

**CTM 5.5G**  
 is the first to launch 5.5G in Macau  
**Speed Power Up**  
 Experience hassle-free travel  
**FREE** upgrade automatically to all 5G customers

N.º 4569 **WEDNESDAY**  
18 Sep 2024

T. 26 ° / 33° Air Quality Moderate

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00



**MACAU'S PLANS TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY THROUGH NON-GAMING ARE FACING SIGNIFICANT DELAYS, DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES, ASSOCIATION SAYS**

P4

**AUDIT REPORT EXPOSES FLAWS IN ACCESSIBILITY FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

P3

**DEA CLOSING TWO OFFICES IN CHINA, STRUGGLES TO STEM FLOW OF FENTANYL**

P8



AP PHOTO



**Myanmar** Floods and landslides in Myanmar triggered by Typhoon Yagi and monsoon rains have claimed at least 226 lives, as of yesterday. Over 240,000 people have been displaced, and 438 relief camps established. Southeast Asia's death toll from the storm has surpassed 500, with aid efforts hampered by ongoing challenges.

AP PHOTO



**China** Typhoon Bebinca killed two people in Jiangsu province, bringing torrential rain and strong winds. Over 414,000 people were evacuated, while power outages and transportation disruptions affected Shanghai and nearby regions. The storm weakened to a tropical storm, but heavy rains continue in several provinces.

AP PHOTO



**Chinese** warplanes yesterday tailed a U.S. P-8A Poseidon spy plane through the Taiwan Strait, according to China's military. The U.S. Navy has not commented. The incident follows increasing tensions over Taiwan, which China claims as its territory, and coincides with Germany's warship transit through the area.

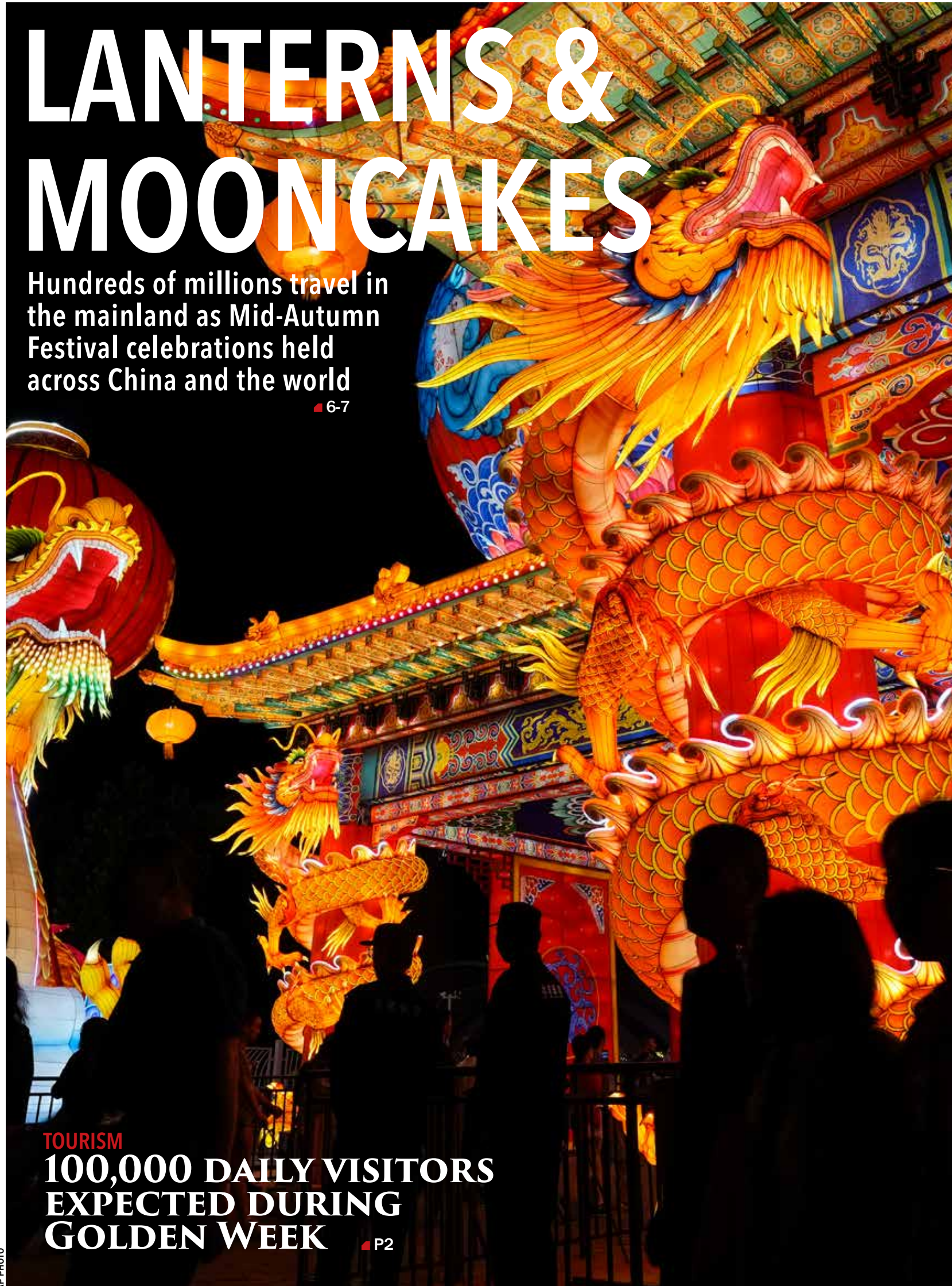
**Commonwealth** Scotland will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after Australia's Victoria state withdrew due to cost concerns. Glasgow, which hosted in 2014, will stage the event with scaled-back sports to reduce expenses. The decision preserves the games, which were in jeopardy after Australia backed out.

More on backpage

# LANTERNS & MOONCAKES

Hundreds of millions travel in the mainland as Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations held across China and the world

6-7



**TOURISM**  
**100,000 DAILY VISITORS EXPECTED DURING GOLDEN WEEK**

P2

AP PHOTO



### MGTO INVITES LOCAL PERFORMERS FOR CNY PARADE

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is inviting local performance groups to register for the 2025 Chinese New Year (CNY) parade. Scheduled to take place from Jan. 31 to Feb. 16, the event will feature a float parade and cultural performances, celebrating the year of the snake, which symbolizes prosperity. Performance groups are encouraged to submit proposals based on seven themes, including "Chinese New Year" and "Macau Courtesy Campaign." Applications are open until Oct. 7 at MGTO's office. Selected groups will receive subsidies based on their proposals and performance experience. For further details, interested parties can visit MGTO's website.

### CYCLONE ALERT ISSUED FOR SOUTH CHINA SEA

The Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) has issued a warning that a low-pressure area east of the Philippines is expected to develop into a tropical cyclone as it moves into the central South China Sea. This alert comes after the recent devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yagi, which brushed past Macau before making landfall on Hainan Island. The typhoon continued to Vietnam and Myanmar, causing hundreds of deaths due to landslides and flooding. The SMG advises residents to stay informed on the changing weather conditions, as the cyclone's path remains uncertain. Meanwhile, a yellow hot weather alert is in effect, with forecasts predicting wet and windy conditions later this week.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT SUBSIDIES

The Macau government has launched the second application period for two funding schemes aimed at improving air quality and supporting the transition to electric vehicles. The subsidy scheme for the replacement of old motorcycles with new electric motorcycles and the subsidy scheme for the phase-out of old diesel vehicles are now accepting applications until May 31, 2025. Eligible motorcycle owners must have vehicles registered between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2013, while diesel vehicle owners must have had theirs registered between January 1, 2009, and December 31, 2013.

### TOURISM

# 100,000 DAILY VISITORS EXPECTED DURING GOLDEN WEEK

NADIA SHAW

**T**HE government anticipates that China's National Day Golden Week holiday will be the next peak period for Macau tourist arrivals, forecasting an average of 100,000 visitors per day.

Golden Week in mainland China will last for seven days from Oct. 1 to 7. After the Spring Festival Golden Week and the May Day Golden Week, National Day Golden Week is considered the third most important period for tourism in the annual calendar.

In a recent interview with local media, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), stated, "This year's National Day Golden Week will be marked by an international fireworks display, which is expected to attract more tourists to Macau." She added, "Although the government has not yet compiled the statistics, we hope that the National Day Golden Week will attract a daily average of 100,000 visitors to Macau."

According to the government's provisional figures, Macau saw 3.66 million visitor arrivals in August, reflecting a 13% increase over the same period last year. Senna Fernandes described summer holiday visitor numbers as "very encouraging," with a daily average of



118,000 arrivals in August. This exceeds the daily average of 117,000 during the same period in 2019.

MGTO data shows Macau welcoming nearly 6.685 million visitor arrivals during this year's summer holiday months of July and August, with a combined daily average of 108,000 arrivals.

During last year's National Day Golden Week, which lasted for eight days from Sept. 29 to Oct. 6, Macau recorded a total of 931,000 visitor arrivals, averaging around 116,000 visitors per day. The travel industry anticipates this year's figure could surpass that, suggesting MGTO's forecast may be conservative.

Additionally, the "Mid-Autumn Moon Night Fun" festival kicked off yesterday at Areia Preta Park, attracting a lively crowd. Activities included lantern riddle guessing and a grapefruit peeling competition, delighting participants of all ages. The event was held at 203 Estrada de Marginal da Areia Preta.

Children expressed excitement about their plans, with one mentioning a family dinner followed by lantern play with friends. Another shared that her parents brought her to the festival after school to enjoy the festive atmosphere. Hosted by the Amizade dos Moradores da zona de Nordeste de Ma-

cau, the event aims to foster community connections and create a harmonious neighborhood during this cherished festival season.

In China, the country expected to see an average of 1.8 million daily cross-border trips around this year's Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, a 21.9% increase from the same period last year, official data shows.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of China's most important traditional holidays. Taking place annually on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, it will be observed on Sept. 17 this year.

### IAS

# 10-year elderly services plan achieves 97% implementation rate

**T**HE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) announced that by the end of August, the 10-Year Action Plan for Elderly Services had successfully executed 345 short- and medium-term initiatives and commenced 85 long-term initiatives, resulting in an impressive overall implementation rate of 96.6%.

During a plenary meeting, the Elderly Affairs Committee re-

viewed the progress of the elderly apartment project and its occupancy plans. As of September 5, around 910 applications had completed the unit selection process, with approximately 470 for single-person units and the rest for double-person units.

The bureau is currently focused on finalizing usage agreements and other follow-up tasks. The first phase,



comprising 759 units, is expected to be ready for applicants by October,

with associated facilities anticipated to be operational within the

year.

Ao Ieong U, chairman of the committee and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, highlighted the necessity of addressing the challenges posed by an aging population.

The official emphasized that this involves not only expanding residential options for the elderly but also improving community care services. LV

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

## REACHING OUT!

+25,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alex Torrao, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí  
DESIGNER\_Rebeca Almeida | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacaoNews, Xinhua  
SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER\_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS\_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement\_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



# Audit report exposes flaws in accessibility for visually impaired

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE Commission of Audit has released a critical report addressing significant shortcomings in the planning and execution of barrier-free pedestrian facilities for individuals with visual impairments in Macau.

The report, released yesterday, highlights issues stemming from a working group established by the government in 2013, which aimed to enhance accessibility across the region.

Since the group's establishment, the government has proposed 34 projects aimed at enhancing accessibility. However, the report reveals substantial uncertainties regarding these initiatives, including unclear deadlines, project scope, and implementation details.

A key issue identified was the absence of cohesive planning.

The Commission of Audit pointed out that many public areas—such as parks, hospitals, and libraries—are not equipped with the necessary tactile guidance systems that help visually impaired individuals navigate these areas safely. This oversight raises questions about the adequacy of planning and communication among the relevant authorities.



“The 34 short, medium and long-term projects related to barrier-free facilities for people with visual impairments in pedestrian areas contained only generic descriptions and no reference was found to the public service responsible for coordinating and distributing the tasks contained in the plans, nor to the implementation of the work to be carried out,” the commission said.

The report also holds the steering group responsible for the Planning Rehabilitation

Services for 2016-2025 accountable for these deficiencies.

According to auditors, this discrepancy suggests that some departments may have misallocated resources to create barrier-free facilities that ultimately do not meet the needs of visually impaired users.

Many projects reported as completed had barely begun, leading to concerns regarding transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the auditors highlighted that certain departments invested time and resources into constructing facilities that ultimately failed to provide effective support for visually impaired users.

“The facilities built under the Rehabilitation Services Plan for 2016-2025 were not connected by tactile orientation paving, the most frequented public places did not have tactile orientation paving, and there were areas of the city that were not connected by

tactile orientation paving,” the statement noted.

In response to these findings, the commission has urged the relevant public services to promptly address the identified gaps. Their recommendations emphasize the need for a thorough examination of existing deficiencies to ensure that the planned objectives for accessibility are met.

The audit report has been formally submitted to the Chief Executive for further action and consideration.

## CRIME

# Duo arrested for fraud involving multiple municipal street signs

NADIA SHAW

**P**OLICE apprehended a 47-year-old local man and a 39-year-old man from the mainland, both of whom were project managers for engineering firms on Sept. 16.

The men are suspected of fraud in relation to a municipal street sign installation project, valued at over MOP1.1 million.

The investigation began after the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) discovered discrepancies in the installation of 362 street signs. It is alleged that the winning bidder submitted fraudulent tile

samples and falsified test reports, misleading government officials about the quality of materials used.

The suspects were taken into custody while allegedly collecting evidence, but reportedly did not sign any agreements concerning the project. Authorities have indicated that the investigation is ongoing and could reveal more individuals involved in the fraud.

In another incident on the same day, police took further action to dismantle a telephone fraud syndicate that targeted elderly victims. Officers arrested two



men from the mainland, including the alleged mastermind of the operation, following reports from two elderly victims who collectively

lost MOP360,000. The victims received phone calls from individuals impersonating family members who claimed to be in urgent need of

bail money after being involved in accidents.

The first victim was asked for MOP50,000, while the second was coerced into handing

over MOP310,000. Both men met with the suspects near their homes in the Northern District to deliver cash and were later contacted again for an additional payment of MOP200,000. Police conducted surveillance and arrested the suspects during this transaction. One of the arrested men is believed to have coordinated the scheme, and instructed other members on how to carry out these fraudulent calls.

As investigations continue into both cases, police are urging anyone with additional information to come forward to assist.



HUSH!

# POP MUSIC AND YOGA FESTIVAL RETURNS TO HAC SA BEACH

VICTORIA CHAN

**T**HE “hush! Beach Concerts x Yo-ga Wellfest 2024” festival will return to Macau’s Ha Sa Beach from Nov. 9 to Nov. 10, bringing two days of live music and yoga. Organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and MGM, the event seamlessly blends popular elements of pop music, yoga, and outdoor recreation along the beachfront.

Deland Leong, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), stated, “We are pleased to once again partner with MGM to curate this unique crossover experience in Asia. By integrating music and wellness practices, the festival showcases Macau’s cultural creativity and vibrant tourism industry.”

Last year’s inaugural festival was a resounding success, drawing significant interest and uniting the local community in a celebration of art, entertainment and active lifestyles.

At a recent press conference, Leong announced that this year’s event will feature “nearly 60 local and foreign bands, musicians and artists” hailing from Canada, Japan, Taiwan and beyond. “We hope to make ‘hush!’ an important music festival in Asia,” Leong said, noting the goal of further establishing Macau as a City of Performing Arts.

With the 2024 theme “Exchange and Cooperation,” the international lineup will include performances by Canadian guitarist Jay Leonard

J, local musician Jun Kung, and acclaimed Japanese electronic music producer DJ KRUSH, highlighting the spirit of cultural exchange.

Taiwanese singer-songwriter 9m88, praised for her ability to seamlessly blend diverse genres, will also take the stage. Rising Chinese band NeonGarden will collaborate with a local group for a joint performance showcase.

In addition to live music, the Yo-ga Wellfest section will see over 30 fitness and yoga instructors from Asia lead various sessions. Popular coaches include Hong Kong’s Coffee Lam and Emi Wong, Taiwanese Zumba master J-Lin, Singapore yogi JYAN, and Thai dancer Gun Gun.

Classes like SUP yoga, gong bath and dance workouts will allow participants to “explore the infinite possibilities of their body, mind and soul,” Leong said.

A hush! Kids Yo-ga Playground will combine children’s music and workout sessions, while other family-friendly activities will include a musical parade, creative workshops, market, art installations, and a new physical and mental experience zone. These activities will offer the opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy music and sports in a natural environment along the coastline, both on the grass and on the sand.

To further engage the local community, a series of outreach activities, including cruise concerts, electronic music parties, outdoor yoga



workshops, and music camps, will be held in the Barra District from Nov. 2 to Nov. 8.

Music critics and creators will host sharing sessions on Nov. 11.

Admission to the concerts is free, while Wellfest tickets are available through the GoGo-Goat app from just 60 patacas.

Further, Leong highlighted the collaboration with MGM as a reflection of Macau’s “urban creativity and vitality of cultural tourism” that invites visitors to experience the unique appeal of the city. The event aims to showcase Macau’s status as a City of Performing Arts and drive cultural development through a fusion of music, outdoor sports and natural scenery along Ha Sa Beach.

## DELAND LEONG EXPECTS LARGER TURNOUT FOR HUSH! MUSIC FESTIVAL THIS YEAR

**D**ELAND Leong, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), expressed high expectations for increased attendance at this year’s Hush! music festival.

“Last year, we had fewer than 20,000 people over the two-day main event. This year, we expect to reach 20,000 people,” said Leong, speaking to the press on the sidelines of yesterday’s press conference.

The festival will take place along Macau’s beaches and forests from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. over two days. In addition to local musicians, the lineup will feature 10 international acts from countries including mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Canada, the United States, Singapore, and Portugal.

“Our theme this year is cultural cooperation and exchange,



and we will increase the participation of more international artists,” Leong said.

Yoga and related activities will return to the festival, following a positive reception last year. “Yoga is quite suitable since we did it last year, because everyone is talking about exercise and health,” Leong said. The bureau hopes to involve foreign yoga masters to collaborate with local

practitioners. The IC budget for the event is approximately 5 million patacas, according to Leong. She anticipates that the blend of music, nature, and wellness programming will attract more tourists and residents to participate in the cultural experience. Her ultimate hope is that the city can foster a brand as an integrative and cultural city of sports. VC

# Association: Operators’ revitalization plans slowed by bureaucracy

NADIA SHAW

**M**ACAU’S ambitious plans to diversify its economy through non-gaming projects are facing significant delays, primarily due to bureaucratic hurdles.

As gaming operators strive to revitalize old districts, the complexities of regulatory processes and heritage site approvals have hindered progress, according to industry experts.



Nick Ng, vice-president of the Guangdong and Macao Federation of

Industry and Commerce, highlighted these challenges in a recent interview.

He noted that while some initiatives aimed at supporting cultural acti-

vities are underway, the overall pace of revitalization is slower than expected.

“Some of these projects cannot be fully controlled by the operators alone,” Ng explained, emphasizing the need for coordination with government agencies.

The Macau government designated six historical districts for revitalization as part of a broader commitment made by gaming operators when they signed new 10-year concessions last year. These areas are intended to become cultural hubs that attract tourists and enhance local engagement. However, the

involvement of heritage sites complicates matters, requiring extensive documentation and approvals before any work can commence.

Despite these setbacks, Ng pointed out that operators are adapting creatively. For instance, cultural exhibitions and performances have already begun in areas like Barra District, showcasing local talent and providing entertainment while waiting for more complex projects to gain approval.

Sands China has also initiated business projects aimed at revitalizing Rua das Estalagens, a historic commercial street that has seen better days.



TRANSPORT

# LRT faces criticism over disruption after typhoon

VICTORIA CHAN

**T**HE Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system has faced criticism for its slow return to service after Typhoon Yagi, raising concerns about its capacity to meet residents' transportation needs in severe weather events. Lawmaker Ma Io Fong criticized the LRT's "relatively weak capacity" to resume operations compared to public buses, which undermines public confidence.

Typhoon Yagi brought strong winds and rain to Macau, triggering tropical storm signal No. 8. While authori-

ties downgraded the warning to No. 3, allowing bridges and buses to reopen, the LRT did not resume service until two hours later. Many frustrated commuters waited at the Barra station for trains as buses became overcrowded.

"The Macau Government had proposed a Macau transit policy in which the LRT would play a leading role and buses would play a secondary role. However, after the passage of tropical cyclone Yagi, the recovery capacity of the LRT service was relatively low and it failed to represent the appropriate transport capacity," said Ma.

According to Ma, the delay in resuming LRT service may be due to the time-consuming need to conduct a thorough inspection of all outdoor facilities before operations can resume.

With the opening of more LRT stations in the future, Ma expressed concern that post-typhoon inspections will take even longer, exacerbating the issue.

Ma urged the Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation to adopt electronic or other intelligent means of conducting safety inspections, to reduce the time required to detect and remediate issues.



GAMING

# MGM has funding flexibility for new projects globally

VICTORIA CHAN

**M**GM Resorts International has the financial strength and flexibility to pursue multiple new integrated resort developments simultaneously, including potential opportunities in Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and New York, according to a recent report by CBRE Credit Research.

The commentary from CBRE follows MGM's announcement last week that it would issue USD850 million in 6.125% unsecured notes due in 2029, with

the proceeds used to refinance USD675 million in 5.75% notes, maturing in June 2025. This move has pushed MGM's next debt maturity to 2026, providing the company with additional financial flexibility.

In the note, analyst Colin Mansfield wrote that MGM's "lease-adjusted consolidated leverage remains low at 4.3x" following a recent bond issuance that boosted liquidity. This financial flexibility allows MGM to "pursue several large-scale developments in the medium-term," in-

VICTORIA CHAN



cluding potential projects in New York, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates.

"Management also expressed its interest in pur-

suing a development in Thailand, which could be pursued out of the MGM China entity," Mansfield added. Each multi-billion-

-dollar project would require "sizeable equity checks, though MGM can fund these via FCF depending on their ultimate timing."

The additional USD175 million of cash added to MGM's balance sheet through the recent bond issuance does not move the needle, given the company's substantial existing liquidity, according to the CBRE report. MGM Resorts has already begun land preparatory work on its near-USD10 billion integrated resort development in Osaka, Japan, and has also confirmed that any pursuit of a Thailand-integrated resort license would be driven by its Macau subsidiary, MGM China.

## CORPORATE BITS

### Wynn Palace receives 'Best of the Best' Award in Tripadvisor's 2024 Travelers' Choice



Wynn Palace received the "Best of the Best" award from Tripadvisor's Travelers' Choice Awards for 2024, ranking among the top 25 hotels and luxury hotels in China.

Wynn Palace, located in Cotai, showcases archi-

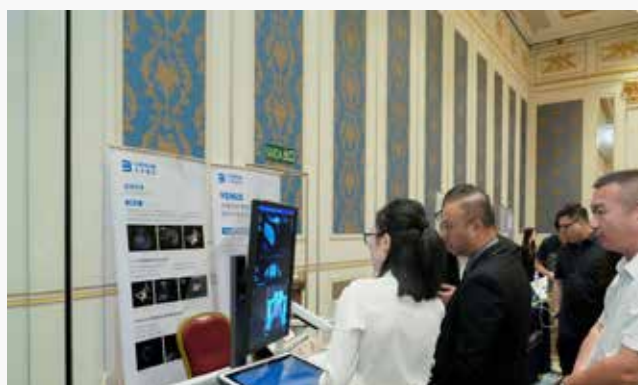
itecture with large floral sculptures and rare art pieces. It features the largest spa in Macau, 1,706 elegantly designed rooms, and a variety of award-winning dining options, including the MICHELIN-starred Chef Tam's Sea-

sons. Guests can enjoy a fitness center, an outdoor pool, and unique entertainment experiences like the immersive Illuminarium and the signature SkyCab.

The "Best of the Best" award recognizes the top 1% of listings based on traveler reviews, while the "Travelers' Choice" award honors consistently excellent businesses.

These winners are among the top 10% of listings around the world on Tripadvisor and are celebrated for their strong commitment to providing outstanding hospitality services.

### Sands supports scientific meeting of urological association



Sands China Ltd supported the 19th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Macau Urological Association (MUA), held at The Parisian Macao last week.

This event brought together over 250 experts

from cities including Beijing, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong, highlighting Macau's role as a hub for medical conferences and the Big Health industry.

Founded in 2006, the MUA is Macau's first pro-

fessional organization for urologists. Its annual meeting has become a significant event for professionals in the Greater Bay Area.

Dr. Ian Lap Hong, chairman of the MUA, expressed gratitude for the support from local and international experts. Kris Kaminsky, senior vice president of Hotel Operations at Sands China Ltd., emphasized the significance of this event, stating, "Our commitment to the MICE sector is deeply intertwined with supporting initiatives that drive long-term growth for Macau's economy and its healthcare ecosystem."



MOONCAKES & LANTERNS

# Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations held across

**F**ROM colorful lantern displays to mooncake-making workshops, poetry readings, and musical performances, Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations are taking place across the globe, inviting people from all backgrounds to explore traditional Chinese culture.

The ongoing festival is observed on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Chinese lunar calendar. It is one of China's most significant holidays, where families gather to enjoy the full moon, share mooncakes, and celebrate the harvest season.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese shared a message on X (formerly Twitter) saying, "The Mid-Autumn Festival serves as a beautiful reminder of our shared history and heritage. It highlights how multiculturalism enriches our modern Australia. I wish everyone the best during this year's festivities."

In Myanmar, students celebrated the festival at the China Cultural Center in Yangon with poetry recitations, traditional music, and quiz competitions. The event drew about 150 people, including local students and Chinese company employees. Fifteen-year-old Htet Thiri Win played the Chinese zither, delighting the audience with soft, melodic tones, later commenting, "I love the mooncakes, and the tea is excellent!"

Tin Maung Tun, rector of the University of Yangon, highlighted the shared cultural appreciation for the full moon in both Chinese and Myanmar traditions, symbolizing harmony and reunion.

In Laos, the China Cultural Center and the National University of Laos hosted a poetry event, promoting friendly ties between

the two nations. Vice President Thongsouk Keomany of NUOL said it offered Lao teachers and students a unique opportunity to appreciate Chinese culture.

New Zealand held its "Mid-Autumn Concert of Timeless Poetry" as part of the Auckland Moon Festival, attracting around 700 attendees. Eru Oneroa, a 23-year-old singer from Auckland, performed a song in Mandarin with Chinese children, receiving a warm response from the crowd.

In Kenya, the Confucius Institute at the University of Nairobi and Afristar co-hosted celebrations to promote cultural integration. Wang Xinyu, a lecturer at the institute, emphasized the growing connection between Kenya and China through shared cultural events.

In Hungary, despite rain and a temperature drop, over 400 people attended the festivities. Jin Hao, director of the China Cultural Center in Budapest, expressed delight at the turnout, stating, "We didn't expect so many Hungarian friends to join us. We're excited to share the festival's spirit of connection and goodwill."

Over 215 million passenger trips were handled by China's transportation sectors early on Sunday, the first day of the three-day holiday for the Mid-Autumn Festival, marking a 37.9 percent increase compared to the previous year, according to data from the Ministry of Transport.

Of this total, China recorded 17.09 million passenger trips by railway, 544,100 by water, and 1.84 million by air. Highway traffic accounted for the largest share, with 196.45 million passenger trips.

This year, the Mid-Autumn Festival falls on September 17. **MDT/XINHUA**

AP PHOTO



Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations in Beijing



# China and the world



AD

**FRANCE MACAU**  
Chamber of Commerce  
法國澳門商會

## FMCC Charity Gala Dinner 2024 法國澳門商會慈善晚宴

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME & SPACE ✦ 時空之旅



Reservations & Sponsorship

Tel: +853 6803 0673 Email: info@francemacau.com www.francemacau.com

20 September 2024 / Grand Ballroom, MGM Macau

### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS

### BRONZE SPONSORS





AP PHOTO



A bag of 4-fluoro isobutyryl fentanyl which was seized in a drug raid is displayed at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

US-CHINA

# DEA closing two offices in China, struggles to stem flow of fentanyl

JOSHUA GOODMAN & JIM MUSTIAN

**T**HE U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is shutting down two of its hard-won offices in China, The Associated Press has learned, a move that comes even as the agency struggles to disrupt the flow of precursor chemicals from the country that have fueled a fentanyl epidemic blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

"These closings reflect the need to harness DEA's limited and strained resources to target where we can make the biggest impact in saving American lives," DEA Administrator Anne Milgram told agents in an email last week that also included plans to close a dozen other offices worldwide to trim DEA's current footprint of 93 offices in 69 countries.

Though rumored for months, it was unclear exactly why DEA is shutting down its offices in Shanghai and Guangzhou, leaving only those in the capital Beijing and the autonomously-governed city of Hong Kong, and how that could affect its efforts on fentanyl. DEA said only that the move followed a data-driven process intended to maximize the agency's impact.

"Americans have a right to know why this decision was made and where DEA intends to reallocate taxpayers' hard-earned dollars," said Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

DEA veterans say it marked yet another setback in the often-halting cooperation between the two geopolitical rivals. Even though China has added dozens of fentanyl-producing chemicals to its list of controlled substances and warned companies against shipping them, the country remains the world's largest source of precursors in a fentanyl crisis blamed for nearly 100,000 U.S. deaths a year.

"We need to work with the Chinese and get them to help stop the flow of precursor chemicals," said Mike Vigil, a former head of DEA's foreign operations, "and it's hard to develop those relationships with less representation in the country."

It took years of U.S. requests before China even agreed to allow the DEA to open offices outside of the capital of Beijing in 2017. Hopes were high for its two-agent office in Guangzhou, a major center for trade and organized crime, and a similar outpost in Shanghai, the country's financial hub.

But a U.S. official familiar with the closures who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive diplomatic matter said China's cooperation was largely in name only, and that the agents assigned to the field offices faced difficulties obtaining visas and numerous restrictions as U.S.-China relations soured.

China suspended anti-narcotics cooperation in 2022 in retaliation for then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Those efforts appear

red to improve more recently, however, following President Joe Biden's meeting last year in San Francisco with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

The DEA's Milgram traveled to China in January with Todd Robinson, the top anti-narcotics official at the State Department. A few months later, authorities in Beijing arrested a Chinese national who fled the U.S. after being named in a criminal indictment out of Los Angeles federal court for fentanyl trafficking.

Milgram has increasingly emphasized how such cooperation could help disrupt China's trade in precursors and its role as a magnet for the laundering of illegal drug proceeds worldwide.

"This work has been constructive so far, but I believe it's too early to know whether we'll see the results that we want to see," Milgram told a congressional panel earlier this year. "If we could stop the flow of precursors from China, we could have a significant impact."

China would not comment on what it said was a DEA internal matter. However, Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for China's Embassy in Washington, praised recent cooperation between the two countries on fentanyl, citing the recent visit to DEA headquarters by a delegation led by the director general of the Chinese Narcotics Control Bureau.

"China hopes that, the U.S. side can work with China in the same direction and continue the pragmatic counter-narcotics cooperation based

on mutual respect, managing differences and mutual benefits."

Collectively, the 14 offices DEA has slated to close account for more than 100 agents and employees, and include some, including in Russia, Cyprus and Indonesia, that are home to flourishing criminal underworlds with connections to Latin American cartels who smuggle the bulk of cocaine, methamphetamine and fentanyl sold in the U.S.

Other offices slated to close are: Bahamas, Egypt, Georgia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua and Senegal. Milgram also announced plans to open offices in Albania and Jordan.

The actions come 18 months after an outside review of the DEA's global footprint that followed an AP investigation into a foreign corruption scandal involving José Irizarry, a disgraced former DEA agent in Colombia who confessed to skimming millions of dollars from drug money laundering operations to fund a worldwide joyride of partying and prostitutes.

That review noted the now-50-year-old agency had never conducted such an assessment to reflect changing threats, and recommended a "rightsizing" of resources to fight fentanyl.

Four of the offices slated to close – the Bahamas, Haiti, Myanmar and Nicaragua – are in countries that, along with China, were designated by the White House as major drug producing or transit zones. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1970 ROCK LEGEND HENDRIX DIES AFTER PARTY

Guitarist Jimi Hendrix has died after collapsing at a party in London.

Police say there was no question of foul play. A number of sleeping pills were found at the house in Notting



Hill Gate and they have been taken away for analysis.

Hendrix, 27, was born in Seattle, Washington, but rose to fame in Britain with his band the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

He will be remembered as a key figure in the music world who transformed electric guitar-playing using distortion, feedback and sheer volume to create a revolutionary new sound.

Hendrix had been staying in London since cutting short a European tour with his band after bass player Billy Cox fell ill with stress and exhaustion.

They were among the headline acts at the three-day Love and Peace Festival at Insel Fehmarn in Germany.

The concert was not an entire success. A torrential downpour meant Hendrix postponed his performance by a day and the audience was disrupted by fighting and gunfire between rival German motorcycle gangs who eventually burned the stage to the ground.

It was after this performance the group returned to London and Hendrix sent Cox back to the United States to convalesce.

James Hendrix was part black, part Cherokee Indian and part Mexican. He left school early, having developed a keen interest in music but unable to read it.

He joined the army as a paratrooper but was discharged due to injury and took up work as a session musician.

He was spotted by former Animals' bass player turned manager Chas Chandler who persuaded him to move to London in the autumn of 1966. He changed Hendrix's stage name to "Jimi", and introduced him to drummer Mitch Mitchell and bass player Noel Redding to form the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

The band's first single 'Hey Joe' spent 10 weeks in the UK charts, reaching number six in early 1967.

They enhanced their reputation with flamboyant stage performances. With his long wiry hair and colourful clothes Hendrix kept audiences enthralled with his improvised solos often playing the guitar behind his back or between his legs.

Their performance of 'Wild Thing' at the Monterey International Pop Festival in June 1967, in which Hendrix played the guitar with his teeth, confirmed their success in the US. The Jimi Hendrix Experience became one of the most popular and successful touring acts in the world.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A coroner recorded an open verdict on the death of Jimi Hendrix.

The inquest heard he had taken nine sleeping pills but there was no evidence of drug addiction.

The guitarist's father, Al Hendrix, a landscape gardener, was the sole beneficiary of the will, estimated to be worth in the region of \$500,000.

He set up a company, Experience Hendrix, with the aim of preserving his son's musical legacy.

On his death in 2002, the company was inherited by his step-daughter Janie. But Jimi's brother Leon claimed he had been unfairly written out of the will and launched a lawsuit in 2004 to try to overturn it. In 2003 a survey by the Rolling Stone magazine named Jimi Hendrix the greatest guitarist in rock history.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Review priorities privately. Tonight's Lunar Eclipse illuminates a six-month introspective phase. Balance old responsibilities with new. Process transitions.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20

One social door closes and another opens with this Eclipse. Adapt with community and team changes over six months. Share appreciation and salutations.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21

Make professional changes with tonight's Full Moon/Eclipse. Redirect efforts over the next half year toward your talents, passions and purpose.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your exploration changes and adapts. This Full Moon/Eclipse illuminates a shift in your educational direction. Experiment with new concepts over six months.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Collaborate for financial growth over the next six months following tonight's Full Moon/Lunar Eclipse. Shift directions for changing conditions.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Make adjustments together. Collaborate for shared commitments around changes over six months after tonight's Full Moon/Eclipse.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Begin a new physical health, work and fitness phase. Adapt practices for changing conditions over the next half year illuminated by tonight's Pisces Lunar Eclipse.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Express your heart, imagination and artistry. Tonight's Full Moon shines on a transition. Adapt directions with a romance, passion or creative endeavor.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Make repairs. Renovate, remodel and tend your garden. Adapt with domestic changes over six months. Nurture your home and family during this Eclipse phase.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Start another chapter. A six-month Full Moon phase highlights communications, connection and intellectual discovery. Adapt around challenges.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Make a shift around income and finances. Discover profitable opportunities in new directions over six months with this Pisces Full Moon/Eclipse. Find new resources.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A challenge reorients you. This Lunar Eclipse in your sign illuminates new personal directions. Expand boundaries over half a year. Develop an inspiring possibility.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

EASY					EASY+				
8	7			5 9	5	7		3 1	
	1 2	7		3 6	6		2		7
		8 2		7	8		5 4 2		
9			6	8 3	6 1		2		
	2	9	8	1			4 5		
7 6			4				8		7 5
	3	8 2				8 9 4			6
2		5	4 1 7		5		2		1
8 5				3 4	2	1		8 9	

MEDIUM					HARD				
			4	9				1	8
9 4		2		5	5	4			
		5		8 7	6				
			1	6			5 3	4	6
9			2	3	7 2				
1			8						5
	7 8			3	8				2
	3		7	9 6			4 6		
1		5					1		

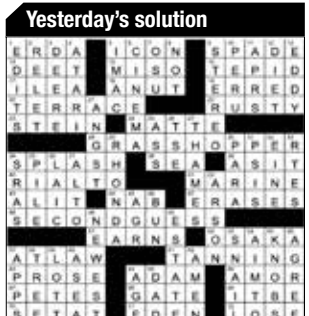
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	27	cloudy
Changchun	11	24	fine
Chengdu	24	37	cloudy
Chongqing	30	38	fine
Fuzhou	27	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	35	cloudy
Guiyang	19	30	cloudy
Haikou	25	31	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	26	31	fine
Harbin	11	24	fine
Hefei	23	33	cloudy
Nanjing	26	32	cloudy
Shanghai	26	32	rain
Taipei	26	29	rain
Wuhan	25	34	overcast
Hong Kong	29	33	overcast
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	11	26	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	26	fine
Paris	15	25	fine
London	15	23	cloudy
New York	20	24	rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Molecule part; 5- Draft classification; 9- Mustachioed artist; 13- Hunky-dory; 14- Brit's bottle measure; 16- Holy smokes!; 17- Indigo source; 18- Kick Out of You; 19- Unadulterated; 20- Indian princess; 21- Beta alternative; 22- Girl in a Beach Boys song; 24- Narrow cut; 26- Nest eggs, briefly; 27- Lost; 29- Felon; 33- Perspire; 34- Elvis Presley; 35- Camp sight; 36- Ballad ending; 37- Manipulating; 38- Way cool; 39- Dynamic introduction?; 41- Flat sound; 42- One of the Leeward Islands; 44- Superficial; 46- Alpine song; 47- Slippery fish; 48- Prefix for small; 49- In (sort of); 52- Cultivation tool; 53- And here it is!; 57- Use a surgical beam; 58- Little; 60- Wall St. debuts; 61- Fail to hit; 62- Dish of raw vegetables; 63- Dept. of Labor div.; 64- Bustles; 65- Sun. speeches; 66- Kind of tide;

**DOWN** 1- From a distance; 2- She played Ginger on "Gilligan's Island"; 3- Getting \_\_\_ years (aging); 4- Singer Etheridge; 5- Singer Newton-John; 6- The dark; 7- French summers; 8- Singer Garfunkel; 9- Place in a bank account; 10- Son of \_\_\_; 11- Pie crust ingredient; 12- Concept; 15- Jewelry typically worn by women; 23- Stage hog; 25- Rent; 26- Wrinkle removers; 27- Eight Days \_\_\_; 28- Country singer Gibbs; 29- Brittle; 30- Audacity; 31- For want of \_\_\_; 32- Old Fords; 33- Oceans; 34- Donkeys; 37- Serving no function; 40- Unity; 42- Prefix with profit or fiction; 43- Version; 45- \_\_\_ Moines, Iowa; 46- Cedex; 48- Tooth; 49- Mater preceder; 50- Aforementioned; 51- Canadian gas brand; 52- Patriot Nathan; 54- Church section; 55- Qatar's capital; 56- Quickly, briefly; 59- Bell and Barker;



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



It's prime time to **BUY & RENT!**

**jml property**

CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

hello@jmlproperty.com  
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @jmlproperty

**Hoi Wan Retail (Taipa)**  
HKD 12,980,000

**Tou Un (Taipa)**  
HKD 2,750,000 1 bed 1 bath

**Jade Garden (Taipa)**  
HKD 11,880,000 4 bed 3 bath



## OVERSEAS CHINESE

# CONNIE CHUNG LAUNCHED A GENERATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN GIRLS NAMED CONNIE

DAVID BAUDER, NEW YORK

**S**OME public figures are honored with namesake buildings or monuments. Veteran broadcaster Connie Chung has a strain of marijuana and hundreds of Asian American women as legacies.

Chung was contacted five years ago by a fellow journalist, Connie Wang, whose Chinese immigrant parents gave her the chance as a preschooler to pick an Americanized first name. She thought of Connie, after the pretty woman she saw on TV, and also suggested some random cartoon characters. Her parents chose wisely.

After reaching college, Wang learned she was part of a special sorority. There were all sorts of Asian AmericanConnies around her, many given the name by parents who saw Chung as a smart, accomplished woman whose professional success their daughters could aspire to.

Until Wang told her this, Chung had no idea.

"I was flabbergasted," she said. "I'm not a crybaby, and I really bawled."

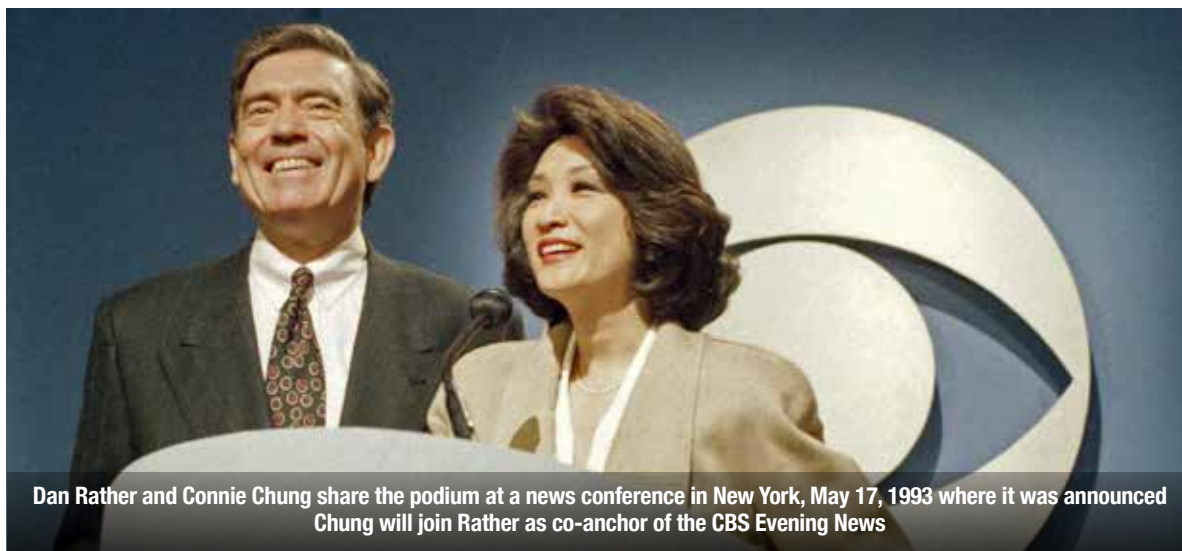
Clearly, a career in television news had a greater impact than she knew. Chung, now 78, tells stories about her life in a new memoir 10 years in the writing and on sale Tuesday, titled — what else? — "Connie."

## SHE DISHES AND NAMES NAMES

Chung's career took her from Washington reporting for a fabled CBS News bureau in the 1970s through anchor jobs in Los Angeles and at NBC News and an ill-fated partnership with Dan Rather at the "CBS Evening News" in the 1990s to dodging the Barbara Walters-Diane Sawyer rivalry at ABC News.

She dishes and, yes, names names. The presidential candidate who made a pass at her. The actor who gravitated to Asian women. The male anchor (not Rather) who long held a grudge against her.

AP PHOTO



Off the air for several years now, she lives a comfortable retired life with her husband, television personality Maury Povich. Between her absence, the Rather episode and a tarring with more of a reputation as a celebrity journalist than she ever wanted, Chung is often overlooked.

Not by Wang and otherConnies. Few Asian Americans had the name before Chung and few since, but "from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s, that's the Connie generation," she said. A frequent argument for diversity in the workplace is so young people can see themselves in prominent roles; rarely do you come across such a tangible example of its effect.

Shortly after writing about the phenomenon, Wang said she personally heard from at least 100Connies with similar stories, likely a small sample of what's out there.

"There was quite literally no one else like her," Wang said. "She was very professional, she was tough but also beautiful. What drew my mother to her was also her style. She cared so much about her appearance."

## SHE ALWAYS HAD TO PROVE HERSELF

Chung was the 10th child — the only one born in the United States — of Chinese parents whose marriage had been arranged when they were 12 and 14 and

met five years later on their wedding day. No son survived past infancy, so her father beseeched her to bring honor to the family name when she began her career. Instead it turned out to be Connie — shortened from Constance — that became inspirational.

Quickly out of college and two years in local news, Chung earned a job at CBS, in part because there was pressure in the late 1960s and early 1970s to make television a little less of a white man's world.

"I always had to prove myself," Chung recalled. "Every day was a test, because I was a woman and because I was a minority, but more because I was a woman. There were no skirts in my business."

Her hustle earned respect, with her willingness to stay up virtually all night covering George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign resulting in a scoop on his vice presidential choice. She had to prove herself to older men and dodge predators, once publicly rejecting a sodden suitor with a sly nod to an old cliché about Chinese food not keeping one satiated for long: "You don't want to go to bed with me," she said. "You'll just be horny an hour later."

She feels that young people need to hear stories about sexism and racism she encountered.

"We've come a long way, but the thing that is disturbing to me is that we really haven't come that long a way," she said. "The sexism

still exists. The racism for Asians has reared its ugly head in a most depressing way. Looking back, it's important to me that women and minorities know that things have changed, but not enough."

## 'I COOPERATED A LOT'

From the memoir, it's clear that she remembers most fondly those days of covering hard news, from Watergate to Nelson Rockefeller's brief tenure as vice president.

Chung became a news anchor locally in Los Angeles and, in the 1980s, at NBC News. Yet she said she was saddled too often with what were considered "women's stories," about miniskirts at the beginning of her career to celebrity profiles and tabloid fodder like "Scared Sexless," about AIDS, at NBC.

Too often, she says, she accepted assignments that she really didn't want to cover. Her reputation suffered. Secretly she agreed with some of the criticism, but it wasn't easy seeing influential critic Tom Shales call her "Connie Fun."

"I never wanted to be called the 'b-word,'" she said. "I never wanted to be called a diva. So I cooperated a lot. I think that's a Chinese thing and a woman thing. I was a double dose of dutiful, so it was as much my own doing by agreeing to do things that my higher-ups wanted me to do."

She moved back to CBS News and, with Dan Rather struggling in the ratings as "CBS Evening

News" anchor in 1993, was named his co-anchor. It seemed like a career peak, but Chung wrote that she had an inkling of what was to come in her first meeting with Rather, when he said, "now you are going to have to start reading the newspaper."

Chung writes in "Connie": "I wanted to believe I had been chosen because I deserved the job. I must have been dreaming. They wanted me to put a bow around Dan Rather's neck that would make him appear friendly and cuddly and normal. But instead, it was I who ended up in a noose."

The partnership lasted two years before Chung got the ax. She chose not to accept CBS' offer of a face-saving role, instead throwing herself into raising Matthew, the infant she and Povich adopted.

Later moving on to ABC News, she found some satisfying work with some newsier investigations, ones where she didn't have to get involved in the titanic struggles between Sawyer and Walters. She accepted a prime-time anchor's job at CNN, but that proved short-lived. Her TV career was winding down.

## SHE HAS ONE MORE NAMESAKE

Chung recently found out, from her niece, about her other namesake — the Connie Chung strain of marijuana. Ever the journalist, she dove into research, finding a pack of five pre-rolled joints available online for \$22.

Asked if Connie Chung has tried the Connie Chung brand, she politely demurred, then later volunteered that she hadn't smoked marijuana since college, effectively answering the question. But she took pride in reading about the characteristics of Chung weed.

"I'm easy to grow," she said. "I create a lovely flower and one of my favorite parts is that I'm low-maintenance. I find that very admirable, although I don't think Maury would agree that I'm low-maintenance." **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Now and then: Connie Chung, in a photo taken this year, and in 1983 at work with Jane Pauley, in New York



FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# PSG starts league without a galactico but seemingly better equipped to succeed

SAMUEL PETREQUIN,  
MDT/AP SPORTS WRITER

Thursday, 03:00  
PSG v Girona  
H 1.4, D 5.5, A 8

ODDSCHECKER.COM

**F**OR more than a decade, Paris Saint-Germain's Qatari owners have spent lavishly to attract big stars.

Their goal was to make the club profitable, to erase the amateurish image of a side often associated with hooligans, and to build a competitive team capable of winning the Champions League.

With unprecedented revenues surpassing 800 million euros (\$890 million) for the first time last year, they have managed to build solid growth.

They also succeeded in ridding their stadium of the violence that often made the atmosphere at the Parc des Princes so tense and hostile.

And they also managed to bring the biggest names in the game to

Paris. The likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé at times offered a glimpse of the possibility of winning Europe's biggest tournament.

But the Champions League crown remained a distant dream.

The superstars have all now left the Parc des Princes, and it might sound paradoxical, but the club may be better equipped in its quest for continental glory.

Following the exits of Messi to Inter Miami and Neymar to Saudi Arabia team Al-Hilal in previous years, the departure of Mbappé to Real Madrid this summer marked the end of an era at PSG, where relying on the individual skills of star players and splashing money have been the norm since the 2011 Qatari takeover.

The big hole left by Mbappé was not filled by yet another superstar.

Instead, coach Luis Enrique insisted on moulding what he had. Enrique's project makes sense: Mbappé can't be duplicated but he could be replaced by a hand-



ful of attacking players capable of scoring as much, or more, than the France captain did.

"To me, this is the continuation of last season," said Enrique, who has used 21 players in four French league games so far. "We are a young team, that is true. But we are full of desire and hunger, which is a wonderful thing. I'm so lucky to have this sort of squad."

Enrique asked for the recruit-

ment of less known but excellent players in every sector to create competition and have second options at every position. It could be even more crucial this season as the Champions League's new format will see more teams playing more games. PSG starts on Wednesday (Thursday, 03:00 a.m.) against Spanish side Girona.

PSG signed goalkeeper Matvey Safonov, highly rated defen-

der Willian Pacho and promising midfielder João Neves, as well as winger Désiré Doué. Pacho was impressive at Eintracht Frankfurt while the versatile Neves has already earned 11 caps with Portugal at the age of 19.

Pacho and Neves have quickly gelled with the team and the new-look PSG has delivered immediately. They have won their first four matches to top the Ligue 1 standings.

"PSG is way stronger collectively than last year, everybody runs and defends," Brest coach Eric Roy said after his side lost to the French titleholder 3-1 over the weekend. "Especially when they lose the ball, they put a lot of pressure."

The biggest question mark going into the season was PSG's ability to maintain a potent attack without its best player. With two quick and powerful players on the wings — Ousmane Dembélé and Badley Barcola — partnering Marco Asensio in a false No. 9 role, PSG seems to have found the right answer.

AD

**仁德** CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER  
仁德醫療中心

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

**Paediatrics** : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

**Cardiology** : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

**General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

**Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

**MACAU**  
澳門

**BENFICAMACAU**  
**ACADEMY**  
澳門賓菲加體育學校

**FOOTBALL** | **BASKETBALL** | **DAILY TRAININGS**



**OPINION**

**The Conversation**

Mahshid Ahmadi, U. Tennessee



**TINY ROBOTS AND AI  
 HELP TO CRAFT MATERIAL  
 SOLUTIONS FOR CLEANER  
 ENVIRONMENTS**

Human activities release pollutants into the air, water, and soil, threatening both ecosystems and human health. According to the World Health Organization, air pollution alone causes 4.2 million deaths annually. To address these issues, researchers are investigating solutions like photocatalysts, materials that can break down pollutants when triggered by light.

As a materials science and engineering researcher at the University of Tennessee, I am working with a team using robots and artificial intelligence (AI) to develop and test new photocatalysts that could help mitigate air pollution. Photocatalysts generate charged carriers when exposed to light, which in turn create reactive oxygen species that can bond with pollutants, breaking them down into harmless or even useful products.

However, existing photocatalysts have limitations. Many require high-energy light, like ultraviolet rays, to function, which makes them less effective in environments with lower-energy light such as visible or infrared light. Additionally, the charged particles often recombine too quickly, preventing full decomposition of pollutants. Surface changes during reactions can also reduce efficiency. Our goal is to overcome these challenges by developing new, more efficient materials that are also nontoxic, ensuring the cleaning process itself doesn't create further pollution.

My team is focusing on materials called hybrid perovskites, which are nanocrystals that combine organic and inorganic components. These tiny crystals, about one-tenth the thickness of a human hair, have excellent light-absorbing properties due to their unique atomic structure. This allows them to efficiently generate the charged carriers needed for photocatalytic reactions. Hybrid perovskites are also used to improve the efficiency of solar panels and in LED lights, highlighting their versatility in energy applications.

There are thousands of potential types of hybrid perovskites, and testing them all manually would take an enormous amount of time. To speed up the process, we use automation and AI. Instead of handling samples by hand, our small robots can create and test up to 100 different materials in just an hour. These robots, which precisely handle tiny amounts of liquid, are controlled by computer systems that ensure accuracy and speed.

We also rely on machine learning to optimize this process. By analyzing the data from our experiments, machine learning algorithms can quickly identify patterns and insights, allowing us to adjust and improve our experiments for the next round of testing. This rapid learning and iteration process lets us test and refine materials far more efficiently than traditional methods.

Ultimately, the combination of automated experimentation and AI is helping us develop better photocatalytic materials. This approach allows us to quickly overcome complex challenges, advancing the field and bringing us closer to real-world solutions for cleaning up pollutants in our environment. Our work demonstrates how technology, when applied thoughtfully, can provide innovative tools to combat pressing environmental issues. [Abridged]

Indonesian authorities said yesterday that they have arrested six people on drug charges on the tourist island of Bali since July.

Four could face execution under the country's strict drug laws.

Two Thai nationals, Rachanon Jongseeha, 33, and his girlfriend Worawan Wongsuwan, 31, were arrested upon arrival at Bali's Ngurah Rai airport on Sept. 8, with 1.9 kilograms of methamphetamines mixed with ecstasy powder packed in 108 sachets of a fruit-flavored collagen drink, and 20 pills of the party drug ecstasy, according to provincial anti-narcotics chief Rudy Ahmad Sudrajat.

Police later arrested two Indonesians on accusations of ordering the

drugs from Thailand.

All four could face execution by firing squad if charged and found guilty.

Authorities also announced the July arrests of two European men on drug charges.

A Latvian man, carrying 450.41 grams of hashish and 977.83 grams of marijuana concealed in his suitcase. Sudrajat said VS had a tattoo indicating affiliation with organized crime groups in the former Soviet Union. And a Swedish man identified by the initials SUE was captured on July 31 when police raided his villa in Gianyar, a popular tourist spot, and seized 201.28 grams of hashish.

AP PHOTO



Temari balls on display at Sanuki Kagari Temari in Kawaramachi

**DEDICATED ARTISTS ARE  
 KEEPING JAPAN'S ANCIENT  
 CRAFT OF TEMARI ALIVE**

**YURI KAGEYAMA,  
 KAWARAMACHI**

**T**IME seems to stop here. Women sit in a small circle, quietly, painstakingly stitching patterns on balls the size of an orange, a stitch at a time.

At the center of the circle is Eiko Araki, a master of the Sanuki Kagari Temari, a Japanese traditional craft passed down for more than 1,000 years on the southwestern island of Shikoku.

Each ball, or "temari," is a work of art, with colorful geometric patterns carrying poetic names like "firefly flowers" and "layered stars." A temari ball takes weeks or months to finish. Some cost hundreds of dollars (tens of thousands of yen), although others are much cheaper.

These kaleidoscopic balls aren't for throwing or kicking around. They're destined to be heirlooms, carrying prayers for health and goodness. They might be treasured like a painting or piece of sculpture in a Western home.

The concept behind temari is an elegant otherworldliness, an impractical beauty that is also very labor-intensive to create.

"Out of nothing, some-

thing this beautiful is born, bringing joy," says Araki. "I want it to be remembered there are beautiful things in this world that can only be made by hand."

Natural materials

The region where temari originated was good for growing cotton, warm with little rainfall, and the spherical creations continue to be made out of the humble material.

At Araki's studio, which also serves as head office for temari's preservation society, there are 140 hues of cotton thread, including delicate pinks and blues, as well as more vivid colors and all the subtle gradations in between.

The women dye them by hand, using plants, flowers and other natural ingredients, including cochineal, a bug living in cacti that produces a red dye.

Outside the studio, loops of cotton thread, in various tones of yellow today, hang outside in the shade to dry.

The arduous process starts with making the basic ball mold on which the stitching is done. Rice husks that are cooked and then dried are placed in a piece of cotton, then wound with thread, over and over, until, almost magically, a ball

appears in your hands.

Then the stitching begins.

The balls are surprisingly hard, so each stitch requires a concentrated, almost painful, push. The motifs must be precise and even.

Each ball has lines to guide the stitching — one that goes around it like the equator, and others that zigzag to the top and bottom.

These days, temari is getting some new recognition, among Japanese and foreigners as well. Caroline Kennedy took lessons in the ball-making when she was United States ambassador to Japan a decade ago.

Yoshie Nakamura, who promotes Japanese handcrafted art in her duty-free shop at Tokyo's Haneda airport, says she features temari there because of its intricate and delicate designs.

"Temari that might have been everyday in a faraway era is now being used for interior decoration," she said.

"I really feel each Sanuki Kagari Temari speaks of a special, one-and-only existence in the world."

Araki has come up with some newer designs that feel both modern and historical. She is trying to make the balls more accessible to everyday life. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



**India** Residents of Indian-controlled Kashmir plan to vote in upcoming local elections, marking a shift from traditional boycotts. Many aim to prevent Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party from gaining control. The election is the first since Kashmir's special status was revoked and the region's governance restructured.

AP PHOTO



**Middle East** Hundreds of handheld pagers exploded near simultaneously across Lebanon and in parts of Syria yesterday, wounding members of the militant group Hezbollah, the Iranian ambassador and dozens of other people. Officials pointed the finger at Israel in what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack at a time of rising tensions across the Lebanon border.

AP PHOTO



**French** police are searching for Benin track and field athlete Odile Ahouanwanou, who disappeared on September 10 near Rouen. Ahouanwanou, a heptathlete who competed in the 2019 World Championships, failed to pick up her child, prompting concerns and an appeal for witnesses from authorities.

AP PHOTO



**United States** Bill Gates urged wealthier nations to increase aid to African countries as global funding shifts toward crises like Ukraine. He emphasized debt relief, vaccinations, and addressing child malnutrition, stressing that Africa's needs are urgent, especially as climate change worsens existing challenges.

**HOLIDAY TIMES**

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Friday September 20. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.