

HKD1m buy-in poker tournament kicks off

Sum Choi

POKERSTARS and the Guangdong Group (Macau) Ltd yesterday launched the 'GuangDong Ltd Asia Millions' (GDAM) Tournament, tipping it to be the biggest poker tournament ever held outside of the World Series of Poker by prize pool, and the largest ever high-roller event by number of players. The highlight of the GDAM tournament this year will take place during the HKD1 million Main Event from June 4 to 7, and the world's poker enthusiasts will be able to witness the tournament firsthand on live global webcast, featuring a host of world-famous players.

GDAM, formerly known as the Macau High Stakes Challenge, kicked off in the "PokerStars LIVE" poker room at City of Dreams yesterday afternoon. Guangdong Group will donate 10 percent of the administrative fees to a charitable cause.

"Since the first day of preparing this event, we have decided to build it into a world-class tournament," stated Ms. Winnie Wong, the Guangdong Group CEO, in the event's opening ceremony.

"This year its scale will be larger. Last year the prize pool reached more than HKD182 million. This year, there has been over a hundred participants; with a buy-in of HKD1 million plus twice re-buys for each participant, the prize pool is estimated to reach over HKD200 million."

"It is so encouraging to see the number of players registering for GDAM. Participants include players from the business sector and entertainment sector, and other high value customers are coming back to Macau just for this event," she said.



PokerStars told the Times that many famous international poker players are participating in this event. Some big names include Gus Hansen, Bertrand 'ElkY' Grospeilier, Erik Seidel, and World Champions Greg Merson (2012) and Jonathan Duhamel (2010).

Other notable players are Joseph Cheong, Nick Wong (who won last night's HKD 250,000 Warm Up event) and Max Altermatt, who recently won the EPT Grand Final Super High Roller event in Monte Carlo.

"A world-first 100-plus player number is on the cards and Guangdong Groups members will be matching their skills against the world's best, including Greg Merson and Jonathan Duhamel, and other elite poker players," said Danny McDonagh, PokerStars' Director of Live Poker Operations for the Asia Pacific. "GDAM is set to take high stakes poker tournaments to the next level, and it is wonderful to be part of the story."

The GDAM HKD1m main event began yesterday at 3 p.m. local time with, day 2 tomorrow and the final table on Friday June 7. Players are

allowed a maximum of two rebuys at HKD1m each, and thereafter they will have to make do with the viewing gallery. The blind levels will increase every 60 minutes, beginning with a 3,000 small blind and a 6,000 big blind. The action will be fast-paced, as the volume of chips will see frivolous and reckless betting.

To follow the action of the tournament, PokerStars is offering a live webcast, beginning at 3 p.m. HKT each day. "While the Guangdong Ltd Asia Millions will undoubtedly be a landmark event, its overall appeal to the larger poker universe has meant that with the looming World Series of Poker it has drawn many players away from the bright lights of Las Vegas and dumped them in Macau."

"The vast majority of the players who will be taking part at the Guangdong Ltd Asia Millions will make the trip across the Pacific to the gambling Mecca of Vegas very quickly following the Asia Millions, but for the next 5 days the emerging Macau will hold them until we have crowned the 2013 Asia Millions champion," PokerStars said.

Raymond Tam won't resign from IACM, no comment on cemetery case

One day after resigning from the Electoral Affairs Commission, the head of the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) Raymond Tam Vai Man, said yesterday that he wouldn't quit from his current position as head of IACM. According to TDM, he met the press after a public event yesterday and was repeatedly asked about the possibility of quitting his official position. He stressed that he would "stick to his post" and would continue to serve the public by collaborating with his IACM colleagues to give citizens quality municipal services. Asked about his involvement in the government's cemetery grants scandal, which is believed to be the reason for his resignation from the Commission, he said the case is undergoing legal procedures and therefore it would not be appropriate for him to comment. He reiterated his trust of the judicial system and judiciary bodies, and hoped the truth of the case to be unveiled through the legal procedures, so that his "innocence" can be proven. The vice-president of IACM, Lei Wai Nong, also refused to comment on the cemetery case on the same grounds. He said he believed the actions he undertook and decisions he made during the discharge of his duties were legal and therefore can undergo the test of legal examinations and judicial investigations.

Tri-decade collects 1,000 signatures against non-local graduates working

The Macau Tri-Decade Action Union has collected over a thousand signatures from the public in a street campaign against non-local graduates working in Macau. The group will deliver a letter with the citizens' signatures to the government headquarters this afternoon. "Under the above circumstances, blindly implementing the plan for non-local graduates staying in Macau to work will only generate 'qualification factories' and burden the urban capacity, as well as waste the social resources on formulating a new policy," mentions the youth group's letter. "For Macau's long-term human resource planning, the academic [environment] and fair employment conditions for the next generation," the group demanded that "student cards must not become a work permit or a residency card."

Babel celebrates Children's Day at Cheoc Van



Babel, a nonprofit cultural organization, celebrated International Children's Day on June 1 at Cheoc Van. Babel's mission is to generate learning opportunities in the fields of contemporary art, architecture and

environment. The celebration included people from many generations and lasted the whole day. According to a press release, "to see, create, play, walk, rest or even swim, tracing paths of exploration through conversations, picnics and collective installations, discovering art and artists, along with the environment, architecture and landscape was the proposal by Babel for June 1."

Chan Meng Kam submits list, calls for gov't accountability

LEGISLATOR Chan Meng Kam's group formally applied for participation in the Legislative Assembly election, submitting their election list and platform, and calling for accountability among government officials.

One week after submitting the documents to form a nomination committee, the Association of United Citizens of Macau went to the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau Tuesday to submit their election list, which inclu-

ded 14 people. Topping the list is incumbent legislator Chan Meng Kam who is running for re-election, followed by Si Ka Lun, head of the People's Alliance for the Development of Macau, while the Alliance's vice-president Song Pic Kei is listed in the third place.

Legislator Ung Choi Kun, who has run in past elections on the same list as Chan Meng Kam, has already announced earlier this year that he would not be seeking re-election. Asked if the list can take at

least 2 seats, or even 3 as some analysts expect, Chan did not speculate, instead pointing out that the voters make the final decision.

In their election platform, Chan's camp called for holding government officials accountable for their performances, and that poorly performing officials should be sacked. He did not specify anyone by name.

Chan and Si told the media after submitting their documents that their platform focused on people's

livelihoods, since working class citizens are facing difficult circumstances over soaring property prices, high inflation rate, poor telecom services, deterioration due to flooding, lack of medical services, poor public transportation system, and other issues.

The pair said these problems are all related to the respective officials' working capabilities, and it's a matter of course to replace those officials who are not doing their jobs properly and effectively.

Conference on English discourse and intercultural communication opens

The 4th International Conference on English, Discourse and Intercultural Communication (EDIC), Part I, is taking place until tomorrow at the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM). During yesterday's opening ceremony it was stated that the growing use of English brings with it the challenge of intercultural discourse. The conference aims at analyzing this multifaceted phenomenon from the perspectives of English-language teaching, linguistics, the study of translation and interpreting, the study of intercultural communication, media studies and comparative cultural studies. The second part of the conference continues from June 7 to June 10 in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.