

Sam reshuffles cabinet, appoints lawmakers

Policy secretary to become legislator

Tony Wong

The State Council, based on the nomination by Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai, has appointed Wong Sio Chak, the current secretary for security of the MSAR government, as the secretary for administration and justice, effective from October 16, replacing André Cheong Weng Chon, who has meanwhile been appointed by Sam as a member of the new, eighth term of the MSAR's Legislative Assembly (AL), which will start on October 16.

Since the establishment of the MSAR on December 20, 1999, it is the first time that a chief executive has decided to appoint an incumbent policy secretary of the government to the Legislative Assembly.

Wong, 57, has been the secretary for security since December 2014, while Cheong, 59, has been the secretary for administration and justice since December 2019.

Wong was appointed as the secretary for security for then chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On's second-term administration, which started in December 2014, and was reappointed for then chief executive Ho Iat Seng's first-term administration, which started in December 2019. He was reappointed for the current administration headed by Sam, which started in December last year.

Cheong was appointed as the secretary for administration and justice for Ho's first-term administration, and was reappointed for Sam's current administration, which started just nine months ago.



This file photo shows Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak addressing a press conference at the Civil Protection Operations Centre in Taipa's Pac On district last Tuesday. Wong will become the secretary for administration and justice on October 16.

— Photo: GCS



This file photo shows Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon delivering a speech during a session at the Macao Polytechnic University's (MPU) Multi Sport Pavilion in Zape on September 3. Cheong has been appointed by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai as a legislator effective from October 16.

— Photo: GCS

Xinhua released a dispatch yesterday morning about the central government's appointments of two policy secretaries and the chief public prosecutor of the MSAR effective from October 16, according to which the State Council has appointed Wong as the secretary for administration and justice, while Chan Tsz King has been appointed as the secretary for security. The State Council has appointed Tong Hio Fong as the prosecutor-general (chief

public prosecutor) of the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), according to the dispatch.

Effective from October 16, Chan, the current chief public prosecutor, will replace Wong as the secretary for security, while Tong, the current president of the MSAR's Court of Second Instance (TSI), will replace Chan as the chief public prosecutor.

The Central People's Government shall appoint or remove the MSAR's chief

executive, principal officials and prosecutor-general, according to Article 15 of the MSAR Basic Law.

According to the MSAR Basic Law's Article 50, the chief executive "nominates and reports to the Central People's Government for the appointment" of the MSAR's principal officials and prosecutor-general, and recommends to the central government their removal.

Continued on p.6

Switzerland returns US\$29 million to Equatorial Guinea

GENEVA — Switzerland said yesterday it would return nearly US\$29 million to Equatorial Guinea after auctioning luxury cars seized from the son of the African nation's longtime ruler in a court case.

The Swiss foreign ministry announced the signing of the deal that detailed "the return of 22.8 million Swiss francs" (US\$28.6 million) to Equatorial Guinea in a press release.

The funds aim to "improve the quality of and access to primary healthcare services for vulnerable peoples" in four provinces, the

statement said, adding that there would be "a specific governance and monitoring system".

The assets were seized in a criminal procedure initiated by the Geneva public prosecutor in October 2016 against Equatorial Guinea's Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, known as Teodorin — the president's son.

He and two others were charged with money laundering and mismanagement of public funds.

As part of the probe, the Geneva courts seized 25 luxury vehicles

belonging to the vice president including Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Bentleys, a Maserati and a McLaren.

The case concluded in February 2019, with the public prosecutor stating that the African nation had agreed to pay 1.3 million Swiss francs, primarily to cover procedural costs.

The ruling also stipulated that the 25 vehicles be confiscated and subsequently auctioned, with proceeds used to benefit Equatorial Guineans through a "social programme" in the poverty-stricken country. — AFP

Netanyahu apologises to Qatar PM for strike in Trump-led call: diplomat

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a telephone call yesterday placed from the White House, apologised to Qatar's prime minister for strikes against Hamas in the Gulf country, a diplomat said.

The diplomat, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said Netanyahu voiced regret for the violation of Qatari sovereignty and the death of a Qatari security

guard in the September attack.

Netanyahu had earlier been unrepentant for the September 9 strike in a residential area of Doha that targeted Hamas leaders who were to review a US ceasefire proposal in Gaza.

But US President Donald Trump, who has close relations with Qatar, has said he was unhappy about the strike and he has been seeking again a truce in Gaza. (More on p.10) — AFP

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Key takeaways from Xi's pivotal trip to Xinjiang

In the golden autumn of late September, the streets of Urumqi were adorned with bright banners and fresh flowers in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

— Story on p. 7

Gunman kills 4 in attack on US Mormon church in Michigan

A man opened fire in a Mormon church in Michigan and set the building ablaze on Sunday, killing at least four people in the latest deadly tragedy that US President Donald Trump called part of a national "epidemic of violence." — Story on p. 11

Air France, Airbus back on trial over doomed 2009 Rio flight

An appeals trial of Air France and Airbus opened yesterday over the 2009 crash of a Rio-Paris flight that killed 228 people, the worst disaster in the French flag carrier's history.

— Story on p. 12

Police nab HK man, 2 Malaysians for trafficking 31.7 kg of cannabis buds worth 31.7 million patacas

Largest cannabis smuggling case in local history

Ada Lei

The Judiciary Police (PJ) busted the largest marijuana smuggling case in Macau's history on Sunday, apprehending a man from Hong Kong and two men from Malaysia, seizing 31.77 kilograms of cannabis buds valued at 31.77 million patacas, PJ spokesman Cheong Siu Keong said during a special press conference yesterday.

Cheong identified the suspects as a 33-year-old Hong Kong resident surnamed Wan, a key member of the drug-trafficking gang who claimed to be jobless; a 23-year-old Malaysian surnamed Cheong who also claimed to be jobless; and a 38-year-old Malaysian clerk surnamed Cheah.

According to Lei Ka Wo, who heads the PJ Narcotics Division, PJ investigators stationed at the local airport analysed intelligence along with risk management, identifying that a drug trafficking group was preparing to send a key member to lead individuals known in Cantonese as "airplane pigs" (those who smuggle drugs as air passengers) in transporting drugs from Thailand via South Korea to Macau, and then on to neighbouring regions.

Lei noted that on Sunday afternoon, PJ officers at the airport



Judiciary Police (PJ) officers escort the three hooded drug-trafficking suspects from Malaysia and Hong Kong to a PJ van outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday.

identified Cheong, Cheah and Wan as the suspected drug traffickers on a flight arriving from South Korea at 2 p.m. Cheong and Cheah entered Macau separately, while Wan monitored from behind. After Cheong and Cheah collected their luggage, the officers on site immediately intercepted them.

The police seized 16 packages of cannabis buds vacuum-sealed in plastic bags and wrapped in aluminium foil from Cheong's luggage, weighing about 8,897.5 grams. Additionally, a total of 40 packages of cannabis buds were seized from two suitcases

belonging to Cheah, also vacuum-sealed and wrapped in aluminium foil, weighing about 22,796.6 grams. In total, the police seized 31,772 grams of cannabis buds, including packaging, with an estimated street value of 31.77 million patacas. The police later confirmed that the seized substances were indeed marijuana.

Lei added that Cheong and Cheah were recruited by a drug trafficking group in Malaysia. They had received the drug-packed suitcases in Bangkok and, under Wan's "guidance", flew together to South Korea on Sunday



A total of 31,772 kilograms of cannabis buds along with three suitcases are displayed in a press room at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape yesterday.

— Photos: Ada Lei

before transferring to Macau, with the intention of immediately smuggling the drugs into Hong Kong.

Lei said that Wan was a key member of the gang responsible for directing and monitoring the entire drug smuggling process. Cheong and Cheah were promised a reward of 10,000 Malaysian ringgit (19,000 patacas) each for trafficking the cannabis buds. Under questioning, Wan refused to cooperate.

The trio were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, each facing a drug trafficking charge.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Police (PJ) busted another drug trafficking case yesterday evening at the airport, seizing about 9,436 kilograms of cannabis buds, with an estimated street value of 9.43 million patacas. The police apprehended a Malaysian man for trafficking 16 vacuum-sealed packages of cannabis buds in his luggage from Malaysia to Macau via Singapore. Under questioning, the suspect admitted that he was recruited by a drug trafficking gang in Malaysia, claiming that he was promised a reward of 5,000 Malaysia ringgit (9,500 patacas). ■

'Macao Grand Prix Museum x Wynn Chocolate Supercar Exhibition' opens

Rui Pastorin

The "Macao Grand Prix Museum x Wynn Chocolate Supercar Exhibition" was inaugurated at the Macao Grand Prix Museum in Zape yesterday, showcasing a piece sculpted by award-winning pastry artist Bob Tay and features the signature art of Swiss artist and influencer Saiff Vasarhelyi, a motorsports fan.

On display at the museum's basement exhibition hall until November 16, the chocolate supercar spans 2.9 metres and follows last year's "Wynn Special Chocolate F1" also sculpted by Tay.

The organisers did not say whether the chocolate used for the artwork will be distributed for consumption afterwards.

Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes told reporters on the sidelines of

yesterday's ceremony that this collaboration between the museum and the integrated resort operator takes a step further from last year's and also sees a collaboration with another acclaimed artist, resulting in an exhibit with very special artistry.

Moreover, Senna Fernandes noted other ongoing collaborations including the "Macao Grand Prix Museum x The Pirelli Legend", as well as plans for lighting projections during the "Light Up Macao" event in December, with MGTO continuing to utilise the museum for both permanent and temporary exhibitions, she pointed out.

Meanwhile, admission to the museum will be free on National Day tomorrow and will also remain open during the day after the Mid-Autumn Festival, a public holiday, next Tuesday, a day when it is normally closed.

MGTO expects to welcome up to 150,000 visitor arrivals a day during Golden Week

Asked about her expectations for visitor arrivals for the Golden Week, which takes place from tomorrow through next Wednesday, October 8, Senna Fernandes told the Post that MGTO expects to possibly see an average of 150,000 visitor arrivals a day.

The veteran tourism chief noted that last year's Golden Week daily average was around 140,000 visitors a day, noting that this year will mark a "very special moment" with both the National Day holiday and the Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated over the eight-day period. "So definitely, we are expecting quite a number of different tourists coming in", particularly those from the Chinese mainland as it would be an extended holiday.

Senna Fernandes also highlighted the "very good" policies implemented by the central government for mainland Chinese visitors coming to Macau. "So, we definitely would look at the National Day Holiday with a much more positive or optimistic outlook". Regarding hotel room occupancy, she noted that this year it has been close to or over 90 percent nearly every week, therefore being optimistic about it for the upcoming National Day holiday as well. ■



Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes (centre) poses with guests and representatives including award-winning Singaporean pastry artist Bob Tay (first right) and Swiss artist and influencer Saiff Vasarhelyi after yesterday's inauguration ceremony.

— Photos: Rui Pastorin



This photo shows the "Macao Grand Prix Museum x Wynn Chocolate Supercar Exhibition" displayed at the Macao Grand Prix (MGP) Museum in Zape.

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Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.
MAINLY FINE.
LIGHT WINDS.
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL
RANGE BETWEEN 60% AND 90%.**



26°C~33°C

Source: SMG

Activity aims to extend 'special blessings' to seniors

Armindo Neves

The Healthy Macau Association announced yesterday that it will co-host a one-day activity with The Project Futurus (HK) for senior residents titled "Sensory Restaurant on Wheels™".

The association's president, Kong Wai Sam, said at a press conference that the activity aimed to extend "special blessings" to Macau's elderly.

The one-hour press conference was held at the Macau General Union of Neighbourhood Associations' (UGAMM – widely known as Kai Fong, its short name in Cantonese) headquarters in Toi San district.

According to the statement, the co-organisers and supporting organisations of the event comprise the Ms. Kong Chi San Rossana Culture and Education Society, Widex Hong Kong Hearing & Speech Centre Ltd., and Four Star Company Ltd.

Kong said that next week's activity will be held at the Obra das Mães ("Mothers' Work") Comprehensive Care Centre for the Elderly in the Inner Harbour's Praia do Manduco neighbourhood. Kong said she hoped to allow seniors with swallowing difficulties and affected by dementia to safely and with dignity enjoy the pleasure of "yum cha" with soft food*.

The activity will be held next Thursday (October 9).

Kong underlined that the

Women's Committee of the Macau Chamber of Commerce will organise a volunteer team to assist in the event, while Ka Nin Wa Restaurant will provide the food ingredients.

Addressing the press conference, Widex Hong Kong Hearing & Speech Centre Ltd. Speech Therapy Department Chief Heidy Ng Ka Hei talked about elderly people's swallowing difficulties. She pointed out that the condition arises from problems in the process of transferring food or drink from the mouth to the stomach, often due to an inability to control or coordinate the muscles in the mouth and throat. This, she said, can lead to food or liquid entering the windpipe.

She also said that the causes of swallowing difficulties in the elderly can be categorised into physiological ageing, neurological diseases, structural factors, and medication side effects.

Ng said that soft foods are tender and moist fare that are easy to chew and swallow, often because they have been thoroughly cooked to ensure that they are soft, mashed, chopped, pureed, or blended. ■

* The soft food concept refers to a dietary approach that involves consuming foods that are soft in texture, easy to chew, swallow, and digest. This diet minimises the need for vigorous chewing and reduces irritation to sensitive parts of the digestive system. – DeepSeek



Healthy Macau Association President Kong Wai Sam (left) and The Project Futurus (HK) Senior Manager Milky Choi Ying Fung pose before yesterday's press conference at the Kai Fong headquarters in Toi San district. – Photo: Armindo Neves

Police expect record 6 million border crossings during Golden Week



Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Public Relations Division Chief Vong Lai Kuan (centre), Transport Bureau (DSAT) Transport Management Division Chief António Ho Chan Tou (second left), Macau Consumer Council (CCM) Complaints and Supervision of Consumer Activities Division Chief Wong Chi Cheong (second right), Macau Customs Service Public Relations Division Acting Chief Chang Ngan Meng (left) and Public Security Police (PSP) Public Relations Division Chief Lam Keong pose before yesterday's press conference at the Barrier Gate arrivals hall. – Photo: Armindo Neves

Armindo Neves

Public Security Police (PSP) Public Relations Division Chief Lam Keong told reporters yesterday that the local government expects between 5.6 and 6.0 million people – visitors and locals – to enter and exit Macau's border checkpoints during the National Day/Mid-Autumn Festival Golden Week between October 1 and October 8.

Lam made the forecast during a press conference at the arrival hall of the Barrier Gate yesterday morning.

The joint press conference was also attended by Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Public Relations Division Chief Vong Lai Kuan, Transport Bureau (DSAT) Transport Management Division Chief António Ho Chan Tou, Macau Consumer Council (CCM) Complaints and Supervision of Consumer Activities Division Chief Wong Chi Cheong, and Macau Customs Service Public Relations Division Acting Chief Chang Ngan Meng.

Vong said that comprehensive preparations to welcome visitors

have been launched for the upcoming eight-day National Day holiday, such as specific measures promoting Macau's tourism through extensive online and offline channels and maintaining close communication with the tourism industry and the Chinese mainland's tourism authorities, while also conducting joint inter-departmental inspections to ensure service quality.

Vong encouraged tourists to use MGTO's smart crowd-flow app to check real-time congestion levels at 113 scenic spots.

Chang said that the Macau Customs Service has strengthened personnel deployment at all border checkpoints to ensure smooth clearance. Specifically for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, additional lanes will be opened to enhance traffic efficiency, Chang said.

Chang also said that the Macau Customs Service will leverage technology-enabled law enforcement and cross-border coordination to "rigorously" combat parallel trading, intellectual property infringements, and smuggling.

Lam said that Public Security Police have come up with various contingency plans. Officers will be deployed at border checkpoints and tourist spots to implement crowd and traffic control measures, and to ensure public order in the city's two temporarily pedestrianised zones – one in Old Taipa Village and the other in the peninsula's "Laahn Gwai Lau" neighbourhood.

Lam also said that during the Golden Week, the total number of entry and exit trips through all border checkpoints was projected to reach between 5.6 and 6 million, with the daily average expected to range between 700,000 and 750,000.

According to a PSP statement released on October 8, 2024, a total of 4,738,000 entry and exit trips were recorded during that year's then 7-day National Day Golden Week, with a daily average of around 676,000.

Consequently, this year's expected number of border entry and exit trips would reach a year-on-year growth of between 3.5 and 10.9 percent. ■

Moonlit Reunion: Neighbourhood Mid-Autumn Night to be held at MNN in Hengqin

Khalel Vallo

The Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) in Hengqin will host "Moonlit Reunion: Neighbourhood Mid-Autumn Night", which will feature lantern installations, workshops, performances, and festive activities for residents of Hengqin and Macau, according to a statement from Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) yesterday.

The event will take place on Sunday, October 5, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., with free admission, the statement said.

Highlights will include a large moon arch symbolising reunion at the entrance to the plaza, Mid-Autumn lantern photo spots, a special market, game stalls, and over a thousand gifts to be given

to participants, the statement said, adding that Macau residents who are not MNN residents can receive a mystery gift by completing a questionnaire, while those who share event photos on designated social media platforms may claim limited-edition souvenirs.

A "Traditional-Style Hand Fan Craft Workshop" will be held in three sessions, each with 20 free places available by registration through a QR code, according to the statement.

The statement added that entertainment will feature performances by Macau singer-songwriter Iron Ian and Greater Bay Area (GBA) band "Dude", as well as the traditional "Fish Lantern Dance", with performers wearing hanfu* carrying fish-shaped lanterns.

In order to enhance accessibility, MNN will provide complimentary shuttle bus services every 15 minutes from the North Gate 2 bus pick-up area on Level L2 at Hengqin Port (border checkpoint).

The event aims to bring together residents and visitors to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival under the theme of reunion, with photo installations remaining on display until October 12 to extend the festive atmosphere. ■

* Hanfu is the traditional clothing of the Han Chinese ethnic group, encompassing various styles worn throughout history, generally characterised by wide sleeved loose-fitting upper garments (yi), tied with a belt at the waist and skirts or trousers (shang/ku). – DeepSeek



This poster provided by Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) yesterday promotes the upcoming "Moonlit Reunion: Neighbourhood Mid-Autumn Night" activity, which will take place at the Macau New Neighbourhood (MNN) in Hengqin this Sunday.



'Fringe Chat' participants reflect on festival

Review by William Chan

The 23rd Macao City Fringe Festival concluded on Sunday with its final event, "Fringe Chat," at Universal Gallery & Bookstore in Praça do Tap Seac, where around 20 attendees, including critics, show organisers, artists, and members of the public gave their insights.

The session fostered meaningful dialogue about the unique features and highlights of this year's edition. "Fringe Chat," a decade-long tradition of the Macao Fringe Festival, was hosted this year by Jesse Cheong Sio Pang. The event served as an open forum where participants reflected on their experiences and the overarching themes of the festival.

I also attended last year's Fringe Chat and wrote a short article about the event: <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/20527>

One of the standout shows discussed during the session was "A Sea in the Old House of Orchid." This production was extensively reviewed in the *Post* earlier this month*, and it remains my personal favourite from this year's Fringe Festival.

Another production that drew attention was "Dreamless Machine, Useless Class," performed by PO Art Studio. This show critiques capitalist societies and explores the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in replacing human labour. It was one of the incubation projects for the 2024 Shekou Theatre Festival and was previously performed in Xiamen before reaching Macau for the Fringe Festival.

In the interactive show, the audience was encouraged to actively make propositions and give assistance to the actors. The organiser reflected on the contrasting audience reactions between Xiamen and Macau. In Xiamen, where the show was performed in a shopping mall, children reacted enthusiastically. During the final scene, when a performer was "fired" and kicked off the stage, children intervened by chasing after the actors to stop the dismissal.

In contrast, the Macau audience exhibited a much cooler and more indifferent reaction when the show was performed at the

Lisboeta Macau resort in Cotai. Few audience members engaged with the performers, prompting reflections on cultural differences and the perceived distance between performers and spectators.

"Thanks for Being Here," created and performed by Malaysia-based artist Suzuki Cheng (程嘉敏), was another notable production that left a deep impression on both the audience and critics.** This immersive performance invited audiences to move around the stage, experiencing the intertwined stories of three women grappling with social critiques on marriage, work-life balance, and motherhood.

Cheng shared a touching anecdote about an elderly woman who attended the performance. She said that during a scene where the actresses, each holding a pillow symbolising a crying baby, ran to the audience for help, the woman stepped in. "She took one of the pillows and used her maternal instincts to calm the 'baby,' crying herself in the process."

After the show, the woman revealed to Cheng that this was the first time that she had attended a theatre performance. She expressed gratitude, saying the experience changed her perspective on art, showing her that it isn't elitist but accessible to everyone. Cheng remarked, "She told me she thoroughly enjoyed the show and felt art could be egalitarian, even at her age."

Cheng also noted the growing popularity of immersive performances, explaining that this approach helps create a stronger bond between the audience and the performers. She likened it to the "Murder Mystery Game" (劇本殺), a genre of live-action role-playing games currently popular in the Chinese mainland, where audiences leave their seats and actively engage with the story.

Reflecting on the Fringe Festival as a whole, Cheong praised this year's theme of transforming urban corners into stages. The performances encouraged audiences to explore various parts of Macau, from the



A audience member interacts with a "Dreamless Machine, Useless Class" performer at the Lisboeta Macau resort in Cotai earlier this month.



Jesse Cheong Sio Pang addresses Sunday's Fringe Chat at Universal Gallery & Bookstore in Tap Seac.



Performer Suzuki Cheng (程嘉敏) interacts with an audience member (left) during the festival's "Thanks for Being Here" show earlier this month.

— Photos provided by the festival organisers

peninsula to Taipa, Cotai, and Coloane, creating lasting memories tied to these familiar locations. Critics highlighted the festival's success in using Macau's cultural and historic landmarks as performance spaces, particularly for shows focusing on intangible cultural heritage.

"By integrating these sites into the performances, the festival offered a unique and immersive way to experience Macau's rich history and culture. While the festival explored diverse themes, the central focus remained on creating dynamic experiences

that left a lasting impression on audiences," Cheong said.

Critics noted that the 23rd Macao City Fringe Festival once again proved the power of art to inspire, provoke reflection, and bridge the gap between performers and spectators.

As the festival continues to evolve, it promises to further enrich Macau's vibrant cultural landscape.

* <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/26073>

** <https://www.macaupostdaily.com/news/25825>

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2025 to kick off Oct 23

Rui Pastorin

The 11-night Oktoberfest Macau at MGM will be held from October 23 through November 2 on the Roof Terrace of MGM COTAI, with tickets now on sale and again bringing Munich's Oktoberfest to the city.

MGM's annual signature event, which will mark its 15th year, has welcomed over 190,000 attendees over the years. Its return will again see Oktoberfest hallmarks including large beer tents, traditional long wooden tables, and performers in Bavarian dirndls, according to a statement by the integrated resort operator yesterday.

The event's menu, the statement said, features pork

knuckle, roast chicken, and pretzels, paired with Löwenbräu ("Lion Brew") beer, alcohol-free options, and specialty drinks. Munich's HÖGL FUN BAND will be there again with their festival theme song "Nei Hou, Macau!", while there will also be carnival games and activities for children.

This year's Oktoberfest will also invite guests to "dress in festive outfits and embrace the Oktoberfest spirit" for the new "Best Costume Award", the statement said.

Tickets for the event, which will run from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m., are available at Oktoberfest service counters at MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI. For details, visit <https://www.tickets.mgm.mo/oktoberfest2025>. ■



This undated handout photo provided by integrated resort operator MGM yesterday shows a previous "Oktoberfest Macau at MGM".

Macau student loses HK\$3.5 million in 'fake police scam'

Ada Lei

A young local woman has fallen victim to a "fake police scam", losing a total of HK\$3.5 million (3.6 million patacas), Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong said during a regular press conference yesterday.

According to Cheong, a local student received a call on July 28 from someone claiming to be a "staff member from the Kunming Prosecutor's Office in Yunnan". The caller alleged that her mainland bank account was involved in multiple telecommunications fraud cases and requested her cooperation for an investigation by video link.

During the call, the caller instructed the victim to transfer funds to a designated bank account in Hong Kong for a "funds review". To obtain the money, the victim misled her family by claiming she was going to study in the UK. Between August 7 and 12, she transferred money to the designated account multiple times, resulting in a total loss of HK\$ 3.5 million.

Recently, the caller sent a document pretending to be from the Hong Kong Independent



Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesman Cheong Siu Keong looks on during yesterday's regular press conference. – Photo: Ada Lei

Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), claiming that the victim was involved in other cross-border crimes and needed to pay additional funds for a further "funds review". The victim noticed that the document was written in simplified Chinese characters and contained several errors.

Suspecting she had been scammed, the victim reported the total loss of HK\$3.5 million to the police on Friday. ■

MIMF, SJM to present 'Carmen' at CCM this week

Khalel Vallo

The 37th Macau International Music Festival (MIMF) will showcase "Carmen", an opera in four acts by French composer Georges Bizet (1838-1875), starting at 7:30 p.m. this Friday and Saturday, at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape, co-hosted by MIMF and integrated resort operator SJM Holdings Limited (SJM), according to a press conference held at the centre yesterday.

Directed by German-born Andreas Homoki, the production, co-produced with Switzerland's Opernhaus Zürich (Zürich Opera House) and French company Opéra-Comique, marks the 150th anniversary of Bizet's death.

This reimagined version of "Carmen aims to offer a contemporary take on the classic, blurring the boundaries between stage and audience. The press conference was attended by Homoki, Assistant Director Jodok Schweizer from Germany, MIMF Programme Director Lio Kuokman, and Norwegian conductor Eivind Gullberg Jensen.

The cast members feature Siberian soprano Maria Kokareva and US tenor Matthew White, as well as Italian musician Marco Bellei, the conductor of the China National Symphony Orchestra Chorus.

During the press conference, Homoki introduced the innovative



This photo shows the production team for the 37th Macau International Music Festival's "Carmen", featuring (from left to right) Maria Kokareva, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, Jodok Schweizer, Andreas Homoki, Lio Kuokman, Matthew White, and Marco Bellei, at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) in Nape yesterday. – Photo: Khalel Vallo

approach of "breaking the fourth wall"* and creating a dynamic visual and emotional experience for the audience, and emphasised that the opera would not follow traditional, naturalistic settings but would take place on a minimalist stage, aiming to focus on the raw emotion of the performers. "Carmen" is not just a tragic opera but a fusion of drama, comedy, and musical theatre," Homoki said, referring to how the production intertwines entertainment and artistic expression.

Meanwhile, White highlighted the emotional depth of the opera, discussing how the character Don José, whom he plays, evolves in each performance. "The most complicated part of Don José is adjusting his emotional depth in every production. Every new perspective brings something

unique," he said.

The performance aims to offer a fresh take on a classic opera, bridging traditional themes with modern creative interpretations. Tickets for the 37th MIMF programmes are now on sale via Enjoy Macau Ticketing at ticketing.enjoymacao.mo. More information can be found on the MIMF website at www.icm.gov.mo/fimm. ■

*The fourth wall is an imaginary, invisible "wall" that separates the characters in a story (on a stage, in a film, TV show, or video game) from the real-world audience. The audience looks through this wall as if it were a one-way mirror, observing the fictional events. When a character acknowledges the audience or the fact that they are in a story, they are "breaking the fourth wall." – DeepSeek

SJM kicks off 'Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival' at GLP

Rui Pastorin

The "SJM Presents: Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival" kicked off last night at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, presenting lantern installations created by four artists from Culture Cities of Asia, namely Macau, Huzhou in Zhejiang Province, Kamakura in Japan, and Anseong in South Korea.

Presented by SJM Resorts in conjunction with the Macau Artist Society, the exhibition marks its fourth year, with the festival being a programme of the "Culture City of East Asia 2025 – Macao, China". It celebrates both National Day, which is tomorrow, and the Mid-Autumn Festival, which this year falls on Monday, October 6.

The artworks showcased, which have QR codes to scan for augmented reality (AR) animations, comprise "Brush and Moonlit Peaks" by Lyu Weiguo from Huzhou; local artist Leong Kitman's "Fish of Fortune"; Japanese artist Ayumi Muramatsu's "The Grateful Crane 2025"; and "The Tiger's Auspicious Message" by Anseong's DHAL. Each are showcased until November 23, with installations also on display outside Hong Kung Temple in the Inner Harbour district during the period.

Addressing yesterday's kick-off ceremony, SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu-fung said in a speech

that the exhibition "pays tribute to the shared traditions of China, Japan, and Korea, while also celebrating the distinctive artistic voices of each culture. It underscores the power of art as a universal language – one that brings together our community and visitors alike in a shared spirit of reunion and hope."

Macau Artist Society President Lok Hei noted in his speech that this year's artworks highlight the unique cultural heritage of East Asia and embodies "the innovative fusion of traditional lantern craft techniques with contemporary artistic innovation."

Aside from lighting up the works at last night's opening ceremony, a

live performance featuring on-the-spot calligraphy by Muramatsu and percussions by local artist Uly's was also held.

Meanwhile, a statement provided by SJM Resorts last night noted that the Mid-Autumn Festival Pop-up Event is slated to be held in Hong Kung Temple Square at Largo do Pagode do Bazar ("Bazaar Pagoda Square") and Kam Pek Market on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., with the event featuring free lantern-making workshops and riddle booths. One can also exchange stamps for prizes at the exhibition in front of Hong Kung Temple, the statement added. ■



SJM Managing Director Daisy Ho Chiu-fung (first left) and Macau Artist Society President Lok Hei (first right) pose with guests attending yesterday's "SJM Presents: Culture City of East Asia Lantern Festival" kick-off ceremony at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai. – Photo: Rui Pastorin

Sam reshuffles cabinet, appoints lawmakers

Continued from p.1

Sam has appointed seven members to the MSAR's 8th Legislative Assembly through an executive order published in the Official Gazette (BO) yesterday, one of whom is André Cheong.

Correspondingly, according to the Xinhua dispatch yesterday, the State Council, based on Sam's "recommendation", has decided to remove Cheong from the position of secretary for administration and justice, Wong from the position of secretary for security, and Chan from the position of prosecutor-general, effective from October 16.

The seven whom Sam has appointed to the legislature's new term comprise six newcomers to the hemicycle, including Cheong, and one who has been reappointed.

The 33-member Legislative Assembly currently comprises 14 deputies directly elected by universal suffrage, 12 deputies indirectly elected by association representatives, and seven deputies appointed by the chief executive after the direct and indirect elections.

The 2025 direct and indirect legislative elections took place on September 14. The next four-year legislative term will begin on October 16.

The Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday also issued a statement about the central government's appointments of Wong, Chan and Tong, which also include their CVs.

Wong, born in Guangdong Province, began working for the Judiciary Police (PJ) in 1994 and became a prosecutor in 1997. He became a deputy PJ director in November 1998. Wong became an assistant prosecutor-general in March 2000. He was appointed as the director of the Judiciary Police in November 2000 while holding the rank of an assistant prosecutor-general.

Wong, who holds a doctoral degree in Legal Studies from Peking University, was appointed as the secretary for security for then chief executive Fernando Chui Sai On's second-term administration, which started in December 2014, before he was reappointed for then chief executive Ho Iat Seng's



André Cheong Weng Chon



Lei Wun Kong



Kou Kam Fai



Chao Ka Chon



Lam Fat lam



Wong Ka Lon



Sandro Kou Ngon Seng

first-term administration, which started in December 2019. His reappointment in December last year was his second reappointment as the secretary for security.

Chan, born in Hong Kong, was appointed as the commissioner against corruption in December 2019 for Ho's administration. He was appointed as the prosecutor-general of the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) in December last year for Sam's current administration, returning to where he previously worked.

Chan, 55, became a prosecutor in 1997, before being appointed as an assistant prosecutor-general in March 2000. Chan holds a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from Portugal's Autonomous University of Lisbon.

Tong, born in Macau, had been a judge of the Court of First Instance (TJB) since the establishment of the MSAR in December 1999. Then chief executive Fernando Chui appointed Tong as the president of the Court of First Instance in January 2011.

Tong, who holds a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from the public University of Macau (UM), became a judge in July 1999, i.e., shortly before the establishment of the MSAR.

Tong, 52, became a judge of the Court of Second Instance (TSI) in October 2013, where he was appointed as the president by then chief executive Ho in October 2022.

Tong was appointed by Chui as the president of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs

Commission (CAEAL) that oversaw the legislature's direct and indirect elections in 2017. Tong was again appointed, by Ho at that time, as the head of the commission that oversaw the legislative direct and indirect elections in 2021.

Tong currently also works as a part-time UM lecturer.

7 appointed lawmakers

Meanwhile, the seven appointed lawmakers announced yesterday comprise André Cheong, Lei Wun Kong, Kou Kam Fai, Chao Ka Chon, Lam Fat lam, Wong Ka Lon, and Sandro Kou Ngon Seng.

Except Kou Kam Fai who has been reappointed, the other six will be newcomers to the hemicycle.

A separate GCS statement yesterday laid out their CVs.

Kou Kam Fai is currently the principal of Pui Ching Middle School.

Lei, a lawyer by profession, was the trustee of Sam's chief executive election campaign last year.

Chao, who holds a master's degree in information technology (IT), currently heads a local IT company.

Lam, who holds a doctoral degree in history, is a scholar in local history.

Wong Ka Lon is the founding chairman of the Macau Live Streaming Association, while Kou Ngon Seng, who holds a doctoral degree in business administration, is an executive of the local airport operator CAM, heading its Infrastructure Development Department. ■

Spokesperson for Foreign Ministry's Commissioner's Office in Macao: Macao's Development and Prosperity Must Not Be Undermined



September, 28, 2025

In response to the US Department of State's release of the 2025 Country Investment Climate Report, which deliberately undermines the rule of law in Macao, attacks Macao's investment environment, and discredits Macao's unique practice of "One Country, Two Systems," as well as grossly interferes in Macao's affairs and China's internal matters, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Macao has expressed strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition.

Macao possesses the greatest institutional advantage of "One Country, Two Systems," maintaining its status as a separate customs territory and a free port, implementing a simple and low tax system. It is recognised by the World Trade Organisation as one of the most open trade and investment economies globally, attracting investors from various countries and regions, including the United States, and is internationally acknowledged as a fertile ground for entrepreneurship and a harmonious living paradise.

The rule of law is a crucial cornerstone for Macao's long-term prosperity, development, and social stability. Strengthening the legal framework, including laws that safeguard national security, further solidifies the foundation for the sustained and stable implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Macao, providing robust legal guarantees

for creating a higher-level platform for opening up to the outside world, thereby fostering a safer, more convenient, and efficient business environment.

Facts have proven that any schemes aimed at attacking, discrediting, or interfering with Macao's development and prosperity are always futile. At this time, when Macao is entering its best period of development, such efforts are nothing more than wishful thinking! We urge the US side to recognise the facts, change its course, immediately cease its noise and slander against Macao's positive environment, and stop interfering in Macao's affairs and China's internal matters!

N.B. Statement issued by the Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region. Translation arranged by the Post.

Key takeaways from Xi's pivotal trip to Xinjiang

Analysis

URUMQI – In the golden autumn of late September, the streets of Urumqi were adorned with bright banners and fresh flowers in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Amid the festive atmosphere, Chinese leader Xi Jinping made a three-day trip to the regional capital last week. Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, led a central delegation to join the celebrations, marking the first time in the history of the Party and the country that such an arrangement has been made.

This marked Xi's fourth visit to Xinjiang since he became the country's top leader. During the trip, Xi met with representatives from all ethnic groups and all walks of life in Xinjiang, visited an exhibition, listened to work reports from the CPC Xinjiang regional committee and the regional government, attended an evening gala and joined a grand celebratory gathering.

Beyond the celebrations, Xi's pivotal trip reflected the past, honored the people, and mapped out the future of this vital region.

HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS OVER 70 YEARS

On October 1, 1955, China's National Day, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was established, marking the start of a new era for the region. Today, the exhibition in Urumqi highlights the remarkable changes Xinjiang has experienced in seven decades.

On one side stood dwellings made of poplar and red willow, their mud-plastered walls unable to keep out the biting winter wind; on the other, sleek two-story houses of modern design. In front of these juxtaposed reconstructions, which depict the profound transformation of people's lives after being relocated from a village in the heart of the desert in Xinjiang's Hotan Prefecture, Xi paused in reflection.

The transformation seen in the lives of villagers reflects a wider story of growth and modernization across Xinjiang in 70 years.

In 2024, the region's GDP exceeded 2 trillion yuan for the first time, 204.3 times that of 1955.

All prefectures and over 90 percent of the counties in Xinjiang are now accessible by expressway, while the length of railways in the region nearly doubled the 2012 figure.

People's lives have been transformed. By 2024, the per capita disposable income of urban and rural residents had increased by 133-fold and 162-fold, respectively, compared with 1978.

Once a region facing widespread poverty, Xinjiang had lifted over 3 million people out of poverty by the end of 2020, as part of the nationwide anti-poverty campaign launched in 2012.

Ecological progress has also been remarkable in Xinjiang, which covers roughly one-sixth of China's territory.

The Taklimakan Desert, the world's second-largest drifting desert, is now encircled by a sand-blocking green belt stretching 3,046



President Xi Jinping (center), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, waves to people while attending a gala marking the 70th founding anniversary of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in Urumqi, the regional capital, on September 24, 2025. Xi joined people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang to watch the gala entitled "Beautiful Xinjiang." – Xinhua

kilometers, the longest of its kind globally. Over the past three decades, the region's total oasis area has expanded by 56.6 percent.

"The profound changes in Xinjiang over the past 70 years are a vivid reflection of the historic process of national rejuvenation," said Xi.

JOINT EFFORTS OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS

Xinjiang has long been home to a diverse mix of ethnic groups, with its people exhibiting a vibrant spirit and rich traditions.

During his stay in Xinjiang, Xi met with representatives from all ethnic groups and all walks of life, and urged the region to forge a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation.

Among them was Burumahan Maoleduo, an 83-year-old border guardian of the Kirgiz ethnic group. For decades, she trekked the rugged highlands at altitudes above 4,000 meters to patrol the frontier. Her lifelong devotion earned her the national title of "People's Role Model."

Another story came from Memetjan Wumer, a 72-year-old Uygur and former Party secretary of Bulikai Village in Yining County. He led villagers in arduous efforts over 30 years, turning the impoverished hamlet into a model village for ethnic unity and affluence.

"The progress in our hometown is the result of the Party and the country's support, and of the joint efforts of all ethnic groups," he said, adding that locals now enjoy a good life and Xinjiang has undergone remarkable changes.

The achievements in Xinjiang stem from the joint efforts of countless people, and also from the extensive paired assistance efforts across the country.

Paired assistance is a strategic policy measure that requires central Party and government departments, state-owned enterprises, and designated provinces and municipalities to provide assistance to the region.

Assistance efforts include dispatching officials and professionals, advancing sci-tech and education development, and providing medical and health services.

Since 2012, the central government has allocated over 200 billion yuan in paired assistance funds for Xinjiang and introduced more than 15,000 enterprises into the region.

"Our paired assistance over the years has yielded fruitful results and great changes, and the dispatched officials have played an indispensable role in Xinjiang's progress," said Xi.

MAPPING OUT WAY AHEAD

Continuously advancing high-quality development lays the foundation for Xinjiang's lasting stability and prosperity. Xi urged the region to firmly stick to the strategic roles in national development delineated by the CPC Central Committee.

Among them is the task of building a golden channel across the Eurasian continent and a gateway for opening up to the west.

With a borderline over 5,700 kilometers long, Xinjiang has 19 ports [border checkpoints], of which 16 are land ports. In 2024, Xinjiang handled 16,400 China-Europe (Central Asia) freight train trips, maintaining

over 10,000 cross-border trips annually for five consecutive years.

Highlighting that Xinjiang has become a key hub linking Europe and Asia, Xi urged the region to expand on its current achievements.

Xinjiang is accelerating efforts to build itself into a strategic base of the nation's energy resources.

In 2024, the region's oil and gas production equivalent reached 66.64 million tonnes, and the installed capacity of electricity hit 192.7 million kW, of which capacity from new energy sources surpassed 100 million kW.

The region is also rapidly emerging as a national base for high-quality agricultural and livestock products.

Its grain yield per unit area reached 7872.75 kg per hectare last year, the highest in the country. And the cotton output of about 5.69 million tonnes accounted for 92.3 percent of the national total in 2024, with a mechanization rate reaching 97 percent.

Xinjiang will also form a strategic pivot for fostering a new development paradigm and forge a strategic barrier for safeguarding national geopolitical security.

"We must deepen the integration of technological innovation and industrial innovation, select the right direction and breakthrough points, and develop new quality productive forces based on local conditions," Xi said.

Xi underlined that the country has already devoted significant policies, investment, projects, and nationwide assistance to Xinjiang's development and that such efforts will continue in the years ahead. – Xinhua

China urges US to cease its unreasonable suppression of Chinese firms

BEIJING – China urges the United States to immediately rectify its wrongdoing and cease its unreasonable suppression of Chinese companies, a Ministry of Commerce (MOC) spokesperson said yesterday.

The spokesperson made the remarks

in response to a media inquiry on the US Department of Commerce's announcement of a new rule that expands its "entity-list" export restrictions to subsidiaries at least 50 percent owned by a company on the list.

The rule is another example of the US overstretching the concept of national

security and abusing export controls, the spokesperson said, adding that it will severely undermine the legitimate rights and interests of affected enterprises.

It will also seriously disrupt the international economic and trade order, and damage the security and stability of

global industrial and supply chains, the spokesperson said, emphasizing that China firmly opposes the move and will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises.

– Xinhua