



# Guangdong-Macau fair 'always important' for both sides: Lei

Yuki Lei

The four-day Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair kicked off yesterday at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo, and Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said during the opening ceremony that the fair has "always" been an "important platform" for enterprises from both sides to showcase their products and explore business opportunities.

Macau hosted the first fair in 2009.

In his speech, Lei said: "As an economic and trade event under the framework of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, the Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair has always been important for enterprises in Guangdong and Macau to showcase their high-quality products to the outside market and explore business opportunities".

He added that the focus of this year's fair is "innovation", which, for the first time, includes three featured areas, namely Hotel Facilities & Services Area, Smart Devices Area, and China Chic Area, guiding potential customers to gain a deeper understanding of the new market demands brought



Dancers wearing traditional "hanfu" garb at the Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair's China Chic Area on its opening day yesterday. — Photo: Yuki Lei

about by the "smart development" of the hospitality industry, helping small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) grasp the new market trends in upgrading and restructuring their businesses, while facilitating the expansion of the new consumer market by showcasing a wide range

of goods that embrace Chinese culture. According to Lei, this year, more "professional customers and buyers" from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) have been invited to participate in the annual fair, with 70 percent of them being first-

time exhibitors from Guangdong Province, thus deepening the role of "attracting business through trade fairs" while bringing in more innovative opportunities.

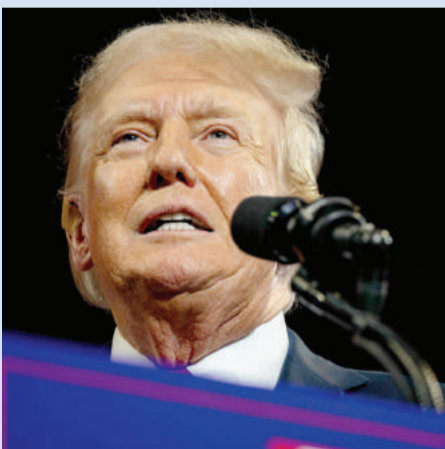
The fair – 2024GMBPF, jointly organised by the Commerce and Investment Promotion Institute



(IPIM) and the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, comprises 453 exhibitors, including 168 from Macau, 213 from Guangdong and other provinces and cities in mainland, as well as 72 from "Belt and Road" (B&R) countries and regions in six themed areas, namely the Guangdong Branded Products Area, Macao Featured Products Area, The Belt and Road Area, Hotel Facilities & Services Area, Smart Devices Area, and China Chic Area. The "largest-ever" Guangdong-Macau fair is open to the general public from today to Sunday, Lei stressed in his speech.

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## Trump discusses US wiping Iran 'off the face of the Earth'



US Republican US presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump addresses a campaign rally at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Wednesday. — AFP

WASHINGTON—Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump yesterday invoked the annihilation of US adversary Iran in a social media post reminiscent of his most incendiary outbursts while in the White House.

"If they do 'assassinate President Trump,' which is always a possibility, I hope that America obliterates Iran, wipes it off the face of the Earth – If that does not happen, American Leaders will be considered 'gutless' cowards!" he wrote on his social media platform, Truth Social.

Trump made the remarks alongside a brief video of

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu bringing up alleged Iranian plots against Trump in his address to the US Congress on Wednesday.

US media reported last week that the US Secret Service had increased security for Trump weeks ago after authorities learnt of an Iranian plot to kill him, although it was not linked to the recent attempt on his life in which a 20-year-old American fired shots during a campaign rally.

CNN reported that US authorities received intelligence from a "human source" on a plan by Tehran targeting the former

president, causing protection to be boosted for Trump. Other US outlets also reported the plot.

But it was not connected to the campaign shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, in which gunman Thomas Matthew Crooks opened fire, lightly wounding Trump and killing a rally attendee, they said.

Relations between Washington and Iran have long been strained and reached a breaking point as Tehran sought revenge for the 2020 killing of Revolutionary Guards commander Qasem Soleimani, ordered by Trump when he was president.

The US National Security Council said it had been "tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years."

Trump's post recalled a controversial episode in 2019 when, as president, he threatened the "obliteration" of Iran if the country carried out an attack on "anything American."

That confrontation came after Iranian officials said the path to diplomacy between the two nations was permanently closed after Trump's new round of sanctions at that time. (More on pages 10 and 11) — AFP

### China, India should properly handle differences: Wang Yi

Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in the Laotian capital Vientiane yesterday, saying the two countries should properly handle differences, and develop mutually beneficial cooperation.

— Story on p. 7

### Netanyahu urges global alliance against Iranian 'axis of terror'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed Gaza ceasefire demonstrators on Wednesday and called for a global alliance against the Iranian regime he accuses of funding them, as he addressed a US Congress divided by the war.

— Story on p. 10

### China welcomes Brazil to join B&R family as soon as possible: FM spokesperson

China and Brazil are each other's comprehensive strategic partners. China welcomes Brazil to join the Belt and Road (B&R) family as soon as possible, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

— Story on p. 12

# Sands to subsidise 7 business ventures in Rua das Estalagens area

Ginnie Liang

Gaming resort operator Sands China announced yesterday that seven business ventures have been selected from its Entrepreneurship Recruitment Programme for Rua das Estalagens (草堆街) among 120 entries, including business projects involving Portuguese-style snacks, Portuguese souvenir stores, Macau specialty brand restaurants, and pet cafés.

Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Acting President Cheang Kai Meng made the remarks during the programme's result announcement ceremony held at The Londoner Macao yesterday, with the attendance of Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U, Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) Director Tai Kin Ip, Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM – popularly known as Chung Chung) President Frederico Ma Chi Ngai, Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai and other representatives from the business sector.

The 120 entries covered



Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Acting President Cheang Kai Meng (centre) and seven awardees winning the Entrepreneurship Recruitment Programme for Rua das Estalagens pose during yesterday's result announcement ceremony at The Londoner Macao. – Photo: Ginnie Liang

categories such as dine-in, take-away, retail, cultural and creative, and performance, Wong said in a speech, adding that after three rounds of "rigorous evaluation" lasting four days, seven entrepreneurial proposals were finally selected.

Wong underlined that the second phase of the programme will be launched after the tenants have started operating in the street, which will depend on the business ventures' operation situation.

The maximum amount of operational subsidies for the

programme is up to twice the initial capital investment, capped at 1 million patacas, which will be disbursed in four phases, and each unit is required to provide a start-up capital of no less than 300,000 patacas, according to Wong.

The revitalisation project for

Rua das Estalagens ("Street of Inns"), which was started in April, was launched with the aim of encouraging businesspeople to set up shop there to revive the old-quarter neighbourhood's economy, according to Sands China.

During yesterday's awarding ceremony, Ma said that the programme encourages local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to move into the Rua das Estalagens area, providing a platform for creative entrepreneurs to showcase their creativity and helping to inject new vitality into Macau's historic districts.

Cheang underlined that the Rua das Estalagens area is a historical area with strong local characteristics, and the programme launched by Sands China had fully demonstrated its understanding of the government's policy of revitalising the area and promoting economic diversification.

Cheang said he hoped that the selected companies will make the best use of their resources and work together to create a new look for Rua das Estalagens. ■

## Guangdong-Macau fair 'always important' for both sides: Lei

Continued from p.1

Also delivering a speech during yesterday's ceremony, Sun Bin, deputy director-general of the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, said that Guangdong and Macau have maintained close economic and

trade relations for a long time and have become an important platform for economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchanges, with growth in commerce and trade between the two places in the first half of the year, noting that in the first six months, Guangdong and Macau

achieved a trade volume of 9 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 26 percent.

Meanwhile, a protocol-signing ceremony was held at the event venue after the opening ceremony, during which, according to an IPIM statement, 16 signings took place on the fair's first day, including an agreement on education cooperation in the Greater Bay Area between the Macau Fair & Trade Association and The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI), as well as cooperation in the production of semifinished food among enterprises.

Paris-based UFI President Michael Duck told reporters after yesterday morning's signing ceremony that his association has inked a two-year cooperation agreement with the Macau Fair & Trade Association involving exhibitors with experience in the local venue and organising business: "[The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo], an exhibition venue which is run well according to international standards and expands the business capabilities for all exhibitors here and small- and medium-sized enterprises in particular to be able to get the most in terms of meeting the bias".

Xie Jiayan, who owns a booth featuring "hanfu" (traditional Chinese clothing) fashion, noted that Macau is a place of cultural exchanges between East and West, adding that she expected to explore, through this fair, the future development of cultural tourism in Macau by promoting knowledge of traditional Chinese clothing here and around the world. ■



Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong (left) and Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province Deputy Director-General Sun Bin deliver their separate speeches during yesterday's opening ceremony of the four-day Guangdong & Macau Branded Products Fair at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo. – Photos: Yuki Lei

## Police seize cocaine worth 59,000 patacas from Tanzanian trafficker

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have arrested a Tanzanian man for drug trafficking and have seized 16.35 grams of cocaine from him, with an estimated street value of 59,000 patacas, PJ spokesman Lou Chan Fai said at a special press conference yesterday.

According to Lou, the 27-year-old suspect surnamed Biseko trafficked drugs in Macau for about a fortnight and tested negative for drugs.

Lou said that based on a tip-off the Judiciary Police had received recently, saying that an African man was selling drugs in nightclubs in Taipa, PJ officers identified Biseko and intercepted him in Rua de Nam Keng on Wednesday.

Upon searching Biseko's rented flat in the northern district, police officers seized a tin can containing 45 packets of a total of 16.35 grams of cocaine, as well as HK\$5,100 and 4,200 patacas in suspected drug proceeds.

Biseko refused to reveal the source of the drugs, any details of his drug-trafficking activities and how much he earned from them, Lou said.

The Judiciary Police are continuing their investigation in an attempt to trace the origin of the drugs and identify other possible suspects.

Biseko was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing a drug-trafficking charge, according to Lou. ■



Cocaine, cash, and other pieces of evidence seized by the police are displayed in a pressroom of the PJ headquarters yesterday. – Photos courtesy of TDM

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- Wire services – AFP, Xinhua, Macau POST

### Macau Weather

**VERY HOT.**  
**CLOUDY APART FROM SUNNY INTERVALS.**  
**A FEW SHOWERS.**  
**A FEW THUNDERSTORMS LATER.**  
**FORCE 5 TO 6 SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS WITH GUSTS.**  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL RANGE BETWEEN 65% AND 98%.**



27°C~33°C

Source: SMG

# Macau suffers 'extremely hot' weather, but few takers as cooling centre opens

Yuki Lei

The local observatory said that due to the impact of the subsiding air at the outer circulation of Typhoon Gaemi, the weather in Macau was "extremely hot" yesterday, with an Orange alert in force for a while and a top temperature in some areas of more than 36 degrees Celsius, in response to which the city's cooling shelter in Ilha Verde district on Wednesday extended its opening hours from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following day.

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau's (SMG) Yellow hot weather alert was in effect at about 5 p.m. yesterday, predicting today's mercury to reach 33 degrees or above.

According to the SMG website, the Orange alert indicates "extremely hot" weather in Macau, while Yellow denotes "very hot".

The weather bureau's real-time monitoring data at about 3 p.m. yesterday showed that eight out of the 10 local monitoring stations recorded maximum temperatures above 35 degrees, with the maximum temperature at the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal station at 36.3 degrees and the Fortress Hill station at 36.2 degrees.

Acknowledging the high temperature alert by the observatory, the Health Bureau (SSM) urged the public in a statement yesterday afternoon to take precautions against the heat and sun by staying hydrated, avoid spending long periods of time outdoors as much as possible, and wearing lightweight, light-coloured clothing, as well as refraining from staying in a car parked outside for a long time, all of which, the bureau stressed, was especially important for at-risk groups such as the elderly, children, and pregnant women.

Avoiding outdoor activities in the heat is the best way to stay safe and healthy during the hot weather, according to the Health Bureau. On June 9, Macau's temperature began to rise, and the Yellow or Orange hot weather alert has remained in effect since then, when the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) announced the opening of Caritas Macau's Casa Corcel on Rua Leste da Ilha Verde as a temporary cooling centre, providing blankets and mattresses to those in need. The centre is air conditioned.

According to Olivia Ip Chi Leng, who is in charge of the centre, during cold spells, the centre opens to the public as a temporary warming shelter, while during hot weather, the centre is used as a cooling shelter.

Although the cooling centre had already been open for 27 consecutive days yesterday since its opening on June 9, Ip admitted that the number of people coming to the centre to "escape the heat"

was far below the number of those "escaping the cold".

Last month, according to the Social Welfare Bureau, the cumulative number of users stood at only four, but the number of people who needed to take refuge from the cold at the centre, which was only open as a warming shelter for 21 days from January to March this year, exceeded 100, most of them local residents, followed by mainlanders.

Ip told the *Post* during an interview at the centre yesterday: "One of the reasons for the gap between the number of uses of the shelter during hot and cold weather is that there are many social service facilities out there that provide 24-hour air-conditioned places such as restaurants and public libraries where people can escape the heat."

Ip pointed out that some street sleepers were believed to be deterred by the "remote" location of the shelter. She cited the example of some of the cases, in which she was told that the shelter was "a bit too far away" and that they [street sleepers] refused to go to the shelter in Ilha Verde (at the northern tip of the peninsula) from Zape (at the peninsula's southern waterfront).

When asked whether the provision of the cooling shelter wasn't a waste of resources if only very few people use it, Ip said that one of the original objectives of the shelter was to help identify street sleepers: "The shelter attracted them to come to us so that we could know whether they were street sleepers or not, and in turn, some of our street sleepers could come here to use the service..... As Macau is not that small, it takes a little bit of time to find them, so I think the shelter can actually attract them to come here because it's for overnight stays, and a night that they can sleep properly rather than just sitting down to rest somewhere".

According to Ip, since the Social Welfare Bureau has commissioned Caritas Macau to manage the shelter, Caritas has identified around three to five street sleepers through the facility. She said: "In fact, when we have a social worker on duty, we will find out why they are in need of the shelter service, and even if we don't have a social worker, we will also ask them why they need to come here and how they got to know about the service when they register to enter it."

The shelter provides separate accommodation for men and women, bathrooms, a TV room, hot water showers and simple food and non-alcoholic drinks, during the opening hours of which, people in need can enter the shelter by presenting their valid identity documents and completing a simple registration procedure. ■



Olivia Ip Chi Leng, who is in charge of Caritas Macau's Casa Corcel, poses after an interview with the Post yesterday about the centre's cooling shelter on Rua Leste da Ilha Verde. - Photos: Yuki Lei



This photo taken yesterday shows sleeping pads provided by the temporary cooling shelter.



Two pedestrians walk past the entrance to the centre yesterday.

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## Sands China records 120,000 visits to shopping carnival

Rui Pastorin

Integrated resort (IR) operator Sands China said in a statement on Wednesday that its 2024 Sands Shopping Carnival drew a record-breaking 120,000 visits during its four-day run at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo.

The carnival ran from July 18 to 21.

Debuting in 2020, the recent carnival marked its fifth edition, continuing to offer a free business platform for local small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Sands retailers, according to the statement. The carnival has drawn over 540,000 visitors since its debut.

The statement underlined that the recent carnival had over 580 booths across nine exhibition zones, with 325 of the booths dedicated to local SME suppliers. The carnival also featured a selection of 1-pataca products daily throughout its run, along with extensive discounts of up to 90 percent off for international brands.

Moreover, Sands Cares Ambassadors were on site to accompany members of community groups including members of the Caritas Macau Fountain of Love and Joy Integrated Family Service Centre as well as parents and children from the Macau Child Development Association to enjoy the event's various activities, according to the statement. The popular food-prep and decorating activity led by Sands China's F&B team also drew over 530 participants this year.

This undated handout photo provided by Sands China on Wednesday shows visitors at booths at the four-day "2024 Sands Shopping Carnival" at The Venetian Macao in Cotai.

The statement added that four social enterprises that provide vocational training for their service users sold food and drinks in the carnival's food court. Moreover, 10 community organisations ran booths at the "Macao Cultural and Creative zone". "The carnival was an opportunity for these projects to gain exposure in the local commercial market and create job opportunities for their members", according to the statement.

Macau Special Olympics (MSO) members had the chance to role-play as news reporters and editors, during which they did interviews, photography, and video-shooting throughout the carnival, the statement said.

The statement added that winners for the ICBC ePay Presents: National Essence: Hanfu Styling Contest and Bank of Communications Presents: Rising Stars: 2024 Kids Talent Showdown were also crowned, noting that both attracted participants from the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Hanfu ("Han clothing") refers to the traditional styles of clothing that have been worn by the Han Chinese since the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BCE.

Local NGO Green Future and a group of Sands ECO360 Ambassadors also demonstrated effective methods for recycling cardboard, plastic and metal to exhibitors, while items such as used laundry baskets and weighing scales were given away to visitors with any purchase at a dedicated counter during the carnival, according to the statement.

This photo taken earlier this week shows some of the delicacies offered as part of the Portuguese Afternoon Tea Set at Rossio on the ground floor of MGM MACAU in Nape. – Photo: Rui Pastorin



## Rossio at MGM offers exclusive 'Portuguese Afternoon Tea Set'

Rui Pastorin

Rossio at MGM MACAU's Grande Praça is offering an exclusive Portuguese Afternoon Tea Set, showcasing a line-up of Portuguese teas and pastries until September 29.

Rossio, according to a statement provided during a tasting event at MGM MACAU earlier this week, is named after Lisbon's Rossio Railway Station and offers a range of Portuguese and Macanese culinary delights.

Available from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily and priced at 338 patacas for a set for two, the Portuguese Afternoon Tea Set features artisan teas from Madeira Island and northern Portugal's region of Douro, traditional Madeira Cake, among others, inviting guests to "enjoy a vibrant summer afternoon tea experience", the statement noted.

Going into more detail of the highlighted offers, the tea from "1419 TEA", which has over 600 years of history in Madeira, features locally sourced ingredients as well as mineral flavour teas. Artisanal teas from "Infusões com História", meanwhile, features natural wild plants and botanicals from Douro.

The statement also highlighted Madeira Cake, aka Bolo de Mel ("Honey Cake"), which has over five centuries of history and boasts ingredients such as molasses, spices and nuts. The Afternoon Tea Set, meanwhile, features 12 sweet and savoury dishes.

Rossio is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. For reservations and enquiries, one can call 8802 2372.

## SJM promotes respiratory health to staff

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts has recently organised its Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Promotion Month themed "Breathe in a Healthy Way, Share a Fresh Workplace", according to a recent statement from the integrated resort (IR) operator.

The statement said that the campaign aimed to "foster a healthy and safe workplace culture" and attracted over 7,000 participants.

A key event was a seminar on "Understanding and Preventing Tuberculosis", which had representatives from the Health Bureau's (SSM) Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment Centre and featured discussions of the symptoms and preventive measures of pulmonary tuberculosis, according to the statement. Held at Ponte 16 Resort and Jai Alai Oceanus, the statement noted that the event was well-received by staff.

Moreover, the IR also hosted roadshows that featured interactive health exhibitions and health check-up services at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) Resort Macau, Grand Lisboa Macau, Jai Alai Oceanus, and Ponte 16.

Held in partnership with the Smoke-free & Healthy Life Association of Macau, the roadshows also offered blood pressure and carbon monoxide level tests, among others, for staff, helping them gain a "better understanding of their overall health". Quizzes and "online knowledge competitions" were also held to enhance employees' awareness and understanding of respiratory health and the dangers of smoking.

"By fostering a healthier, safer, and more positive work environment, SJM contributes to the development of a 'Healthy City' in Macau, the integrated resort operator noted.



This undated handout photo recently provided by SJM Resorts shows one of the roadshows held in collaboration with the Smoke-free & Healthy Life Association of Macau at one of the company's properties.

## Man, 89, critical with COVID-19

**Tony Wong**

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement last night that an 89-year-old local man inflicted with chronic diseases is in a critical condition after being infected with COVID-19.

According to the statement, the man, who lives in a senior care home, came down with a fever on Sunday when he was also coughing up phlegm. He tested positive for COVID-19 in a rapid antigen test (RAT), after which SSM health workers went to the care home to prescribe him COVID-19 antiviral medicines.

However, the statement said,

the man began to develop shortness of breath on Wednesday, because of which he was then taken by ambulance to the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre where he was diagnosed with COVID-19 complicated with pneumonia and respiratory failure.

According to the statement, the patient was then put on a ventilator and transferred to the intensive care unit (ICU).

Last night's statement said that the patient was in a critical condition. He had received two COVID-19 jabs.

The public hospital reported the case to the Health Bureau yesterday. ■



Poster courtesy of CDC

## Temporary traffic curb to be imposed on HZMB for joint emergency drill

**Yuki Lei**

Temporary traffic control measures will be implemented on some parts of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) on Sunday and Monday, to tie in with a Zhuhai-Hong Kong joint emergency drill.

According to a notice by the HZMB integrated information dissemination platform on its official WeChat account, during the drill from 9:30 p.m. on Sunday to 6 p.m. on Monday, the centre lane and

right lane of the section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge between flyovers at San Shek Wan and east artificial island-Hong Kong to Zhuhai and Macau direction, as well as the slip roads to and from Shek Wan U-turn will be temporarily closed, while the left lane will be reserved for traffic.

Motorists are urged to keep a safe distance, control their speed, drive carefully, pay attention to the electronic road information boards and traffic signs, and co-operate with the instructions of the staff on the spot. ■

## HK, Peru conclude FTA negotiations

HONG KONG – Hong Kong and Peru have fully concluded negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA), said Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government Paul Chan Mo-po yesterday.

The FTA will cover trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property and other related areas, Chan addressed a reception to

celebrate the 203<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Peruvian Independence.

“A close friend afar brings a distant land near,” Chan said, adding that reaching the FTA will further strengthen business and financial links between the two economies and enhance bilateral relations.

Closer collaborations are expected in areas such as trade, tourism, arts and culture, said Chan. – Xinhua

## 2 gamblers nabbed for shoplifting in supermarket

**Staff Reporter**

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested two men from the mainland early this week for stealing goods worth 2,600 patacas from a supermarket in Zape along with another man still at large, a PSP spokesperson announced during a regular press conference yesterday.

The two suspects in their forties, surnamed Wang and Xi, told the police that they are unemployed.

According to the spokesperson, the supermarket staff discovered on Sunday that goods worth 2,600 patacas had disappeared from the supermarket shelves without having been paid for. After scrutinising CCTV footage, the spokesperson said, the staff confirmed that three men entered the supermarket on Thursday last week and on Sunday. Each time, they put a number of items into their bags and left without paying.

After seeing the three shoplifters on CCTV footage, the supermarket reported the case to the police on Sunday.

The spokesperson said that after scrutinising the supermarket's CCTV footage and the police forces' citywide CCTV camera system, PSP officers identified the three shoplifters, after which



This undated handout photo released by the Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows two PSP officers escorting the two shoplifters to the PSP headquarters, which is also the No. 2 PSP station, in Zape.

the police caught two of them in a residential flat in Zape on Monday.

Under questioning, the spokesperson said, the two men admitted that they, with another man, had shoplifted in the supermarket after gambling away all their money. The two men told the police that the stolen goods had been taken to the mainland by their accomplice.

The Public Security Police were still looking for the “third man” at the time of yesterday's

press conference.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson said, the PSP officers discovered that there were many beds in the flat in Zape where the two shoplifters were staying, because of which they suspected that the unit was an illegal inn. The police reported the case to the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) for investigation, after which MGTO inspectors confirmed that the flat was being used as an illegal inn. ■

## Gaming regulator probes suspected unlicensed junket activities

**Tony Wong**

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has said that it has launched an investigation into suspected unlicensed gaming junket activities recently detected by its inspectors in a number of casinos.

The bureau made the announcement in a statement on its WeChat account on Wednesday.

The statement said that DICJ officials had “recently” carried out special inspections and audits of various casinos in the city, which included monitoring the operations of VIP rooms and mass-market areas.

According to the statement, the special inspections and audits also included measures aiming to prevent illegal gambling activities in the casinos, such as the possible operations of illegal parallel betting schemes (aka betting under the table), as well as unlicensed



This undated handout photo released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) on Wednesday shows its inspectors working next to a gaming table in a local casino.

gaming junket activities.

In addition, the statement said, the DICJ inspectors also went to the casinos' respective back offices where they carried out audits of gambling transaction data and reports.

The statement said that

during the inspections, the DICJ inspectors detected suspected unlicensed gaming junket activities in some of the inspected casinos, because of which the bureau has now launched an investigation into the activities, the statement said. ■

## MASTV declared bankrupt

**Staff Reporter**

Macau Asia Satellite Television (MASTV) has been declared bankrupt by the Court of First Instance (TJB), according to an announcement published in the Official Gazette (BO) on Wednesday.

The announcement published in the gazette on Wednesday was signed by the court on Thursday last week.

According to the announcement,

the court made a ruling on Tuesday last week declaring MASTV bankrupt.

The company's creditors intending to claim debts will be required to make their respective requests within 60 days after the ruling's promulgation in the Official Gazette, i.e., starting from Wednesday this week.

According to the announcement, the MASTV satellite facilities were located on Caminho da Telesat, a

road on the hill at Coloane's Hac Sa Long Chao Kok.

According to previous news reports, MASTV, which first started telecasting in 2001, defaulted on its employees' wages starting in 2019 on a number of occasions. Over the past few years, the company's operation had gradually been reduced.

Previously, the TV station was one of Macau media outlets that mainly covered local news. ■

## STOCK MARKETS

### Hang Seng Index closes 1.77 pct lower

Hong Kong stock market ended lower yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 1.77 percent to close at 17,004.97 points. The Hang Seng China Enterprises

Index slid 2.05 percent to end at 6,016.51 points, while the Hang Seng Tech Index dropped 2 percent to 3,421.26 points.

– Xinhua

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