

Macao One Account launches one-stop service for marriage, birth registration

Tony Wong

The government yesterday launched new e-services for applications for marriage and birth registrations, where couples can make appointments for marriage ceremonies and complete all other marriage-related administrative formalities, and parents can complete birth registrations and all other birth-related matters such as applying to obtain their baby's ID card, via the Macao One Account app throughout the whole process, no longer having to visit in person various public entities involved in the respective procedures.

The government made the announcement during a press conference yesterday held at a Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) office in Nape.

The press conference was attended by officials from the respective public entities related to marriage and birth registrations, as well as a senior representative from the private Kiang Wu Hospital.

The newly launched "marriage integrated public service" and "birth integrated public service" can get off the ground thanks to personal data sharing and connection between the various related public entities as well as with the private Kiang Wu Hospital, statutorily enabled by the newly amended civil registration law



Two civil servants show reporters how to use the new marriage integrated public service on the Macao One Account during yesterday's press conference. - Photo: Tony Wong

which took effect on July 1 this year. The new integrated services run on the Macao One Account app are carried out by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) – the public entity tasked with carrying out

the government's e-service campaign, in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), Identification Services Bureau (DSI), Social Security Fund (FSS), Health Bureau (SSM), and the private Kiang Wu Hospital, SAFP

Director Ng Wai Han noted during yesterday's press conference.

The government's Civil Affairs Registry is an agency run under the Legal Affairs Bureau.

The government's granting of marriage allowances and birth



allowances to eligible newlyweds and eligible parents who have given birth is carried out by the Social Security Fund.

The public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre is run by the Health Bureau.

The newly amended civil registration law, which took effect on July 1, allows a notary private to act as a marriage officiant for couples at a location of their choice, as long as the couple's appointment to be married has been confirmed, in addition to holding their official marriage ceremony at a Civil Affairs Registry-run facility, as previously.

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US criticizes Israel settlement on West Bank heritage site

WASHINGTON – The United States yesterday condemned Israel's approval of a settlement on a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Bethlehem, pointing to its harm to prospects for a Palestinian state.

Far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich announced the move on Wednesday, openly saying that Israel hoped to create new "facts on the ground" to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Every single one of these new settlements would impede Palestinian economic development and freedom

of movement and undermine the feasibility of a two-state solution," US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters.

"We find that to be inconsistent with international law, and we certainly oppose the advancement of settlements in the West Bank," he said.

The United States has stepped up criticism of Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir, far-right members of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government who oppose a plan by President Joe Biden aimed at ending the 10-month Gaza war.

All of Israel's settlements in the West Bank, occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law.

The Biden administration has repeatedly criticised the expansion of settlements, including before the Gaza war, although it has not taken direct retaliatory measures against its close ally.

The previous administration of Donald Trump broke with US precedent by saying that it did not see the settlements as illegal. (More on page 10) - AFP

WHO warns more imported mpox cases likely in Europe soon

COPENHAGEN – The World Health Organisation (WHO) said more imported Clade 1 mpox cases were likely to be confirmed in Europe soon, after Sweden yesterday announced the first such case outside Africa.

"The confirmation of mpox Clade 1 in Sweden is a clear reflection of the interconnectedness of our world... there are likely to be further imported cases of Clade 1 in the European region over the coming days and weeks," the WHO's European regional office said in a statement. (More on pages 5 & 11) - AFP



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The Macau Post Daily

Xi says China ready to work with Brazil to promote building of China-Brazil community with shared future

- Story on p. 7

Japan lifts 'megaquake' warning, tells people to 'go back to normal'

Japan lifted yesterday a warning that a "megaquake" potentially causing colossal damage and loss of life could strike, with the government telling people to "go back to normal".

- Story on p. 8

Sharia rule is Taliban's 'lifelong responsibility': supreme leader

The supreme leader of the Taliban authorities said implementing Islamic law in Afghanistan was their "lifelong responsibility" in a speech marking the third anniversary of their return to power.

- Story on p. 9

Govt to expand its e-coupon consumption stimulation campaign in Q4: Tai

Ginnie Liang

Economic and Technology Development Bureau (DSED) Director Tai Kin Ip told reporters yesterday that the government is planning to expand its "Weekend Consumer Rewards in the Northern District" e-coupon consumption stimulation campaign, which ended earlier this month, to the whole city, and Tai said he expected the relaunch to take place in the next quarter at the earliest, with the aim of continuing to support consumption in various local communities.

Tai made the remarks on the sidelines of the final lucky draw and the closing ceremony for the "Weekend Consumer Rewards in Northern District" held at the Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM) building in Zape yesterday. The winners will be notified in due course.

The "Weekend Consumer Rewards in Northern District" promotional activity ran from March 18 to August 4, where users were able to take part in lucky draws for e-coupons after they spent at least 50 patacas in the northern district and paid by e-payment on weekdays, while the coupons could only be used during weekends.

Tai said that the relaunch and expansion of the scheme will adopt the same mode as the previous one, taking into account the fact that residents are already accustomed to how the campaign is carried out, adding he estimates that it will attract the participation of 22,000 local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the whole city.

Tai noted that the bureau is currently negotiating with local chambers of commerce and other local organisations, and has got in touch with eight payment



Legislator-cum-restaurantier Andrew Chan Chak Mo, who chairs the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macau (UAFBMM), stands beside the lucky wheel for the winners of the "Weekend Consumer Rewards in Northern District" final lucky draw at the headquarters of Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM) - aka Chung Chung in Zape. - Photo: Ginnie Liang

institutions on operational matters of the expanded e-coupon campaign.

Tai said in a speech during the closing ceremony yesterday that the government had spent 29.75 million patacas on the 20-week e-coupon campaign for the northern district, generating consumer spending worth 150 million patacas in 1,255 participating businesses in the northern districts, adding that over 1.52 million transactions were generated and eligible for the final lucky draw, where 162 winners were drawn yesterday.

Tai also said that the e-coupon campaign for the northern district has achieved good results in boosting local consumption there as every pataca the government spent

had generated consumer spending worth five patacas.

Macau Chamber of Commerce (ACM) President Frederico Ma Chi Ngai said during the ceremony that Macau's tourism industry is in good shape as the city's economy after the three-year COVID-19 pandemic has achieved "bright" results and the desire of tourists to visit and spend money in Macau has continued to rise.

Ma added that the chamber will continue to cooperate with the government and work with the community to resolve the problem of uneven economic recovery in the city and better promote the economic development of the whole community. ■

Macau logs first imported Scrub Typhus this year

Rui Pastorin

A 59-year-old female local resident was confirmed as this year's first imported case of Tsutsugamushi Disease (aka scrub typhus), the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement yesterday.

The statement noted that the woman went to the mainland for outdoor activities on July 19 and 26, during which she walked through a wooded area. The victim developed symptoms including a fever and headache on August 3, seeing a doctor at the private Kiang Wu Hospital the following day and on August 6 for treatment.

Since the symptoms persisted, the patient returned to the hospital on August 9 when she was hospitalised. A physical exam conducted the following day revealed a soybean sized eschar on her chest, according to the statement, after which she was diagnosed with scrub typhus based on her symptoms.

The statement said that the patient has meanwhile recovered after receiving treatment and was discharged yesterday. Her family members and fellow travellers did not show similar symptoms and did not take part in outdoor activities.

Scrub typhus is an acute infectious disease caused by bites from larval mites or chiggers carrying Rickettsia Tsutsugamushi. Rodents living in grasslands with high temperatures, humidity and weeds are the most common reservoirs of Rickettsia Tsutsugamushi.

Those who suffer from scrub typhus may develop symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle pain, and rashes, or even show serious complications, such as pneumonia and meningitis which in serious cases can cause respiratory failure and even death.

The bureau urged members of the public to take the necessary precautions when engaging in outdoor activities in grasslands. ■

DANGER OF BEING UNDETECTED


<p>CAUSED BY Bacteria called orientia tsutsugamushi</p> <p>CARRIED BY Mite called Leptotrombidium, also known as chigger</p> <p>SYMPTOMS Fever, muscle pain, cough, gastrointestinal symptoms, liver and spleen enlargement, and meningitis in extreme cases</p> <p>TREATMENT Doxycyclin, fluids, supportive measures</p>		<p>WHERE DO CHIGGER MITES STAY?</p> <p>► Moist, grassy areas like fields, forests, lawns, lakes and streams</p>
<p>BABY BITES</p> <p>► Adult chiggers do not bite. It's the babies, at the larval stage, that you have to watch out for</p> <p>► They're red, orange, yellow, or straw-coloured, no more than 0.3mm in length</p>		

Image courtesy of NEXTIAS

Residential property price index for March-May drops

The Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) has reported this week that the overall residential property price index for March-May 2024 decreased by 0.9 percent over the February-April period to 219.9.

Analyzed by age of building, the indices for residential units of buildings of most age categories

decreased, except the index for those five years old or less, which recorded a rise of 3.9 percent, according to the DSEC.

The statistics service also noticed that compared with March-May 2023, the overall residential property price index decreased by 12.5 percent. - Xinhua

Man busted for threatening 'noisy' neighbours with knife

Ginnie Liang

The Public Security Police (PSP) arrested a local man for threatening two neighbours with a knife in a residential building as he was annoyed at the noise they made, PSP spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the suspect surnamed Ho is a local resident in his forties, who told police that he is self-employed, while the victims are male and female non-resident workers (NRWs) from Myanmar.

The Public Security Police (PSP) was informed about an incident involving a knife in a building on Rua do Visconde Paço de Arcos in the Inner Harbour in the wee hours of yesterday morning, where the police found Ho reeking of alcohol in his flat,

and also seized a 20-centimetre-long knife.

According to the spokesperson, the suspect was getting ready for bed when he heard some noises outside his flat, so he opened the door to check and found that it was his neighbours making the noise and asked them to stop the din.

However, the noise continued. Ho took a knife from his kitchen and walked up to the victims and threatened them to stop the noise. The victims then called the police for help.

The spokesperson said that there was no fight during the incident and Ho took the knife only to threaten the neighbours. Ho admitted the crime.

Ho was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), facing a charge of possession of a prohibited weapon. ■



This handout photo provided by Public Security Police (PSP) yesterday shows a police officer taking the suspect to the Nam Van Police Station for questioning.

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Macau Weather

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24°C~28°C

Source: SMG

MAICC explores business opportunities on trip to Singapore, Malaysia

Yuki Lei

Organised by the Macao ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce (MAICC), about 40 local enterprise representatives embarked yesterday on a six-day trip to Singapore and Malaysia, with the aim of deepening its members' understanding of the two countries, while strengthening exchange and cooperation with enterprises there and thus exploring their business opportunities.

MAICC is an international non-profit organisation established in 2009, according to the chamber, comprising more than 300 enterprises and others kinds of business entities engaged in international business activities from Macau and the mainland, as well as from a number of ASEAN member countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It aims to utilise Macau's advantages as an international platform to unite entrepreneurs from the mainland and Macau as well as ASEAN countries, promoting extensive cooperation and exchanges with ASEAN countries in the fields of economy, culture, sport, education and technology.

Members of the business delegation include MAICC Founding Chairman Chan Meng Kam, Founding Chairlady Amber Li Jia Ming and Honorary Chairman Simon Wang Sai Man – who are members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), as well as MAICC Chairman Kelvin Tan Hai Ching.

Tan, who heads the delegation, told the *Post* and *Macao Daily News* – Macau's top-selling English- and Chinese-language newspapers respectively: "This is the first time we have organised a delegation trip after the change of [MAICC] leadership [in May], and as in the past, we chose Singapore and Malaysia as our first stops because we would like to take our local young entrepreneurs to meet some chambers of commerce in Singapore and Malaysia's Johor Bahru, in the hope of helping them expand their business opportunities."

According to Tan, Johor Bahru will soon become a special economic zone under the Singapore-Malaysia partnership and his chamber plans to lead Macau's young entrepreneurs and environmental protection companies to capitalise on the opportunity to establish a foothold in ASEAN countries.

As reported by Xinhua in July, Malaysia and Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly develop a special economic zone in Johor Bahru which borders Singapore in January this year, with the aim of strengthening economic connectivity between the two regions.

The six-day trip includes site visits to Singapore's financial and advertising industries, as well as a visit to the Chinese Embassy in the Lion City during the first three days, also Malaysia's real estate projects and the RTS Rail, as well as a meeting with the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) to discuss the country's economic development environment, including the future Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. Iskandar Malaysia is the main southern development corridor in Malaysia's state of Johor, in the south of the Malay Peninsula.

Business matching meetings will also be conducted between members of the delegation and enterprises from the two countries during the trip.

Speaking to reporters at the local airport before departing for Singapore at midday yesterday, Lao, a MAICC deputy standing chairman, said that members of the delegation were interested in the business environment of Singapore and Malaysia and would like to strengthen their business connections with enterprises there. Lao also said that his business is engaged in the cultural, creative, technology and exhibition industries, adding he expected to make business connections with enterprises in relevant areas in Southeast Asian countries, in Malaysia and Singapore in particular, through the trip.

Delegation member Kuok Lam Sek, whose business is engaged in the fields of structure construction, material supply and manufacturing,



Members of the Macao ASEAN International Chamber of Commerce (MAICC) delegation to Singapore and Johor Bahru in Malaysia, including MAICC Chairman Kelvin Tan Hai Ching (front, centre), pose at the local airport in Taipa yesterday before taking off for their six-day, two-nation fact-finding trip.

– Photo: Yuki Lei

said yesterday that he was looking forward to learning more about the business environment in Singapore, adding that he had already started doing business in Singapore and that he hoped to gain an in-depth understanding of the business environment in Singapore and Malaysia through the trip.

Apart from Singapore and Malaysia, ASEAN includes Brunei Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. East Timor, which is a member of Forum Macao, is set to join ASEAN soon.

ASEAN has a population of over 600 million and a land area of

more than 4.5 square kilometres.

ASEAN and China reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to enhancing their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) at the 25th ASEAN-China Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting, held at the ASEAN Headquarters in Jakarta on April 2, 2024. ■

Int'l business rises in local banking sector in Q2: AMCM

The Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) said yesterday that the proportion of international business in the local banking sector rose in the second quarter of 2024.

According to the authority, the share of international assets in total banking assets increased to 83.4 percent at the end of June from 83.3 percent at the end of March, while the share of international liabilities in total banking liabilities rose to 81.2 percent from 81.1 percent.

The statistics showed that non-local currencies continued to be the dominant denomination in international banking transactions. The Hong Kong dollar, the US dollar, and the renminbi accounted for 32.1 percent, 41.0 percent, and 21.7 percent, respectively, of the total international assets, while their respective shares in total international liabilities were 37.4 percent, 36.7 percent, and 21.6 percent.

– Xinhua

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Grand Coloane Resort to host 'Bubbly Bash – The Coolest Foam Party on the Island'

Rui Pastorin

A 15-hour, all-day party entitled “Bubbly Bash – The Coolest Foam Party on the Island” is slated to take place at the Grand Coloane Resort on August 24, featuring a raft of activities.

Lasting from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., the statement noted that the resort will “celebrate local vibrancy by presenting a local squad of mermaid and stand-up paddleboard (SUP) athletes, DJs, and dancers”.

Among the highlights is an opportunity to slip into a mermaid “fin” and take a few dips as well as snap a few photos, with the statement noting that the mermaid experience is “a sport-leisure activity emerging in Macau where humans can try out their favourite childhood story”. They can also stand on a paddleboard and row a few metres as a celebration of summer.

The upcoming party will also feature a swimwear outdoor fashion show that showcases some of the latest designs, including a special children’s collection, the statement said.

The statement added that a line-up of DJs, live music and fire performers is also set to take the party to the next level, while partygoers can also enjoy an international BBQ dinner buffet featuring free-flowing beers and other drinks.

Moreover, each partygoer will receive an Island Yardie mocktail and four select drinks upon arriving. Games like table football and water ping-pong can be played for a chance to win prizes, according to the statement.

Grand Coloane Resort General Manager Christian Buggelsheim was quoted by the statement as saying: “This party reaffirms Grand Coloane Resort’s mission to offer an exceptional island lifestyle to the local community. More importantly, through this party, we are showcasing talents in Macau to both local residents and incoming visitors.”

Pre-sale tickets are available at a 20 percent discount, with discounted prices standing at 332 patacas per child and 664 patacas per adult. A Bubbly Bash room package is also available starting from 2,150 patacas.

For more details and ticketing, one can visit <https://www.grandcoloane.com/bubbly-bash>

This poster recently provided by Grand Coloane Resort promotes the Bubbly Bash – The Coolest Foam Party on the Island, which is slated to take place on August 24.

Sands China invites families to enjoy maiden 'Macau Cruise Tour'



This handout photo provided by Sands China on Wednesday shows a young participant in the recent first sailing of Cotai Water Jet's new Macau Cruise Tour interacting with the captain and a Sands Cares Ambassador.

Rui Pastorin

Families from the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations (UGAMM) of Macau's Mong-Ha Community Centre were invited by Sands China to join the maiden voyage of Cotai Water Jet's new “Macau Cruise Tour”, where they were also able to explore the ship and learn about the crew's responsibilities, according to a Wednesday statement from the integrated resort (IR) operator.

UGAMM is commonly known as “Kai Fong” in Cantonese.

The hour-long tour took place on August 10, with the families also invited in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to the motherland.

Accompanied by Sands Cares Ambassadors, the statement noted that around 40 people joined the tour, which also included videos about points along the routes such as the Macao Science Centre (MSC) and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.

Aside from exploring the ship and learning about the crew's duties, the statement said that they also learnt how to respond during emergencies on-board, as well as visited the ship's bridge where the captain described his duties and the bridge's systems.

Thanking the company for the tour, a participant was quoted by the statement as saying: “I was very happy to have the chance to join this tour. It was the first time for me and my children to take Cotai Water Jet, and we were so surprised to see and learn how there are so many different systems on the ship. The captain and crew were very friendly and patient in explaining the different systems to us”.

Moreover, Sands China Executive Vice Chairman Wilfred Wong Ying-wai was quoted by the statement as saying that the ongoing tour is “a great opportunity to enjoy scenes of Macau from a new point of view, and Sands China was very pleased to invite members of the community to be among the first to enjoy it”.

He added: “With this special sailing, it is our privilege to provide quality parent-child time for these family groups and to help inspire children's sense of exploration.”

SJM hosts Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage Workshop series for local community

Rui Pastorin

SJM Resorts invited community members to participate in its “Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage Experience Workshop Series” last month at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai, with the series aiming to offer a deeper insight into the China's intangible cultural heritage, according to a statement from the company earlier this week.

The statement noted that on July 16, the elderly members of Caritas Macau's Areia Preta Catholic Pastoral Centre's Kei Hong Lok Yuen activity facility learnt about traditional Chinese lacquer art. During the event, the statement said that the participants learnt how to create “magnificent, eye-catching vases through traditional Chinese lacquer craftsmanship”.

Moreover, on July 20, parents and children from the Macau Down Syndrome Association visited GLP to learn how to make paper kites “in an Oriental art style”, the statement said. They also visited the integrated resort's Jardim Secreto (“Secret Garden”), with the statement adding that participants had a wonderful time.

“SJM makes every effort to protect and promote China's intangible cultural heritage. The newly launched ‘Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage Experience Workshop Series’ has been well received, and SJM will continue to provide more workshops and invite more local social service organisations and community groups to learn about valuable Chinese intangible art and culture”, the statement pointed out.



This handout photo provided by SJM Resorts earlier this week shows members of the Macau Down Syndrome Association participating in the “Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage Experience Workshop Series” at Grand Lisboa Palace (GLP) in Cotai.

Health Bureau reminds public to take precautions against mpox



This set of images from 2019 and downloaded from Wikipedia last night, shows the stages of mpox lesion development.

Rui Pastorin

The Health Bureau (SSM) reminded members of the public in a statement yesterday to take precautions against mpox following the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring it as a public health emergency of international concern after a significant increase in cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and a growing number of cases in Africa.

Macau recorded a total of two cases in September and December last year, with the SSM statement noting that both had engaged in high-risk sexual activities during the incubation period. Vaccines are available in Macau, with those aged at least 18 and engage in high-risk sexual activities urged by the bureau to get jabbed as soon as possible.

The virus is mainly spread through high-risk sexual practices such as having multiple sexual partners or sex between men, according to the statement. The statement added that the virus can be spread through close contact from person to person (e.g. through skin-to-skin and face-to-face contact); touching contaminated

items; and contact with infected animals such as rodents, monkeys and apes, with more details available on WHO's website.

The statement said that WHO data underline that the general population is at low risk of infection and there is no need for a large-scale vaccination scheme. However, high risk individuals are urged to get jabbed, with appointments and consultations available for those in need of the vaccination.

The statement said that medical staff and personnel who have close contact with confirmed or suspected Mpox patients, engage in high-risk sexual practices or are exposed to those with mpox due to work are among those who are recommended to be vaccinated against the disease.

The bureau reminded members of the public to avoid high-risk sexual activities, contact with those infected with the virus, and touching contaminated items. Those who develop symptoms should inform doctors of their contact history, avoid sexual intercourse and close contact with others, the statement said. ■

Heavy rain causes sinkhole in Zone A



This handout photo released by the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) yesterday shows the sinkhole at a location where Rotunda de Hou Kong meets Avenida Doutor Ma Man Kei in Zone A.

Tony Wong

A sinkhole formed on a road surface, which is currently closed to traffic for a utility tunnel project, in the Zone A land reclamation area yesterday morning when the red rainstorm signal was in force, resulting in road subsidence caused by soil erosion when excavation work next to it was being carried out, the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) said in a statement yesterday afternoon.

No one was injured in the incident, neither was any construction machinery damaged, the statement said.

The red rainstorm signal was in force between 9:40 a.m. and 11 a.m. yesterday.

According to the statement, the road subsidence occurred at a location where Rotunda de Hou Kong meets Avenida Doutor Ma Man Kei, which is currently closed to traffic for an underground utility tunnel project.

After a preliminary investigation, the statement said, DSOP technicians concluded that the sinkhole formed due to soil erosion caused by the heavy rain at that time when excavation work was being carried out there.

According to the DSOP statement, the bureau has ordered the project's contractor to always pay close attention to the latest weather conditions when carrying out a project.

According to a statement by the Fire Services Bureau (CB) yesterday, the sinkhole covered an area of six metres by six metres, three metres deep.

Old tree falls in Tin Hau Temple

Meanwhile, an old tree fell in the Tin Hau Temple complex on Rua dos Pescadores at around 7 a.m. yesterday, a separate CB statement said.

No one was injured in the incident.



This handout photo released by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday shows the fallen banyan tree in the Tin Hau Temple complex on Rua dos Pescadores.

Yesterday's case came after an old tree fell in the complex in June last year.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a joint follow-up statement yesterday that the fallen tree did not damage the temple but a shrine outside it.

The statement confirmed that the fallen tree is an officially protected old tree listed in November 2020.

The statement underlined that before yesterday's incident, the banyan tree was already weak after being in a poor condition for a number of years.

After a preliminary investigation, the statement said, IAM and IC officials concluded that the weakened tree fell yesterday due to a raft of torrential rains earlier this year.

The damaged shrine will be restored in due course, the statement said. ■

Macao One Account launches one-stop services for marriage, birth registration



Social Security Fund (FSS) Vice President Un Hoi Cheng (from left to right), Civil Affairs Registrar Wong Lok Mui, Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) Deputy Director Lou Soi Cheong, Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) Director Ng Wai Han (speaking), Identification Services Bureau (DSI) Deputy Director Lo Pin Heng, Health Bureau (SSM) Deputy Director Kuok Cheong U, and Kiang Wu Hospital Deputy Director Lai Kai Seng address yesterday's press conference at a DSAJ office in Nape. Kuok heads the public Conde de São Januário Hospital Centre. - Photo: Tony Wong

Continued from p.1

For either of the two options, couples can now make appointments for their marriage registration formalities on the Macao One Account app, according to the press conference.

After a couple officially get married, their marriage status will then be updated by the Macao One Account.

After getting married, a couple eligible for a marriage allowance can then file an application on their Macao One Account, without having to make a separate application to the Social Security Fund.

Thanks to yesterday's launch of the birth integrated public service, new parents can now handle all their birth-related formalities simply via their Macao One Account, such as birth registration, application to obtain their baby's ID card, updating their baby's information on their Health Bureau's health-service card, and birth allowance application.

Ng noted that previously couples needed to visit different public entities in person to submit various documents for completing their marriage registration and all other related matters, as well as for

new parents completing their baby's birth registration and all other related matters. She said that the launch of the two integrated public services on the Macao One Account now enables them to complete all these procedures online throughout the whole process.

Yesterday's press conference also included a session where two government staff members, simulating an occasion of them being a couple, showed reporters how to use the new marriage integrated and birth integrated public services on the Macao One Account. ■



Fairgoers visit a food expo at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday. - AFP

STOCK MARKETS

Hang Seng Index closes 0.02 pct lower

HONG KONG - The Hong Kong stock market ended mixed yesterday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index down 0.02 percent to close at 17,109.14. While the Hang

Seng China Enterprises Index climbed 0.17 percent to end at 6,035.27 points, the Hang Seng Tech Index dipped 0.33 percent to close at 3,384.38 points. - Xinhua

HK DJ busted for selling home-made cannabis cookies in bar

Ginnie Liang

The Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a Hong Kong man suspected of selling home-made cookies containing cannabis buds in a bar in Taipa, a PJ spokesperson said in a regular press conference yesterday.

According to the spokesperson, the Hong Kong man is a 49-year-old blue-card holder surnamed Lau, who worked as a DJ in a bar in Taipa for five years.

According to the spokesperson, Judiciary Police received a tip-off a month ago that someone in a bar in Taipa had bought cannabis buds in Hong Kong, smuggled them back to Macau and made cookies to which he had added the buds to the raw mixture before baking and selling them in the bar.

PJ officers identified Lau and intercepted him at the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) in the early morning on Wednesday, where PJ officers found 8.35 grams of cannabis buds in his underwear.

PJ officers then went to Lau's flat in Taipa and seized two packets of cannabis buds weighing 0.58



Evidence seized from the suspect such as cannabis cookies, cannabis buds, drug paraphernalia, flour and oats is displayed at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters yesterday. — Photo by PSP

grams and a quantity of drug paraphernalia, the spokesperson said, adding that PJ officers also found 241.3 grams of cookie dough mixed with cannabis buds and 74.5 grams of cookies in the flat.

The cannabis buds and cookies found on Lau and his flat were valued at about 9,000 patacas in total.

Lau admitted to drug trafficking and confessed that he had learnt

online how to mix cannabis buds with flour and oats to bake cookies for his own use.

Lau was tested negative for drugs, and police believe that he had been engaged in selling his cannabis cookies for about two months.

Lau was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) yesterday, facing drug trafficking charges, according to the spokesperson. ■

Chinese, Cambodian FM's meet on bilateral, regional cooperation

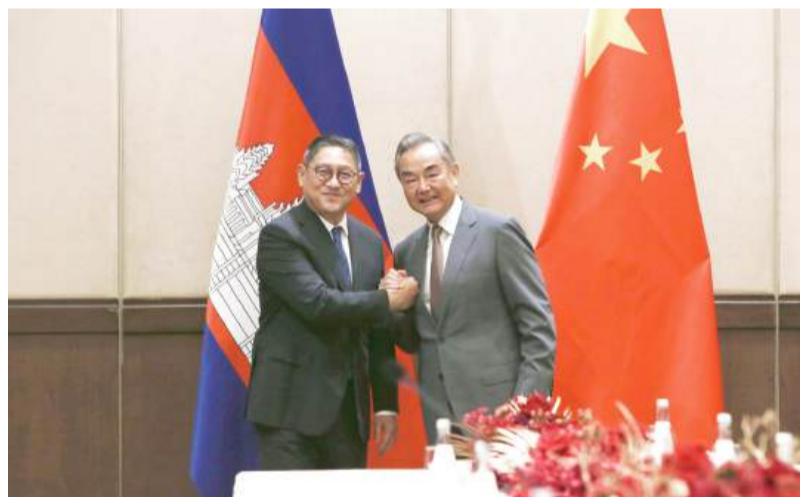
BANGKOK — China and Cambodia should stay committed to developing their friendship and following the path of solidarity and win-win cooperation, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand yesterday.

The more complicated the external environment is, the more essential it is for the two countries to manage their own affairs well, said Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in a meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sok Chenda Sophea.

Noting that China always places its relations with Cambodia at a special position in its neighborhood diplomacy, Wang said China is willing to take the implementation of the new action plan for building a China-Cambodia community with a shared future as an opportunity to intensify high-level exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, consolidate security cooperation and strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges, so as to push for high-quality development of their comprehensive strategic cooperation and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

The law enforcement and security authorities of China and Cambodia have jointly cracked down on cross-border crimes and achieved good results, Wang said, urging both sides to continue to step up efforts to thoroughly eradicate the breeding ground for gambling and fraudulent forces.

Chenda Sophea pointed out that Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni is currently visiting northwest China's



Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, shakes hands with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sok Chenda Sophea in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand, yesterday. — Xinhua

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, expressing appreciation for China's thoughtful arrangements.

The Cambodian foreign minister congratulated China on successfully holding the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, which drew up the blueprint for China's future development.

He said Cambodia is happy to see China achieve modernization and greater prosperity, noting that China has always been selfless in helping developing countries and has been committed to safeguarding regional peace and stability. Its development will benefit the whole region, including Cambodia, he said.

Wang said that the six Lancang-Mekong countries, sharing the same river and a common future, are eternal friendly neighbors and natural partners of cooperation. The rapid development of Lancang-Mekong cooperation has greatly improved

the well-being of the people and promoted the development and revitalization of the six countries.

All parties have agreed to abandon empty talk and take concrete action in unity to speed up building a community with a shared future for Lancang-Mekong countries, Wang said.

Wang said China stands ready to work with all parties, including Cambodia, to promote the overall development of the Indochina Peninsula through Lancang-Mekong cooperation, narrow the development gap within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), promote ASEAN integration, and play a leading role in the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. — Xinhua

Chinese, Lao FM's meet on ties, situation in Myanmar

BANGKOK — Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand yesterday on strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation on regional issues, and the situation in Myanmar.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, reaffirmed that China and Laos treat each other with sincerity and have always been supporting and helping each other.

Under the strategic guidance of the top leaders of the two parties and countries, the building of the China-Laos community with a shared future has accelerated, bilateral trade has been increasing, the China-Laos railway capacity has been constantly achieving new heights, personnel exchanges have significantly intensified, and the two sides have seen closer coordination in international and regional affairs, said Wang.

China firmly supports Laos in exploring a development path suited to its national conditions, staunchly supports Laos to hold the 12th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party to consolidate the party's leadership and the direction of socialism, and firmly supports Laos' ASEAN chairmanship to further enhance its international and regional influence, he said.

China is willing to further deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with Laos across various fields, leverage the comprehensive benefits of the China-Laos railway, jointly resolve bottlenecks and accelerate integrated development along the route so as to serve the respective development and revitalization of the two countries.

Saleumxay, for his part, said the rapid development of cooperation between Laos and China has

played a crucial role in the socio-economic development of Laos. Laos is willing to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, enhance high-level exchanges, deepen cooperation in areas such as connectivity and mineral resources, jointly fight transnational crime, and promote further achievements in the building of the Laos-China community with a shared future for the benefit of the people of both nations.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on the situation in Myanmar. Wang pointed out that Myanmar is an important member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). China supports ASEAN to enhance communication and contact with Myanmar, explore the docking of ASEAN's five-point consensus and Myanmar's new five-point roadmap, and help Myanmar maintain domestic stability, achieve political reconciliation, and resume its process of democratic transition, which is beneficial for ASEAN's unity and the peace and stability of the region.

Saleumxay spoke highly of China's constructive role in promoting peace talks in northern Myanmar and its political reconciliation, adding that Laos is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China to support Myanmar's stability and development.

The two ministers agreed to ensure the success of the ninth Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Chiang Mai, strengthen the awareness of a community with a shared future, enhance practical cooperation in all fields, and advance the building of a community with a shared future for the Lancang-Mekong countries in an effort to make greater contribution to regional prosperity and stability. — Xinhua

Retail sales rise 2.7 pct in July

BEIJING — Mainland China's retail sales of consumer goods went up 2.7 percent year on year to nearly 3.78 trillion yuan in July, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said Thursday.

The growth rate was 0.7 percentage points higher than that posted in June.

Last month, retail sales in urban areas came in at about 3.27 trillion yuan, up 2.4 percent year on year, with the corresponding figure for rural areas reaching 506.6 billion yuan, up 4.6 percent year on year, the NBS said.

The country's total catering revenue reached 440.3 billion yuan in July, increasing 3 percent year on year.

During the first seven months, retail sales rose 3.5 percent year on year to over 27.37 trillion yuan.

Boosted by sales promotions and new e-commerce models, China's online retail sales went up 9.5 percent year on year during the first seven months, sustaining a relatively fast growth.

Online sales of physical goods increased 8.7 percent from a year ago, accounting for 25.6 percent of total retail sales during the period.

Services consumption stood out as a bright spot, with retail sales of services expanding 7.2 percent from a year ago in the first seven months, according to the NBS.

Yesterday's data also showed that China's industrial output expanded 5.9 percent year on year in the first seven months, and fixed-asset investment increased 3.6 percent from a year ago. — Xinhua