Gallery”, which will feature rare stamps printed with diverse techniques, and the “Macao Stamp Corner of Art”, which will display design drafts,

original artworks and era-specific stamps from Macau’s history.

Lau highlighted that these exhibitions aim to portray Macau’s cultural stories and showcase stamps as the city’s “business card,” the statement said.

Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the FIP in 2026, the statement added that celebratory events will be incorporated, alongside the 21st International Competition Class for Issuing Postal Authorities of UPU Member Countries and Territories.

CTT reaffirmed its commitment to ensure that Macao 2026 aims to become a diverse international philatelic event that strives to strengthen global exchanges while promoting the city’s heritage and innovation in philatelic culture. ■

Sam expresses confidence in ensuring people's safety during expected 'Ragasa' onslaught

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Preparations for worst-case scenarios

In light of the "very serious" challenge that Macau is now facing, Sam underlined his government's commitment to preparing for the onslaught of Ragasa in advance and remaining highly vigilant against its threat, making the fullest possible preparations based on worst-case scenarios, with the primary goal of ensuring the safety of all people in the city.

The chief executive also underlined the government's objective of minimising the impact of Ragasa on Macau's civil society.

Sam said that coordination and collaboration between the public entities under the city's civil protection system has been getting closer and smoother over the years, while the government conducts exercises every year to test its ability to implement its emergency plan of evacuating those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, enabling the plan to be continuously improved over the years.

Consequently, Sam said, Macau's ability to prevent, tackle and mitigate disasters has been improving.

Moreover, Sam said, the city's drainage system and its maintenance have been improving, while new rainwater pumping stations and drains have come into use over the years, thereby enhancing the flood prevention capacity in the city's low-lying areas.

Sam said that taking into account these factors as well as the government's early and comprehensive preparations this time and its commitment to mobilise those from various segments of civil society to join its disaster-prevention efforts, his government was confident that it will be able to confront the threat posed by Ragasa.

'Nobody can afford to be complacent'

Sam warned that Macau's civil society should not let their guard down in disaster prevention for the approaching super typhoon,



Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai (centre) speaks to reporters at the Civil Protection Operations Centre in Taipa's Pac On district yesterday, flanked by his five policy secretaries and Unitary Police Service (SPU) Commissioner-General Leong Man Cheong (right).
— Photo: Tony Wong

adding that nobody can afford to be complacent about the menace posed by the storm.

The chief executive said that in addition to officials and public servants under the city's civil protection system, the government is also mobilising officials and public servants from various other public entities to join its disaster-prevention efforts and restore the city to normal in the aftermath of Ragasa as quickly as possible.

Sam noted that the government is also asking community associations to mobilise residents from various segments of civil society to carry out disaster-prevention public awareness campaigns and participate in the government's efforts to restore normality to the city in the aftermath.

Utmost efforts to restore city to normal in Ragasa's aftermath

During yesterday's press briefing after the meeting, Sam noted that the local government has activated its emergency response mechanism, whose preparations are vigorously underway, comprising three main segments, namely precautionary measures implemented before Ragasa approaches Macau, disaster prevention and mitigation efforts during its expected onslaught, and measures to restore the city to normal in the aftermath.

Sam noted that he has ordered his five policy secretaries to ensure close coordination and collaboration between the public entities under their respective portfolios, while underlining his government's utmost efforts to ensure the safety of residents and all others in Macau, including tourists.

Sam urged residents, businesses and all others in Macau to prepare in advance for Ragasa and remain highly vigilant against its threat.

Casinos' closure aims to ensure safety

Also speaking to reporters during the press briefing, Tai said that as Ragasa was expected to cause a significantly adverse impact on Macau, the government has decided that all casinos in the city must suspend operations once Signal No.8 is hoisted, with the aim of ensuring the safety of casino workers and visitors.

When Super Typhoon Mangkhut pummelled Macau in September 2018, it was the first time ever that the local government ordered the city's casinos to cease operations when Signal No.8 was hoisted, in anticipation of its potentially large impact. At that time, Signal No.10 was finally hoisted when Mangkhut came close to Macau.

Tai yesterday also urged employers to exercise discretion concerning arrangements for their



This photo taken yesterday evening shows goods having been removed from some of the shelves in a pharmacy on Rua de Cinco de Outubro in anticipation of severe storm surge flooding caused by Ragasa.
— Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng

employees to return to work after the typhoon, based on the outdoor conditions in the city, such as giving them adequate time to get to their workplaces.

Closures of checkpoints

Also speaking to reporters after Sam's meeting, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak noted that officers from various law enforcement agencies will evacuate those living in low-lying areas in compliance with the government's evacuation plan in advance before the expected storm surge.

Moreover, Wong said, 27 public carparks in low-lying areas will be closed in advance before the storm surge, while the government will also urge the operators of 18 private carparks in low-lying areas to close them.

Wong also said that the Macau government will maintain close communication with its mainland and Hong Kong counterparts concerning the temporary closures of certain border checkpoints if necessary.

Also speaking to reporters, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raymond Tam Vai Man underlined the government's efforts to ensure the stable supply of tap water, electricity and natural gas as well as telecom networks.

Tam also said that if floods in low-lying areas exceed one metre

above road level, the government will possibly suspend electricity supplies to households in the affected areas with the aim of protecting the respective power supply facilities, underlining that this measure aims to ensure that electricity supplies to the affected households can resume quickly after the typhoon.

Also speaking to reporters, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Wallis O Lam said that after the typhoon, the government will decide whether school class resumption needs to be postponed in line with various factors such as the intensity of rainstorms at that time as well as the level of damage to roads and schools caused by Ragasa.

Also speaking to reporters, Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon said that in case of relatively serious damage caused by Ragasa, public entities would possibly need to only maintain limited operations for a period of time after the expected assault of the typhoon.

Meanwhile, Sam, accompanied by a number of officials, paid an inspection visit to shops in the Inner Harbour district yesterday afternoon, with the aim of gaining a better understanding of how the shops were preparing for the expected severe storm surge flooding, according to a statement by the Government Information Bureau (GCS). ■

South China goes all out, bracing for super typhoon Ragasa

Continued from p.1

As of 6 p.m. yesterday, the operations of 121 passenger ferry routes and 393 passenger ferry ships across the province have been suspended, and 294 water-related engineering projects in affected waters, including offshore wind power projects, have been halted. Guangdong's electricity authorities have also assembled a 32,000-person emergency response team.

As of 10 a.m. yesterday, the maritime safety administration of the province had relocated over 10,000 vessels to safe waters for shelter.

Affected by the typhoon, heavy rains are expected to hit eastern Guangdong, the Pearl River Delta and western Guangdong from today to Thursday, with exceptionally severe rain likely in some areas.

The Zhuhai highway port (checkpoint) at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will suspend outbound customs clearance services from 3 p.m. today, and the main bridge will be closed simultaneously, bridge authorities announced yesterday.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government announced yesterday that classes in all schools will be

suspended today and tomorrow. Likewise, the Macao SAR government announced class suspension today and tomorrow for its secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and special schools.

The Hong Kong International Airport will remain open during the typhoon, but many flights are expected to be affected, according to Hong Kong's airport authorities.

At 4 p.m. yesterday, the Hainan provincial committee for disaster prevention, mitigation and relief upgraded its typhoon response to a Level-IV alert for flooding and winds.

"Ro-ro" (roll-on/roll-off) passenger ship services across the Qiongzhou Strait will be suspended at 6 p.m. today and are expected to remain suspended until Thursday, according to the Haikou maritime safety administration. At present, 15 emergency vessels are on standby to ensure any emergencies at sea are responded to and handled rapidly.

To ensure safe railway operations, China Railway Guangzhou Group Co. Ltd. has decided to gradually suspend high-speed and conventional trains within Guangdong starting from noon today, with the scope of

suspensions adjusted dynamically according to the typhoon's impact.

All high-speed and conventional trains in the province will be suspended throughout tomorrow. From the early hours of Thursday, train services will be gradually resumed as the typhoon's impact weakens.

The neighboring Fujian Province upgraded its typhoon warning to Level III at 11 a.m. yesterday. The Fujian Provincial Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters also elevated its emergency typhoon response from Level IV to Level III at 11 a.m. on the same day.

— Xinhua
(More on typhoon on page 8)

Xi: All ethnic groups closely bound like seeds of a pomegranate

Analysis

URUMQI – Each autumn, the streets of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region come alive with the sight of bright red pomegranates, long cherished as one of the local people's favorite fruit.

During President Xi Jinping's 2014 visit to the region, a Uygur resident shared with him the belief that people of different ethnic groups should remain as closely united as "pomegranate seeds that stick together."

These simple words struck a chord with Xi, who has since often used this vivid metaphor to stress unity, which he believes is the lifeline of all ethnic groups in China.

Only when all ethnic groups live in solidarity and harmony can there be a prosperous country, a stable society and happy people, Xi once said, adding that without ethnic unity and harmony, the country would decline, society would be destabilized and the people would suffer.

This year marks the 70th founding anniversary of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, home to more than 26 million people from dozens of ethnic groups.

Recalling the changes of recent years, Ablet Tursun said that he has come to better understand the pomegranate metaphor.

Three years ago, Xi visited his home in Guyuanxiang, a community in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang. Sitting together, Xi and the family spoke like old friends, touching on everyday life issues such as health, education and income, and reflecting on the changes over the years.

When the conversation turned to the neighborhood, Ablet Tursun told Xi: "We have Han, Uygur, Kazakh, Hui, Tatar people here and we all know each other well. We chat, take walks together, sing and even dance in the square. Everyone gets along well."



Ma Xiuhua (center, front) walks with her friends at her agritainment in Tacheng City, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, last Wednesday. Ma, 60, is a native of Tacheng. Together with her husband, she built an agritainment named "Friends Manor" in their hometown, where they welcome guests from all over the country. Tacheng is home to over 20 ethnic groups, with a population of less than 160,000. Members of Ma's family themselves come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Whenever guests arrive at her "Friends Manor," Ma greets them with warm hospitality, treating them to her signature homemade dishes and fresh fruits harvested right from the courtyard. She often invites them to sing and dance together, letting the joyful mood fill the air. Xinjiang is a multiethnic region and Ma's agritainment is expecting more friends from different ethnic groups. Agritainment is a blend of the words "agriculture" and "entertainment." It refers to a business model where a farm or ranch opens its doors to the public, offering recreational, educational, and entertainment activities to generate additional income.

— Xinhua

The sense of solidarity is also reflected in the bond between a Xinjiang family and China's top leadership, stretching back around seven decades.

In 2017, Xi replied to a letter from Tohtihan Kurban, daughter of Kurban Tulum, a farmer who in the 1950s tried to ride a donkey all the way to Beijing to thank Chairman Mao Zedong for the freedom and happiness brought by the peaceful liberation of Xinjiang in 1949. Kurban Tulum was later twice received by Mao, and his story became household folklore of ethnic unity.

Xi recalled how, even as a child, he had learned about Kurban Tulum's story. He was glad to hear that Tohtihan Kurban's family of

over 100 members live a happy life, and expressed hope that they, along with other folks, would continue to love the "big family of the Chinese nation."

"In doing so, you will help bring people of all ethnic groups together as closely as pomegranate seeds, and under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, create an even better future for Xinjiang," Xi wrote.

When Xi replied to the letter, people in Tohtihan Kurban's hometown were fighting against poverty, which was part of a national campaign Xi launched shortly after assuming the Party's top leadership in 2012. For a long time, Xinjiang and other ethnic minority regions had struggled with

deep poverty due to historical and geographical constraints.

Xi inspected communities across the nation, ranging from snow-clad plateaus to remote mountain villages, vowing that "not a single ethnic group should be left behind" in this endeavor. By 2020, nearly 100 million rural residents, including over 31 million from ethnic minority regions, had been lifted above the national poverty line.

Hotan Prefecture, where Kurban Tulum's descendants live, offers a telling example – new homes, medical insurance and free schooling. Across Xinjiang, more than three-quarters of fiscal spending was directed to livelihoods in 2024.

Today's Xinjiang is experiencing

the best period of development in its history, according to a government white paper issued last week.

Solid steps have been taken to govern Xinjiang in accordance with the law, maintain stability through ethnic unity, strengthen cultural identity and bonds, bring greater prosperity to the region and its people, and develop Xinjiang from a long-term perspective, said the document.

Xi's vision of unity notably goes beyond livelihoods. He has stressed that all ethnic groups should respect and appreciate each other's cultures and learn from each other.

On his 2022 inspection tour, Xi stopped at a museum in Urumqi to watch local artists perform "Manas" – a Kirgiz epic passed down for centuries. Calling it deeply infectious, Xi urged efforts to ensure such treasures continue to shine in the future.

For millennia, the cultures of China's ethnic groups have blended into what is known as Chinese culture. Culture-based identity is "the root of ethnic unity and the soul of ethnic harmony," Xi has stressed.

For 70-year-old Ablet Tursun, who has lived in Guyuanxiang for four decades, changes are visible almost every day.

The community of more than 5,000 residents now has its own art troupes and often hosts events such as the "Hundred-Family Banquet" during traditional holidays to bring neighbors together.

"More people are taking part in the banquets," when long rows of tables would be laden with Xinjiang fruits like pomegranates and signature ethnic dishes prepared by residents themselves, he said.

"Moments like these bring to life the pomegranate metaphor often cited by President Xi," Ablet Tursun said.

— Xinhua

Firsthand knowledge beats false assumptions

China Daily Editorial

Although many have used the word "rare" to describe the visit of a bipartisan delegation from the US House of Representatives to Beijing starting on Sunday, as it is the first of its kind since 2019, it continues the cautious but necessary sustaining of the channels of communication between the two countries.

Led by Democratic Representative Adam Smith, the delegation met with Premier Li Qiang in Beijing on Sunday. Premier Li made it clear that China welcomes engagement that is rational, respectful and mutually beneficial.

As Li correctly urged in the meeting, the US Congress should adopt an objective view of China and bilateral relations so as to facilitate exchanges and cooperation.

China-US relations have global influence, and maintaining the stable, sound and sustainable development of their ties serves the common interests of both nations

and the international community as a whole.

In their telephone talks on Friday, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump provided strategic guidance for the healthy development of bilateral ties, agreeing that dialogue and cooperation should be enhanced between the two countries.

US lawmakers wield significant influence over the US' China policy. In recent years, the US Congress – through legislation, budgetary controls and oversight – has helped shape the US posture toward China in trade, investment, industry, technology and security.

Yet many of its measures have been driven by baseless fear, avoidable misunderstanding or ill-advisable misjudgment, rather than being guided by direct, firsthand contact with Beijing. So the US Congress in recent years has often taken positions on China-related issues that are shaped more by

domestic politics, ideological prejudice and election cycles rather than rationality, objectivity and pragmatism.

Worse, many US policies against China in related fields that originate from Congress bills and acts have been further intensified in the process of implementation because of the lack of informed and unbiased judgments of China's policies and intentions.

There are many vivid examples showing how misunderstanding can fuel overreaction, and lead to policies that are counterproductive.

Thus the visit by the House delegation will hopefully be conducive to more measured policies regarding China. Face-to-face meetings allow US lawmakers to see with their own eyes China's perspectives, to test claims with facts, to voice US concerns directly, and to weigh China's responses.

Premier Li's call for mutual respect, sincerity and equal treatment

underscores that Sino-US relations cannot be well managed if Congress acts under misperceptions, or if domestic political pressures continue to be allowed to lead to unilateral moves without understanding the other side's red lines.

If US lawmakers can work together with their Chinese counterparts to jointly enhance dialogue, strengthen cooperation and avoid overreacting to differences, they can contribute to helping US-China relations move beyond suspicion and confrontation to focus on communication and collaboration.

It is hoped the US lawmakers make good use of their in-person contacts with the Chinese side during their visit to better understand how China seeks to accommodate US concerns and how determined it is to safeguard its own interests; and how the two sides might reconcile their respective concerns without sacrificing their own core principles.

Li's call for the two sides to treat each other with sincerity and to communicate with the spirit of equality, respect and mutual benefit is not merely a diplomatic rhetoric – but a reminder of what should be the foundation for relations between major countries, particularly in turbulent times.

The principles of win-win cooperation, peaceful coexistence and mutual respect that China has put forward as the necessities for properly handling bilateral ties present a clear proposition: stable Sino-US relations based on those principles should not be optional, but a common pursuit of the two countries.

To maintain stable Sino-US relations entails the US side setting aside its zero-sum mindset and viewing bilateral ties with due pragmatism while responsibly managing differences. It remains to be seen whether the US side, including Congress, is ready to do so.

— Courtesy of China Daily