

# Permanent residents can now travel between HK, Macau with QR code

Yuki Lei

Starting today, permanent residents of Macau and Hong Kong aged at least 11 can use their QR codes between the two special administrative regions' (SARs) clearance service generated by their respective mobile apps, i.e., "Macao One Account" for the former and "Contactless e-Channel" for the latter, to cross border checkpoints between the two cities through e-channels.

Upon the commencement of the new measure, eligible residents of the two places may choose to cross the border with their respective QR code or physical ID card.

Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) Director Ng Wai Han said during a joint press conference yesterday that as of the end of May, nearly 300,000 local residents have enrolled to use Hong Kong's e-Channels, while, according to Benson Kwok Joon-fung, director of Hong Kong's Immigration Department, the number of Hong Kong residents registered to use Macau's automated passenger clearance stands at nearly 2.5 million.

According to yesterday's press conference at the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB), the "Mutual Use of QR Code between HKSAR and Macao SAR Clearance Service" is



Identification Services Bureau (DSI) Director Chao Wai Ieng delivers a speech during yesterday's press conference about the "Mutual Use of QR Code between HKSAR and Macao SAR Clearance Service", at Macau's checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB).

applicable to holders of a Macau permanent ID card or Hong Kong permanent ID card, as well as a Hong Kong ID card marked with "\*", "\* \*" and "R", aged 11 or above who have registered to use e-Channels and the Automated Passenger Clearance Service in



A Hong Kong official demonstrates how to use the QR code generated for crossing the border checkpoint after yesterday's press conference at the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB). – Photos: Yuki Lei

Hong Kong and Macau respectively, in which Macau residents will be able to generate their QR code via the "My border crossing" function after updating their "Macao One Account". Ng underlined during the press conference that under the existing laws of Hong Kong, Macau residents are still required to carry their physical ID card when entering Hong Kong – and vice versa.

Delivering a speech during the

press conference, Identification Services Bureau (DSI) Director Chao Wai Ieng said that the new measure will further optimise the immigration clearance process and enhance the convenience of cross-border travel for residents of the two places, facilitating the exchange and movement of people as well as economic ties and trade between the two cities, while further developing Macau's cultural tourism, convention



and exhibition industry as well as its other "1+4" key nascent industries (big health, modern finance and high-tech) with a view to creating a high-quality residential conurbation in the Guangdong-Zhuhai-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA). Kwok, on the other hand, pointed out in his speech that Macau is one of the most popular places for Hong Kong residents to visit, with three million passenger trips made using e-channels in the first half of this year alone, adding that the new measure will further enhance the quality of the immigration services of the two places to tie in with the nation's major strategy for the GBA development.

Continued on p.2

## Obama believes Biden needs to reconsider election bid: report

WASHINGTON – Former US president Barack Obama has told allies that Joe Biden needs to reconsider his re-election bid, *The Washington Post* reported yesterday.

Obama believes that Biden's path to victory has diminished and that the 81-year-old should "seriously consider the viability of his candidacy," the newspaper said, citing people briefed on his thinking.

It said there was no immediate comment from Obama, who was in office while Biden was vice president from 2009 to 2017 and who remains hugely

influential in the Democratic party.

Obama would be the most heavyweight Democrat so far to join a growing chorus in the party calling for Biden to drop out, following a disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump.

Biden, who is isolating with COVID-19 at his beach house, has rejected concerns about his age and fitness and insisted that he is staying in the race for the White House.

Pressure is mounting, though, with Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries also both reportedly

meeting with Biden in recent days to warn that his candidacy threatens his party's prospects in November's election.

Meanwhile, Biden still has mild COVID-19 symptoms but is continuing to work, his White House doctor said yesterday, a day after the US president tested positive for the disease.

"The president is still experiencing mild upper respiratory symptoms associated with his recent COVID-19 infection," Dr Kevin O'Connor said in a letter. "He does not have a fever and his vital signs remain normal." – AFP (More on p. 12)



US President Joe Biden (left) and former US president Barack Obama attend a campaign fundraiser at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles last month. – AFP

### CPC Central Committee adopts resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively

The 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted a resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization at its third plenary session held in Beijing between Monday and yesterday. – Story on p. 7

### Israeli parliament votes to oppose Palestinian state

An Israeli parliament vote to oppose a Palestinian state as an "existential threat", just days ahead of a visit by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington, brought Palestinian and international criticism yesterday. – Story on p. 11

### Vance pledges 'new path' at Republican convention

Donald Trump's vice presidential pick J.D. Vance lit up the Republican National Convention on Wednesday with a speech leaning heavily on his personal story as he sought to connect his turbulent upbringing with the hardships faced by millions of Americans. – Story on p. 12

## Permanent residents can now travel between HK, Macau with QR code

Continued from p.1

Chao said that the new measure is currently applicable to the two cities' permanent residents: "The first phase targets permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau, mainly based on the principle of reciprocity. As for non-permanent residents, we will liaise closely with the Hong Kong side in the next phase and strive to complete the work in due course before making an announcement".

In terms of Personal Data Protection, Ng said that the new measure has been launched based on existing cooperation with Hong Kong's e-channel services, in which the whole process is registered by Macau residents on a voluntary basis with their specific consent, i.e., they have agreed to give their identity information to the Hong Kong side for registration in accordance with the law, stressing that both the QR codes and data storage are in compliance with Macau's cybersecurity standards and requirements in line with the city's Personal Data Law and cybersecurity procedures.

### E-Channel services registration

Meanwhile, according to Ng, local permanent residents aged 18

or above can register to use Hong Kong's e-Channel via the self-service kiosks at the city's seven 24-hour government self-service centres on Avenida de Sidónio Pais, in China Plaza on Avenida da Praia Grande, the Government Services Centre in Areia Preta, Fai Tat Building in Fai Chi Kei district in the peninsula and at the Government Islands Services Centre and the Lago (Lake) public housing estate in Taipa, as well as at the Seac Pai Van Community Complex in Coloane. Registration can also be done at the Government Affairs Service Centre in the Guangdong-Macau In-depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Ng noted that Macau permanent residents aged between 11 and 17 must, accompanied by their parents or guardians, complete their application at the e-Channel registration offices at the Hong Kong Immigration Department Headquarters, HK-China Tsim Sha Tsui Ferry Terminal checkpoint, Sheung Wan HK-Macau Ferry Terminal checkpoint, Kai Tak Cruise Terminal checkpoint, and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge checkpoint. ■

## Serial thief caught; mainlander cheats friend out of 200,000 yuan

Ginnie Liang

An unemployed local man with previous theft convictions is suspected of stealing a watch worth HK\$320,000 from a car the doors of which were unlocked, according to a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson during a special press conference yesterday.

The male suspect surnamed Chan is 28 years old, according to the spokesperson.

The spokesperson said that police officers received a report of a theft from a car in a public car park in the northern district on Monday, where the car owner discovered that his watch left in the unlocked vehicle had been stolen.

Chan hocked the watch at a pawn shop for HK\$25,000 and gambled the money away, the spokesperson said, adding that he borrowed money from a friend to get the watch back, and then hocked the watch at another pawn shop to get HK\$180,000. He gambled the money away again.

PJ officers intercepted Chan on Estrada da Areia Preta on Wednesday, the spokesperson said, adding that after investigation, PJ officers found that Chan already has a criminal record for theft – Chan was sentenced to imprisonment in 2020 for aggravated theft, after being released from prison in June last year, Chan was again arrested for stealing property from cars in September last year as well as in January and June this year. All of these cases were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), and he is awaiting trial.



The hooded local theft suspect is escorted by Judiciary Police (PJ) officers to a vehicle outside the PJ headquarters in Zape yesterday. – Photos courtesy of TDM



Evidence including HK banknotes and two mobile phones is displayed at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters yesterday.

Chan was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office yesterday, facing charges of aggravated theft and fraud involving a considerable amount of money.

### Mainlander cheats friend out of 200,000 yuan in gambling deal

Meanwhile, a 33-year-old man from the mainland claimed that he was a "skilled gambler" and had a "winning gambling template", lured his friend into investing 200,000 yuan in his purported gambling scheme last October, but the victim lost contact after the suspect had gambled away all the money, the PJ spokesperson said during the special press conference yesterday.

The victim, a mainland man,

reported to the Judiciary Police that the suspect claimed to be able to win at baccarat steadily by means of "buying two with one loss" and offered to sign a "capital preservation agreement", under which he provided a "return" of about HK\$20,000 initially, but later on he delayed repayment of the money, making various excuses.

The victim reported a loss of about 180,000 patacas when the suspect finally disappeared.

The police intercepted the suspect on Wednesday at the local airport. He admitted that he had meanwhile gambled away most of his friend's money.

The suspect was transferred to MP yesterday, facing charges of fraud involving a considerable amount of money. ■

## High school student nabbed for sexual harassment: police

Yuki Lei

A high school student was arrested on Tuesday for sexually harassing two women in the Barrier Gate area last week, according to a regular police press conference yesterday.

A Public Security Police (PSP) spokesperson said during the press conference that the male suspect, aged 16, surnamed Cheong, touched the buttocks of a woman in her forties with his lower body while queuing at a cash desk in a shop in the Barrier Gate area last Saturday while the victim, a non-resident worker (NRW), told police later that she felt a "hard object" hitting her buttocks. She did not immediately report the case to the police.

The spokesperson added that the Public Security Police received a report from the victim the next day after she saw the suspect

pressing his body against the buttocks of another female passer-by in the Barrier Gate area.

The Public Security Police arrested Cheong on Tuesday in the same district. He told police that he harassed the two women because he was attracted to them.

Cheong has been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a sexual harassment charge, according to the spokesperson, who said that the case has also been reported to the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) for follow-up.

According to the Macau Penal Code, criminal responsibility only applies to those of the age of 16 or above. Offenders under the age of 16 cannot be held criminally liable for their deeds. However, the authorities can impose extrajudicial measures on them such as educational supervision and social protection procedures. ■

## Filipino thief overstays in Macau for 4 months: police

Yuki Lei

While investigating a theft by a Filipino, the Public Security Police (PSP) arrested his girlfriend for letting him live with her in her flat even though he had been overstaying in Macau since mid-March, a PSP spokesperson said during a press conference yesterday.

The spokesperson identified the Filipino duo in their fifties, with the male surnamed Yumol and the female surnamed Tolentino who works as a domestic helper in Macau.

On Monday, the Public Security Police, according to the press conference, received a report from a male shopper about the disappearance of his mobile phone worth 7,300 patacas from a shop's fitting room at an integrated resort in Cotai, saying that he left his phone in there after trying on clothes, adding that when he returned to the room to pick up the phone, it had vanished.

After scrutinising the shop's CCTV footage, the Public Security Police identified Yumol as the suspected thief, as he had entered the fitting room after the victim, the spokesperson said, adding that PSP officers arrested him on



These undated handout photos provided by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday show PSP officers separately escorting the two Filipino suspects to a police station in Taipa.



Tuesday at Rua das Estalagens in the city centre. Yumol admitted to committing the crime, according to the press conference.

PSP officers then searched the flat where Yumol lived. They recovered the victim's phone and a piece of clothing still with the security tag attached, valued at 240 patacas.

The PSP investigation also discovered that Yumol was an overstayer. His girlfriend was

intercepted at the flat.

Under questioning, Tolentino told the police that she and Yumol had been living together since April, insisting she did not know that Yumol was an overstayer.

The duo have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), where Yumol faces a theft charge, while Tolentino faces a charge of aiding and abetting a person's overstaying. ■

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### Macau Weather

**VERY HOT. CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY PERIODS. A FEW SHOWERS. POSSIBLE THUNDERSTORMS AT FIRST. FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHEASTERLY WINDS. RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 70% AND 95%.**



27°C~32°C

Source: SMG

# Ho vows to unite Macau in implementing spirit of CPC Central Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> plenum

Tony Wong

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng pledged in a statement yesterday that his government will unite and lead all sectors of Macau's civil society to earnestly study and implement, through a string of measures, the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which started on Monday and concluded yesterday.

The statement, released through the Macau Government Information Bureau (GCS), also said that the Macau government will "transform the decisions and plans made during the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee into concrete actions", such as making contributions to the high-quality development of the nation's economy.

According to the statement, Ho, on behalf of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government, extended his warm congratulations to the successful conclusion of the session.

Ho, whose 29-day holiday ends today, said in yesterday's statement that the convening of the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee was of great significance.

The statement noted that the session in Beijing adopted the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernisation.

The session laid out the overall objectives and basic principles of further comprehensively deepening reform, Ho noted in the statement.



Members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee attend its third plenary session. The four-day plenum ended yesterday with a communiqué. The CPC Central Committee will hold a press conference about the plenum in Beijing this morning. — Xinhua

Ho's statement quoted some content of the communiqué of the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee issued in Beijing yesterday when the four-day session concluded.

The statement quoted the communiqué as saying that with economic structural reform as the spearhead and with greater social fairness and justice and improvements in the people's wellbeing as the ultimate objectives, China will make its reforms more integrated, focused, and effective.

The GCS statement quoted the communiqué as saying that at the session, the CPC Central Committee made systematic plans for various tasks such as

building a high-standard socialist market economy, promoting high-quality economic development, supporting all-around innovation, improving macroeconomic governance, pursuing high-standard opening up, promoting the socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, and deepening reform in the cultural sector.

The statement quoted the communiqué as saying that China will better leverage the role of the market, refine the systems underpinning the market economy, and improve the systems for promoting full integration between the real economy and the digital economy.

China will improve the mechanisms for ensuring that all are equal before

the law, improve the institutions and mechanisms for impartial law enforcement and administration of justice, refine the mechanisms for building a law-based society, and strengthen the rule of law in foreign-related affairs, the statement quoted the communiqué as saying.

Ho said in the statement that the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee has provided the direction for the nation's high-quality development and strategic planning, as well as important guidance for Macau to maintain its sustainable development and long-term prosperity and stability.

Ho said in the statement that his government will "transform the decisions and plans made during the third plenary session of the 20<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee into concrete actions" in compliance with the central authorities' resolution on further deepening reform comprehensively.

In his statement, Ho said that with the nation advancing Chinese modernisation, the local government will develop new quality productive forces, promote Macau's appropriate economic diversification in compliance with its 1+4 plan through technological innovation and industrial upgrading, and make contributions to the high-quality development of the nation's economy.

Ho also pledged that his government will further leverage Macau's unique advantages brought by the "One Country, Two Systems" principle and its role as a platform for international cooperation. ■

(More on pages 6-8)

## 2024 金沙物美

Sands Shopping Carnival 嘉年華

18-21/7/2024

特邀專場 7月18日 12:00 - 22:00  
 Invited Session

公眾開放 7月19-21日  
 Open for Public

澳門威尼斯人金光會展A及B館  
 Cotai Expo Halls A & B, The Venetian Macao

2024  
「童夢飄揚」  
兒童才藝大賽  
Rising Stars  
2024 Kids Talent  
Showdown

580+ 國際品牌  
及澳門特色展位  
Featuring 580+ Booths  
of International Brands  
and Macao Specialties

商品優惠  
低至一折  
Discount up to 90%

大型  
美食廣場  
Mega Food Court

全澳最大規模  
消費折扣展  
The Largest Discount  
Sale in Macao

綠色展會  
Green Event

請自備購物袋  
Bring Your Own Bag

免費  
Free

\$1  
\$1 產品  
\$1 Dollar Products

入場 Admission

泊車 Parking

穿梭巴士 Shuttle Bus

穿梭巴士站點 (11:00 - 22:30 每10-15分鐘一班) :  
 Shuttle Bus Station

① 南灣澳門國際銀行大廈  
 Nam Van Luso International Banking Ltd. Head Office

② 港珠澳大橋澳門口岸區旅遊巴士停車場  
 HZMB Macao Port Tour bus depot



This undated handout photo provided by SJM Resorts earlier this week shows SJM Volunteer Team members playing a game with a senior citizen at the Macau Holy House of Mercy's retirement home.

## SJM, Holy House of Mercy launch 'My ElderFriend Programme'

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts launched the "My ElderFriend Programme" in collaboration with the Macau Holy House of Mercy earlier this year, which has received "enthusiastic support and recognition" from SJM volunteers and members of the home, according to a statement from the company earlier this week.

The statement said that the programme aims to help the "elderly feel a sense of community care and promotes their physical and mental well-being, enriching their lives in their later years", with participants also having formed friendships with residents of Our Lady of Mercy Home for the Elderly through regular visits.

The number of participating volunteers has increased from 25 to 50, while the regular visits have increased from once a month to twice a month since launching the programme, according to the statement.

Those volunteering must have social experiences and complete training on elderly care beforehand to better understand their physical and mental needs. The statement

added that the volunteers also took part in the "My ElderFriend Programme – Caring for the Elderly Seminar" organised by the home and conducted by its management and social workers.

"The regular visits are conducted in small teams, consisting of two or three volunteers. Each team commits to visiting the same set of elderly people, nurturing long-term and enriching friendships", the statement noted.

The statement added that each team prepares topics and activities designed to "engage and stimulate the seniors' memories", while volunteers also listen to and connect with the elderly, as well as participate in games and activities that ensure that they feel cared for and valued.

An SJM Volunteers Team member was quoted by the statement as saying: "The experience has been incredibly fulfilling, not only deepening my understanding and respect for seniors through their shared stories and wisdom, but also teaching me valuable life lessons."

## Sands hosts 'Happy 360' initiative for staff

Rui Pastorin

Sands China said in a statement earlier this week that it hosted its "Happy 360 Month" wellness initiative for its staff from May 28 to July 4, which aimed to "promote the attitudes of positivity and proactivity among team members".

An opening ceremony was held at The Venetian Macao in Cotai on May 31 to kick off the initiative.

Held for the fourth year in a row, the statement said that the six-week series of activities enabled staff to take part in wellness events at the back-of-house staff areas in all of its Cotai properties and at Sands Macao.

The statement said that the initiative utilises the 5S model for emotions, which comprises "Self-Questioning, Stop Negative Thinking, Self-Pep Talk, Shuffle Your Thoughts, and Stay Attentive to Body Responses", in hosting activities such as health seminars and physical and mental health consultations from professionals. These aimed to encourage staff "to develop a positive

mindset and contribute to building a happy and thriving workplace".

Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying: "We want to create a work environment in which they can thrive, and an important part of that is caring for their physical and mental well-being. Happy 360 has been a very successful effort in that regard, and we are glad to have offered it for the fourth consecutive year."

The initiative debuted in 2021 and since then, the integrated resort operator has organised nearly 200 activities that have attracted over 28,000 participants.

Moreover, the statement said that the company has created new partnerships with a raft of entities from various sectors this year, aiming to provide staff with "a more comprehensive and professional experience while promoting their physical and mental well-being from multiple perspectives, highlighting the significance of emotional management, and implementing strategies to enhance psychological well-being".



This handout photo provided by Sands China earlier this month shows guests at the opening ceremony of the Happy 360 Month initiative on May 31 visiting a game booth.

## GEG cruises incorporate cultural elements of fishing village

Rui Pastorin

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) said in a statement on Tuesday that it has further incorporated Macau's "distinct fishing village cultural elements" in the "GEG Sea Cruises: Fishing Heritage Leisure Tour", which recently launched and had its inaugural voyage.

The previous "GEG Sea Cruise" received a positive response from the local community, leading to the further incorporation of the cultural elements.

The statement noted that the tour was launched in collaboration with the Fishermen's Mutual Help Association of Macau, aiming to enhance and enrich "the maritime and cultural tourism experiences of tourists, whilst supporting Macau's traditional fisheries and its fisherfolk in the upgrading and transformation of, and driving forward the cross-sectoral integration of 'tourism +' through practical actions".

The inaugural voyage, which departed from A-Ma Pier, was supported and joined by Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) Deputy Director Tong Iok Peng, DSAMA Ship Inspection

Division Chief Wu Chon Wai and GEG Special Projects Vice President Winky Tse.

The statement said that the Fishermen's Mutual Help Association of Macau Director Chan Meng Kam explained Macau's unique marine resources, culture and related historical events and anecdotes to participants, who also viewed Macau's urban and coastal scenery, cruising past areas such as the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge and the Lai Chi Vun Shipyards.

Upon arriving at Coloane Pier, participants listened to a performance of "Saltwater Songs" sung by Ho Kim Pui at a fishermen's stilt house along the coast, according to the statement. Participants also learnt traditional fishing net weaving skills from local fishermen during a workshop.

The statement said that from now until September, more tourist groups from different regions, and various local associations and organisations will participate in the cruise, "in the hope of promoting Macau's maritime tourism resources, while also passing on the traditional local fishing culture".



This undated handout photo provided by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) shows a Fishermen's Mutual Help Association representative talking to participants during the "GEG Sea Cruises: Fishing Heritage Leisure Tour".



Dancers perform the "Poetic Dance Drama: The Journey of a Legendary Landscape Painting – A Panorama of Mountains and Rivers" at The Venetian Theatre in Cotai last night. More performances will be held between today and Sunday. Part of the Sands China Performing Arts Programme, the show is also a key supported work of the "Stage Art Masterpiece Creation Project Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China", according to a statement by the integrated resort operator last week. Last night's show was attended, among others by Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon, Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes and Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau President Leong Wai Man. Executive Vice-chairman of Sands China Ltd Wilfred Wong Ying-wai received the numerous VIP guests including well-known media and cultural sector representatives. The performance was warmly applauded by the audience in the well-filled theatre seating about 1,600.

– Photo and text: Staff Reporter

## HK's 'Liu Ma Kee' closes after food safety scare

Ginnie Liang

The century-old Hong Kong brand Liu Ma Kee (廖孖記), which was recently hit by an official food safety alert over excessive *Bacillus cereus* bacteria in its bottled preserved bean curd, has announced that it will close down its business, according to Hong Kong media reports yesterday.

The shop in Yau Ma Tei district in Hong Kong has closed down, with the words "closed down" and "no longer in business" posted on the gate and on the front door, according to the reports.

The Hong Kong Centre for Food Safety announced in a statement on Tuesday that a batch of bottled preserved bean curd was found to contain an excessive amount of *Bacillus cereus* –

1,300,000 per gram – which exceeded the legally permitted maximum amount in line with Hong Kong health standards, and the maximum level of *Bacillus cereus* in food must not exceed 100,000 per gram.

The problematic preserved bean curd was also sold in Macau.

The Macau Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said in a statement on Wednesday that it has ordered shops to stop selling the company's bottled preserved bean curd that weighs 255 grams and expires on August 7 next year. It urged consumers not to eat it. The IAM statement came after the bureau had received a report about the issue from the Hong Kong Centre for Food Safety on Tuesday.

Founded in 1905, Liu Ma Kee is a famous brand in Hong Kong with a history of more than a century. Over the years, Liu Ma Kee had always made fermented bean curd in the old-fashioned way. The old shop used stone mills to grind the beans and stir-fry the soya bean paste in-house, with meticulous workmanship in souring, pressing and fermentation, according to the Hong Kong media reports.

The Liu brothers started out selling soya bean products in the Kwun Chung market in Hong Kong. After World War II, the second generation's eldest son upgraded the family business and specialised in the production of fermented bean curd, opening up overseas markets and exporting their product to the US, Canada and Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, according to yesterday's reports. ■



This undated file photo downloaded from the online shopping platform Shopee on Wednesday shows the Hong Kong-origin bottled preserved bean curd product that was found to contain excessive *Bacillus cereus*.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Cultural & Food Festival on until July 31

Rui Pastorin

The 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Cultural and Food Festival is taking place at Galaxy Macau, bringing the country's flavours and culture to the integrated resort until July 31 while also marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Malaysia.

Opening yesterday, the two-week event features a Malaysia-themed pop-up marketplace in the East Square where one can find traditional products and souvenirs, alongside activities. A dinner buffet is also available in Galaxy Hotel's Oasis that also features stalls offering Malaysian street food classics.

The festival also features daily traditional dance performances by troupes from Malaysia in traditional attire, while guided workshops on Malaysian traditional crafts are also available at weekend afternoons.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's event, Galaxy Macau Food & Beverage Vice President Harrison Lun (倫宇文) said that the integrated resort operator has invited 10 chefs from Malaysia, the "biggest crew" that they've had from the country, while a lot of ingredients and new dishes have also been brought in.

Lun added that the focus of this year's festival is to share Malaysia's favourite gastronomy with locals and tourists who may not know about it.

Moreover, Lun said that the company hopes to have at least 3,000 people visit the buffet throughout its two-week period. Besides, the pop-up marketplace features some stalls run by small- and medium-sized enterprises that sell Malaysian specialties, adding that Galaxy Macau hopes that "local SMEs are able to make some money with the traffic passing by".

Meanwhile, Galaxy Macau Executive Vice President – Hospitality Roger Lienhard said during his speech that "Galaxy Macau has been actively cooperating with the Macau SAR government to attract international tourism", noting that the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Cultural and Food Festival is a key event organised by Galaxy Macau "to support the constant development between tourism and gastronomy".

For more details, visit <https://www.galaxymacau.com/> ■



Galaxy Macau Food & Beverage Vice President Harrison Lun (倫宇文) speaks with reporters after the opening ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Cultural and Food Festival in Galaxy Macau's East Square. – Photos: Rui Pastorin



This photo shows some of the stalls offering Malaysian street food classics at the dinner buffet at Galaxy Hotel's Oasis.



A traditional dance performance takes place in Galaxy Macau's East Square.

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 0.22 pct higher

HONG KONG – Hong Kong's stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 0.22 percent to close at 17,778.41 points.

While the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index gained 0.15 percent to end at 6,306.8 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index dipped 0.76 percent to close at 3,613.13 points. – Xinhua

# 4-day Sands Shopping Carnival now open

Rui Pastorin

The 2024 Sands Shopping Carnival kicked off yesterday afternoon at The Venetian Macao, with booths at the four-day event offering a raft of products and deals until Sunday.

This year marks the annual carnival's 5th anniversary. Offering free business platforms to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Sands retailers, this year's carnival comprises over 580 booths offering over 260,000 products, while there are nine exhibition zones across 21,000 square metres.

In his speech, Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai said that over the five years that the carnival has been held, the company "has maintained a steadfast partnership with the Macau SAR Government, the Macao Chamber of Commerce, and other supporting entities, providing relentless support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through this platform without seeking any financial return. Together, we have successfully created nearly 2,800 exhibition booths over the years".



Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai (left, front) converses with Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes during yesterday's tour of the 2024 Sands Shopping Carnival.

Wong added that the last four carnivals attracted visitations surpassing 420,000 in total. This year's event saw an "overwhelming response since booth registration opened", with the company increasing the number of SME booths to 325.

Moreover, Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes

also addressed the event, during which she noted: "In the first quarter of this year, 48 percent of [non-gaming] visitor expenditure in Macau was dedicated to shopping, which constituted the largest category of tourism expenditure, followed by accommodation and dining".

"Delivering exceptional shopping experiences is therefore crucial



Shoppers have a gander at the offerings at the 2024 Sands Shopping Carnival.

– Photos: Rui Pastorin

for enhancing the overall travel experience of tourists", she added.

Meanwhile, speaking with reporters on the sidelines of yesterday's opening ceremony, Senna Fernandes noted that the average number of tourists entering Macau this month were better than in June and by organising events such as Light Up Macau and the

International Fireworks Display Contest, it would be possible to exceed the 33 million visitor arrival target at the end of the year.

Moreover, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland, MGTO is also planning to hold a firework display on December 20, according to the veteran tourism chief. ■

## Senior CPC official stresses studying guiding principles of key Party plenum

BEIJING—Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Li Shulei yesterday stressed the need to deeply understand and grasp the guiding principles from a key Party plenum.

Li, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, called for strengthened political awareness to drive a wave of learning, spreading and implementing the guiding principles of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

Li made the remarks at a teleconference held by the department in Beijing.

It was stressed during the teleconference that the plenary session was held at a crucial juncture of building China into a strong country through Chinese modernization and advancing national rejuvenation, and the resolution adopted at the session has sent a strong signal to both domestic and international audiences that the CPC remains committed to reform and opening up. It was agreed that campaigns should be organized to publicize the guiding principles of the session.

The 20th CPC Central Committee held its third plenary session in Beijing between Monday and yesterday. —Xinhua



Passengers show their tickets on bullet train G4007 from Heze to Zhengzhou yesterday. The section from Zhuangzhai in Shandong province to Lankao in Henan province was put into service yesterday, marking the full operation of the 472-kilometer-long Rizhao-Lankao high-speed railway. The railway line starts from Rizhao West Railway Station and ends at Lankao South Railway Station, linking cities like Rizhao, Linyi, Jining, Heze, Shangqiu and Kaifeng, which prominently shortens the travel time between the major cities in Shandong and Henan provinces. —Xinhua

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