

Man holding charged with murder

Police today (June 27) laid a holding charge against a 26-year-old man with one count of murder.

The man was arrested yesterday (June 26) in suspected connection with a murder case happened in Central in which a 63-year-old man died.

The case will be mentioned at Eastern Magistrates' Courts tomorrow (June 28).

CE meets with Police Force Council Staff Associations (with photo)

The Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam, met with the chairmen and vice-chairmen of four Police Force Council Staff Associations at Government House today (June 27). The Secretary for Security, Mr John Lee, and the Commissioner of Police, Mr Lo Wai-chung, also attended the meeting. The Police Force Council Staff Associations include the Superintendents' Association, the Hong Kong Police Inspectors' Association, the Overseas Inspectors' Association and the Junior Police Officers' Association.

Mrs Lam expressed her heartfelt thanks to members of the force for fulfilling their duties with dedication during the disputes and clashes in society caused by the legislative amendment exercise, striking a balance between the public's freedom of expression and social order, and maintaining law and order in Hong Kong. She said she understands that members of the force and their family members have been put under pressure and that a small number of people even provoked the Police intentionally, which is not acceptable. She praised the force for its distinguished professionalism and restraint all along during this difficult time, carrying out law enforcement impartially against illegal activities and continuing to serve the community. Mrs Lam said that she and her governing team will continue to give their full support for the force.

Apart from meeting with the Police Force Council Staff Associations today, Mrs Lam met with representatives of the education and religious sectors, senior civil servants and members of other sectors at Government House in the past few days to exchange views on the current social situation. She also met with a number of foreign consuls and representatives to explain to them the latest situation.



Princess Margaret Hospital announces case of Candida auris

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) made the following announcement today (June 27):

A 48-year-old male patient was admitted to PMH on May 19 with the diagnosis of pulmonary embolism. He was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit and then the Medical and Geriatric Ward. His respiratory specimen was confirmed as carrying *Candida auris* on June 24, while the patient did not have signs of infections. He had travelled to Switzerland before admission. The patient is now being treated in the Hospital Authority Infectious Disease Centre under isolation with stable condition. In accordance with the prevailing guidelines, PMH has commenced contact tracing for the patient.

The Hospital Infection Control Team has reported the case to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). After discussion with the departments concerned and experts of the CHP, the following enhanced infection control measures have already been adopted:

1. Thorough cleaning and disinfection of the wards concerned;
2. Enhanced patient and environmental screening procedures; and
3. Application of stringent contact precautions and enhanced hand hygiene for staff and patients.

The hospital will continue to closely monitor the situation of the patient as well as follow up on the case with the departments concerned and the CHP.

CHP follows up on case of Candida auris

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (June 27) following up with the Hospital Authority on the first case of *Candida auris* detected in Hong Kong, involving a patient who has travelled to Switzerland, and reminded members of the public on the proper use of antimicrobials and maintaining personal hygiene against the disease.

The male patient, aged 48, was admitted to the intensive care unit of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) on May 19 following pulmonary embolism. *Candida auris* was detected from the culture of his endotracheal aspirate obtained in mid-June which was confirmed by the CHP's Public Health Laboratory Services Branch subsequently. The patient is in a stable condition and is currently under isolation in PMH. Contact tracing by the hospital is in progress.

"*Candida* is a fungus commonly found in the natural world, particularly in moist and warm environments. In humans, it is commonly found in body sites such as the oral cavity, the digestive tract, skin and the vagina. It is a common fungus living on or in the human body but can occasionally cause infections, especially in individuals with impaired immunity," a spokesman for the CHP explained.

Among all the species, *Candida auris* is more drug-resistant than other *candida* species. Infections have varied from being mild to potentially life-threatening or fatal, depending on which part of the body is affected and the general health of the patient. The drug category for treating the disease, however, is basically no different from the antifungal drugs generally used for treating serious fungal infections. All these drugs have been registered and are available in the local market. However, *Candida auris* is known to be resistant to many of these potential drugs of choice which will limit the therapeutic options and affect treatment outcome.

Globally, *Candida auris* has been observed to become increasingly prevalent since 2016 in many overseas regions including North America, Europe and other continents. Emergence of *Candida auris* has been linked with nosocomial outbreaks at healthcare facilities.

The spokesman stressed that proper use of antimicrobials and maintaining personal hygiene, especially hand hygiene, are crucial to the prevention of emergence and cross-transmission of *Candida auris*.

"The CHP will continue to keep abreast of international trends and the local situation of *Candida auris* in order to strengthen disease surveillance and implement effective preventive and control measures in

public health to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in Hong Kong as appropriate," the spokesman said.

SCMA visits Sha Tin District

The Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, Mr Patrick Nip, visited Sha Tin District this afternoon (June 27), touring the Hong Kong Sports Institute and visiting Shui Chuen O Estate to see the social services and ancillary facilities in the estate.

Accompanied by the District Officer (Sha Tin), Miss Amy Chan, Mr Nip visited various training facilities for Elite Sport Scholarship Athletes in the Hong Kong Sports Institute. He also met with coaches and athletes there to learn about the training provided by the Institute as well as co-operation and exchange programmes between the Institute and the Mainland. Mr Nip said he was pleased to learn that since 2009, the Institute has signed memorandums of co-operation with 15 Mainland institutions, including the Preparation Office for the Olympic Games of the General Administration of Sport of China and Beijing Sport University, with a view to equipping local athletes for their participation in the Olympic Games, the National Games of the People's Republic of China and other major sports events.

Mr Nip then visited an integrated service centre in Shui Chuen O Estate to get a better understanding of its services and facilities. He also exchanged views with staff members of the centre and chatted with residents of the estate and students participating in the centre's activities. The centre mainly provides services and support for children, young people and parents and hosts a variety of interest classes.

Mr Nip also visited the mall and ancillary facilities inside the estate, and viewed a primary school site to get updates on the development of the district and the needs of residents.