Tourism market is expected to rebound during holiday longer stays over seven-day break favored by travelers, agencies say By CHEN JIE
chenjie@chinadaily.com.cn

China’s tourism market is expected to rebound during the Spring Festival holiday, with travelers eager to take long-distance trips and spend more money after the nation optimized its COVID-19 control measures.

Travel agency bookings and data from large tourism platforms indicate that travelers are also making longer stays during the seven-day break that will start on Jan. 21, with journeys to other regions in the country and overseas.

During previous Spring Festival holidays, houses and popular short-distance trips to destinations near their homes or workplaces due to virus control measures and health concerns.

Travel portal Tuniis said that 73 percent of bookings for the upcoming holiday period were for cross-regional trips. Destinations with a coastal location or mild climate, such as Hainan province in the southern China, and provinces in the southwest, are high on traveler lists.

Longer stays are also favored, with around 31 percent of online consumer bookings looking for stays and 28 percent choosing four-day trips.

Travel agency LVC is also seeing strong customer interest online. On its platform, consultancy requests for long-distance travel during the holiday ramped 30-50 fold in the week to Monday.

Conservancy requirements for travel visas rise eightfold over the same period.

Winner locations with snow and ice sports, such as Changchun in northeastern China, have seen an increase of sevenfold. According to a report by Trip.com, bookings in the skiing and in rural ski resorts are increasing. Beijing’s Shichahai Ice for, example, were crowded for the Spring Festival holiday destination on the agency’s platform increase by 93 percent compared with the same period last year.

Ding Xin, who is charge of traveler world, Trip.com’s Spring Festival holiday team, said that the tourist market will see growth in the number of tourists and the amount they spend. However, the strong travel demand is also driving a rise in the prices of tickets and hotels.

Travel portal Trip.com Group said the price of a one-way flight to Japan, a popular travel destination, has jumped 15 percent in recent holidays.

At Trip.com, a survey has seen an increase in bookings for overseas trips in up to 10 percent.

Bookings for international travel peaked during the holiday season and are still favored for holidays and weekends.

Trip.com has helped travelers find even more affordable holidays in the past year.

The Spring Festival holiday period has jumped 40 percent year-over-year (YoY) in recent holidays.

Cruise trips will also be an option, with a new ski resort in the alpine region.

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Ports: Travelers reunited with loved ones

Travellers from China and neighbouring countries at land ports nationwide were overspilled to be reunited with their loved ones. Local officials and businesses also welcomed the resumption of services and goods, along with the traffic and bustle at border cities.

Yuan said: “I am very excited. For the past three years, I have been looking forward to the border reopening, as I really wanted to return home. I have been so sad not to have been with my parents and children.”

Mouths, the largest land-border port in China, processes more than 45 percent of Sino-Russian trade via land transportation. In 2020, the port handled 23.06 million metric tons of cargo and 1.6 million trips by travelers, according to figures from the facility.

At the port of Sino-Khorgos in Pingxiang, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, which borders Vietnam, customs authorities used cameras, flowers and potted plants to welcome travelers. Some 1,600 passengers and 1,500 trucks passed through the ports on Sunday, according to local authorities.

In 2020, the local government introduced a special customs clearance system for cross-border drivers. All Chinese freight vehicles entering and leaving the port were driven by designated cross-border drivers who were under strict closed-area management.

New drivers no longer need to wear protective clothing, and regular truck drivers are once again allowed to transport goods across the border.

In Qingdao, a truck driver for an international logistics company in Qingdao, arrived at the port city on Sunday to transport goods to Vietnam for the first time in three years.

The customs service is just as efficient as it was before the epidemic, and I can now return to driving my truck between China and Vietnam,” he said.

Lanxi Demei, who manages a local supply chain company, said the end of closed-loop management is expected to increase customs clearance efficiency by 60 percent and reduce costs for his company by the same level.

“Before you leave, our company’s business will return to the pre-pandemic level,” he said.

Main channel

Yuxian is an important exit and entry channel for traders, and a major land channel from China to another member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with frequent exchanges of cross-border personnel and goods taking place here.

In 2020, the port’s foreign trade continued to grow, as it handled a total of 402,400,000 yuan and several freight trucks and some 4.4 million tons of cargo imports and exports.

Yuxian, deputy director of the Pingxiang Commerce and Port Administration, said public health has been stepped up for exit and entry policies to help ensure that truck drivers have been told that they need to obtain the necessary exit and entry licenses.

The port has also increased staffing levels, shifted superintendent plans, and added security in the shorter customs clearance times and improved efficiency and inspection capacity. Ports secretary of Pingxiang, said the biggest challenge of opening up the border is ensuring the sustainability and long-term effectiveness of the national-cooperative partnership and adjusting customs services. The port also offers new opportunities for the city to boost its economic development.

The manager said that by using its strength in logistics, manufacturing, transportation, tourism, Pingxiang will quickly become a land hub and an important area for China’s “ Dual circulation” development strategies – in which the domestic and international markets complement each other, with the domestic market being the local pole.

The city of Dongping, Guangxi, which also borders Vietnam, received hundreds of inbound Chinese travelers when it reopened on Sunday.

One of them, summer, said: “I’m thrilled. Now that our country has relaxed its COVID-19 control, I can return to see my family reunion.”

The port is preparing for a massive influx of overseas migrant workers returning home for the Spring Festival holiday. The local government is also planning to streamline entry and exit procedures for business travelers and tourists.

In Yunnan province, the port of Ruili, which stands on the China-Vietnam border, also reopened on Sunday. It is one of China’s largest ports on this border.

The local government has given us a great deal of help and has introduced favorable policies, saying we will open the shop on the day the port reopened. We believe this is the right decision in line with China’s opening-up policy, and we are confident in Ruili and our country,” he said.

Hileen Port, the largest in Yunnan on the China-Vietnam border, resumed services on Sunday, with people from the two countries crossing the China-Vietnam border for resumption of other livelihoods or so-called “essential personnel.”

The port, which has reopened channels for pedestrians and vehicles, is connected to the Vietnam-province of Lao Cai by land and water. For years, electricity and cross-border transport in the area have also been bolstered, and cross-border public transportation have developed. In 2015, some 4.11 million inbound and outbound trips were made through Hileen Port.

Hileen Party Secretary Yu Yang said a Spring Festival gala will be held to strengthen bonds between people on both sides of the border. During the Spring Festival holiday, visits will be exchanged by 304,400,000 yuan, said.

The revitalisation of economic activities in the border region, according to the National Development and Reform Commission, will also be accelerated.

Located in the Himalayas, the port is 600 kilometers from the regional capital Lhasa and about 1,295 km from Kailas, capital of Nepal.

One of the biggest land ports between China and Nepal, it handles more than 60 percent of the two countries’ trade.

The port went into full operation in 2014. Plans to expand the facility received national approval in 2017, with the port opening for business to third-party logistics in August that year.

Trade at the port was suspended in 2019 and 2020 due to the epidemic, but oneway freight services between Russia were resumed, said a local enterprise.

Trade at the port was expected to reach 412,330 yuan, said.

“With the government continuing to invest in infrastructure, cross-land trade at ports in Tibet will be elevated to a new level, and we believe that Yotong Port will have a brighter future,” Zhang said.

This story was written by Li Shuang in Beijing, Yang Jin in Hohhot, Zhang Li in Nanning, Philip in Lhasa, and Xiao Hua in Beijing.

Contact the writers at hlonglishu@sina.com.cn.
Thrilling exercises

US schools step up security measures

By ELIZABETH RUTHERFORD

The experimentation of public schools in Newport News, Virginia, said the district will increase in use of random metal detectors if a 15-year-old boy who brick-tossed a teacher in her classroom. The politician denies, but they haven't used. In December, the state's new school random metal detector was approved in 11 percent of okay schools with daily use at one per school. The data was part of a report that shows how US public schools have increased security over the past few years. It was released by the National Center for Education Statistics, a research arm of the US Department of Education. The data was collected in a survey of more than 1600 public schools in November. About two-thirds of the public schools surveyed now control access to school buildings and grounds, up from about half in the 1990 school year, according to the report.

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Counsel: AG cites 'circumstances'

From page 1

Here's a basic overview of the 'CPC' world peace and the protection of common interests, as noted by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

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Philosophy: Nation to play bigger int'l role in future

From page 1

Today, everyone has some view understanding that the centrality of development and the development of the world will have three key cities and the future of world development. The international community and the international community will have a clear understanding of the need to share responsibilities in the future.

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Relaxed controls to unleash potential in culture, tourism

By CHEN SHI

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism scraped eight guidelines related to COVID-19 as part of Wednesday’s meeting, requiring local authorities to reduce the level of cultural and tourist activities and travel services in accordance with the national COVID-19 policies. The guidelines of COVID-19 control requirements for cultural activities and tourist attractions, as well as scenic spots, were abolished. The new guideline will reduce the risk of infection, risks, and high infection risks, and move tourists to scenic spots.

HK, mainland to restart high-speed rail on Sunday

By ST TANQ AND WILHELM NU

A total of 18,000 daily tickets for high-speed trains between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong went on sale as soon as Thursday, with tickets for days in the run-up to the Chinese New Year snapped up hours after it went on sale.

High-speed rail tickets will resume their high-speed train services between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. These tickets, which are available to Hong Kong residents, have been in demand.

A high-speed rail train from Dongguan South railway station will leave for Tsim Sha Tsui railway station in Hong Kong on Wednesday. - Photo: CHINA DAILY

Tibet releases work plan for COVID-19 downstage

By DAVID WANG and SHI YING

The leading group office for COVID-19 in Tibet autonomous region released a work plan for the COVID-19 downstage from A to Class 4 on Monday. The plan outlines 11 measures, including improved COVID-19 management and testing measures and managing infections.

People at high risk of infection, those with a history of COVID-19, those with non-manageable diseases or with high fever or missing body liquid, will be instructed and encouraged to avoid going outside to reduce the hot spot of the COVID-19 virus.

The plan instructs medical institu-
tions to prepare enough Western, Chinese and Tibetan medicines to treat and prevent infections, as well as enough anxiolytic drugs.

According to the plan, all the hospitals of 10 to 20 percent of the people in the general population are treated for COVID-19 in the center, we have already stocked various types of medications of Lhasa Railway Station, capacial, and antimicrobial medicines, and traditional Tibetan medicines,” said Choepo, head of the Tibet Medical Society.

Tibet has 2,000 megawatts of power generation, and the power stations are supplying stable power to the people of Tibet.

Climate change envoy for China, US hold talks

By HOU LIANGQING

Climate change envoy, China and US hold talks.

Asia-Pacific countries need to work together to address climate change, the envoy said on Wednesday.

The consultations happened even after President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden held a cordial and in-depth exchange of views on Nov 16 on issues of strategic importance in China-US relations and on major global and regional issues ahead of the G20 Summit in Bali.

It is in the interest of both countries to promote the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Arctic climate change and reach regional issues through China-US cooperation and coordination.

China’s climate envoy said the US committed to keeping the channels of communication open.

The two leaders also agreed on the importance of enhancing climate change, food security and other global challenges.

Nation sets back land suffering from erosion

By HOU LIANGQING

China has made consistent progress in reducing land erosion in the past decade, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The total area of eroded land in China has decreased from 2.7 million square kilometers in 2021 to 2.5 million square kilometers in 2025.

In 2021, China had 16.4 percent of land affected by water and soil erosion, with "extremely severe" erosion accounting for 2.7 percent.

China is able to completely provide water for 520,000 sq. km., of the amount affected by water and soil erosion.

"The measures of controlling water and soil erosion, which has the highest standards of above 20 percent, or 22,000 sq. km., of the affected area, are being discussed for experimentation and adoption, he said.

The measures, which include water and soil erosion prevention, have been effective in some areas.

China is able to completely provide water for 520,000 sq. km., of the amount affected by water and soil erosion.

But the measures are still under development.

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We need further research and analysis on the effectiveness of the measures, including water and soil erosion prevention, and we will continue to improve them," he said.

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More service sector programs announced

Six cities selected for opening-up as country eyes economic recovery

By ZHANG YUE
zhangyue@huanqiu.com.cn

China has recently established new policies to accelerate the service sector as part of efforts to expand opening-up and spur economic recovery, officials and experts said.

On Dec 20, the State Council, China's Cabinet, approved three pilot programs in Shenyang, Liaoning province; Nanjing, Jiangsu province; Chengdu, Sichuan province, bringing the total number of cities with similar programs to 13.

It was the third time that the list has been expanded since the first list came out last year.

According to the guideline, the six cities will encourage opening-up by improving industrial regulations, standards and management while focusing on development.

In addition, local governments will advance reform and develop modern services that exploit their unique resources, making them more competitive globally and helping contribute to overall national growth.

The pilot program in Beijing was led to specific opening-up measures, including advancing reforms in technological services and innovation, boosting the development of the digital economy and trade, strengthening reforms and innovation in financial services and boosting greater global cooperation through inter-regional services.

One of the main reasons that these provinces are important is because they help the local governments advance technical innovation, which is at the heart of opening-up efforts, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce. For example, a spike in foreign investment has driven the optimization and upgrading of China’s industrial structures, which has helped the country’s ability to meet demands with more effective planning of pilot opening-up programs in the service sector.

Experts believe that the addition of the six cities to the list will significantly increase economic activity and cooperation in the areas of economic recovery and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment that can contribute to China’s overall economic development.

Ye Xiaoping, a professor at the China Finance and World Trade Organization Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said that as the package of piloting the programs in the capital, the government’s aim is to improve service quality.

“China has only two years left to achieve its Belt and Road Initiative,” Ye said. “The six cities then are opening to the world as part of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is a greater economic, urban, and service-oriented project than the previous era of opening-up. It is major service-oriented development, which will mark the new era of opening-up. The six cities are the core of the Belt and Road Initiative.”

One common feature among the six cities (Shenyang, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Wuhan, Guangzhou, and Chengdu) is that they all have a solid development base in production and manufacturing. They can combine this with the pilot opening-up programs and developments in the modern service industry to explore new advantages for themselves.

On Jan 9, director of the Institute of International Trade and Economic Cooperation at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing Li Jia, director of the Institute of International Trade and Economic Cooperation at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing, said that the expansion of pilot programs in these cities was well-timed as the country is optimizing its COVID-19 containment strategies, and he expects the programs to achieve that goal.

“Unlike the past three years that dealt with a heavy blow to the service industry, particularly those that require contact between people, such as catering, transportation, and tourism, which are important areas in which China needs to expand opening-up,” he said, “I believe the current optimization of containment measures and reopening will create new opportunities for the six cities to open up service industries more effectively.”

Local governments should play vital role in opening-up effort

By ZHANG YUE
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With China advancing reform and opening-up, local governments play a vital role that local governments play in promoting the service industry in particular importância and helping the service industries, experts said.

The cities were recently added to a list of those in which pilot programs for opening-up and expanding open modes have been established. Their efforts will target the service industry and should aim to better support local business as well as increase investment opportunities, experts said.

On Dec 20, Xiaoping, a professor at the China Institute for World Trade Organization Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said all six cities are important in their regions, have solid foundation in the service industry and are strong manufacturing hubs. He added that overall, the level of opening up in the service industry is low.

To that end, over the past seven years, the pilot programs in Beijing and four other provincial-level regions — Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing and Hainan — have been successful, and he expects that the six newly added cities will gain valuable knowledge from their own attempts.

For years, the service industry has been the primary means of attracting foreign investment and driving growth. During the 13th Five-Year Plan (2015-2020) period, the average annual growth rate of foreign investment in the industry was 6.4 percent, accounting for more than 70 percent of the total of foreign capital.

From January to November last year, China’s actual use of foreign capital in total stood at roughly 1.3 trillion yuan ($177 billion), marking a 3.9 percent increase year-on-year. Of these, the actual use of foreign capital in the service industry was 840.5 billion yuan, accounting for 13 percent of the total.

Li Jun, director of the Institute of International Trade and Economic Cooperation at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing, said that the six new cities to take greater efforts to boost opening-up in the high-tech production service industries.

“China’s service industry is efficient among the six cities as they all have a solid development base in production and manufacturing,” he said. “They can combine this with the pilot opening-up programs and developments in the modern service industry to explore new advantages for themselves.”

Li said that the expansion of pilot programs in these cities was well-timed as the country is optimizing its COVID-19 containment strategies, and he expects the programs to achieve that goal.

“The COVID-19 situation over the past three years has dealt with a heavy blow to the service industry, particularly those that require contact between people, such as catering, transportation, and tourism, which are important areas in which China needs to expand opening-up,” he said, “I believe the current optimization of containment measures and reopening will create new opportunities for the six cities to open up service industries more effectively.”
Tokyo-London military pact raises tensions

Experts say deal exacerbating mistrust between Asia-Pacific nations

By ZHAO RUSAN

The Tokyo-London defense agreement is not only a “bilateral version” of SICO, it will also intensify the alliance in the region to undermine regional peace and development, experts warned.

The Reciprocal Access Agreements between Japan and the United Kingdom, signed on Monday, allow the two nations to use military facilities in each other’s territory. The protocol, which will last for 20 years, was agreed upon by Japan’s then Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Britain’s Nicola Sturgeon.

“Japan and Britain have been crucial for the advancement of Japan’s regional security policy, which is often considered a cornerstone of the country’s military strategy,” said Zou Jie, an expert on international relations at the Beijing-based China Institute for International Studies.

It is possible that other NATO countries will look to the United States first to agree to deploy troops in Japan. If they can agree, the whole case would be terrible,” the professor added.

As World War II veterans and defense and foreign ministers met with US and UK counterparts in Washington and vowed to strengthen their military alliance in the Asia-Pacific region.

The talks to be held by the United States to seek a so-called Maritime Security Dialogue, a move intended to open up both the US and other Asia-Pacific countries to conclude defense and security deals.

A select group of new colleagues and senior US officials have been able to send a strong message to the world that the US will continue to play a crucial role in the region, according to the US Department of Defense.

The war is a fantastic opportunity for China.

US cancer deaths drop by one-third

By MAHYFIC in Jakarta

The cancer death rate in the US dropped by 1.3% percent from 2015 to 2019, according to a new study published in the journal Cancer, a major milestone in cancer treatment.

Researchers pointed out that it is the result of two factors: a decrease in the use of HPV vaccines that cause 70% of all cervical cancers. It was in use for females in 2016 for females aged 20-24.

Moreover, they noted it that the number of cervical cancers have fallen since the 1970s.

For both genders across age groups, cervical and breast cancer deaths fell significantly in 2015 as vaccines and HPV infection fell.

Women, the second most common type of cancer, are being targeted by HPV in 60% of cases among women.

Breast cancer incidence has doubled, but the annual number of new cases is declining, and the death rate has decreased.

Scientists say the main reason for this is the HPV vaccine.

Despite the advances, there are still other cancers that remain a challenge.

According to the study, women are more likely to die from breast cancer than men.

Venezuelans vote to choose new president

By JULIAN PEREZ in Caracas

Three candidates, including a billionaire, are vying for the top spot in Venezuela’s presidential election.

The candidates are:

- **Hugo Chavez**, a former president and a left-wing revolutionary leader, who ruled Venezuela from 1999 to 2013.
- **José Andrés Guaidó**, a congresswoman and a candidate for the opposition party 
- **Marta frying pan**, a candidate for the political party of the opposition.

Venezuela is on the verge of a presidential election, which will be held on Sunday, March 20.

Although the country is facing significant economic challenges, the election is expected to be a turning point in the country’s political landscape.

WHO declares end of Ebola outbreak in Uganda

By NELSON KPEA in Kampala, Uganda

The World Health Organization has announced the end of the Ebola outbreak in Uganda, which lasted for less than four months since the first case was confirmed in January.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement on Wednesday that the outbreak had been declared over.

The WHO made the declaration after an independent panel reviewed the outbreak data and concluded that the outbreak had ended.

The panel’s decision was based on a number of factors, including the lack of new cases, the effectiveness of the response, and the ability of the health system to contain the outbreak.

WHO stated that the outbreak had been contained and that the country was now free of the disease.

The outbreak was the first in Uganda since the disease was first identified in 2014.

The last Ebola outbreak in Uganda occurred in 2000, but it was much smaller and lasted for only a few months.

This time, the outbreak lasted for more than six months and affected multiple districts in the country.

In total, 18 cases were confirmed, with 12 deaths recorded.

WHO has been working closely with the government of Uganda and international partners to contain the outbreak.

Ecuador policy a boost to trade with Nigeria

By RAYMOND OGUNBUNMI

Ecuador policy of boosting trade with Nigeria could help increase economic cooperation between the two countries.

Ecuador President Guillermo Lasso has been outspoken about the need for South America to increase trade with Nigeria, which is the region’s largest economy.

Lasso has said that trade with Nigeria is crucial for Ecuador’s economic development and that the two countries should work together to increase bilateral trade.

The idea is to boost trade between the two countries and to create new opportunities for businesses.

A report by the Ecuadorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has highlighted the potential for increased trade between the two countries, with a focus on sectors such as agriculture, mining, and renewable energy.

The report suggests that there is significant potential for trade between the two countries, with the two countries having similar economic structures.

However, trade between the two countries has been limited due to various factors, including political instability in Nigeria and the economic crisis in Ecuador.

But both countries have expressed interest in increasing trade, and both have taken steps to improve the business climate.

The report by the Ecuadorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been well-received by both countries, and both have expressed interest in implementing the recommendations.

The EU is currently working to establish a free trade agreement with Nigeria, which would provide a framework for increased trade and investment.

The agreement would also help to improve the business climate in both countries, with a focus on reducing trade barriers and improving regulatory frameworks.

Nigeria and Ecuador are both members of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to create a large single market for goods and services within the continent.

The agreement would provide a significant boost to trade between the two countries, with the potential for billions of dollars in increased trade.

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Nurses’ 3-day strike in New York City ends

By MINU ZHANG in New York wzhang@chinadaily.com

A three-day strike by more than 5,000 nurses at two major New York City hospital ended Thursday after intense deals that included wage increases and the creation of hundreds of new nursing positions.

The deals at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan and Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx were the first to come to auto-striking nurses. Nurses began returning to work at both hospitals Thursday morning after the deals were signed.

According to the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), New York largest union, which represents more than 200,000 members, said in a statement Thursday that for nurses at Montefiore, the tentative deal would include a 16 percent wage increase over three years, the creation of more than 750 new nursing positions and healthcare coverage for eligible nurses, according to The New York Times.

The tentative agreement at Mount Sinai also includes the same wage increase and establishes staffing ratios for the first time for all inpatient units with an enforcement mechanism, the union said, according to The New York Times. Nurses will vote next week to approve the deal.

Union President Nancy Hagans on Thursday said in a statement that the tentative deal is a historic victory for New York City nurses and for nurses across the state.

"Today, we can return to work with our heads held high, knowing that our victory means safer care for our patients and more sustainable jobs for our profession," she said.

Union officials said there were more than 200 new nursing positions at Montefiore and 4500 working nurses at Mount Sinai, where there were about 500 open positions, and 1,500 working nurses, according to The New York Times.

The hospitals have remained open during the three-day strike using higher than typical nurse staffing levels to provide care and transferring staff to other medical centers.

Nurses’ 3-day strike in New York City ends

Rabbit stamp’s issuance special

By CHANG JUN in San Francisco junchangjun@chinadaily.com

A mass crowd of several hundred people gathered in front of the Asian Art Museum on Thursday morning for a ceremony that marks more than just the issuance of a popular postage stamp.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) announced the launch of a special stamp to highlight the Year of the Rabbit, which is according to the Chinese lunar calendar falls on Feb 22 and ends on Feb 9, 2023.

One of the most celebrated Chinese traditional holidays, approximately 1.3 billion people around the world observe the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival.

USPS Art Director Antonio Alcala worked on the rabbit stamp design with artist Castillo Chiu to create imagery inspired by Chinese zodiac used in dragon and lion dances.

The self-adhesive stamps are available in sets of 20.

Also joining the jubilant gathering, where different languages could be heard, were San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Chinese Consul General in San Francisco Shang Jianmin, and his counterpart from Indonesia and Japan, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Jay Xu, director of the Asian Art Museum, and numerous elected officials from the city of San Francisco and county.

"Our community talk about exhibitions of cultural heritage as cultural," said Breed. "The Lunar New Year represents the wealth of years of history. It is the time to generate this (Asian) community to such an extraordinary way." Breed emphasized that San Francisco is a place where discriminations against Asians is unacceptable.

"We also know that this community has not been without challenges during the COVID pandemic," said Breed, referring to the rise in hate crimes against Asians in the past three years. "Through joint efforts among many departments, organizations and volunteers, "We've seen a significant decline in the number of anti-Asian crimes," he said.

Breed also praised San Francisco Lunar New Year Parade in early February, joining that "Washington and Los Angeles are not comparable in scale or popularity."

The Lunar New Year celebrations and the stamp every year, said Xu, all reflect the recognition of "our community's unique history and essential contribution to the United States. It enables us to tell stories stories — our past, our present and our future."

As a stamp collector since his youth, Xu said that through the collection of artifacts such as stamps, people could橘lie up a conversation.

"Stamps can go everywhere and can define community (between different countries and cultures) be said, adding "this stamp of the rabbit is for all. The Lunar New Year is for all".

Dennis Kan, of the USPS Board of Governors, flew from Washington to oversee the stamp release.

"For more than three decades, USPS has issued stamps highlighting the Lunar New Year, and they are some of the most successful stamp releases in our history," Kan said.

"This year, the USPS issued the second Lunar New Year stamp beginning in 2008, beginning with the Year of the Rat which ran until 2020.

In 2021, the U.S. Lunar New Year Series began with a new Year of the Ox stamp.

The United States Postal Office issued its first stamp of the Year of the Rabbit Thursday at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, joining the dedication ceremony sine stamps left by Xu, president of the Asian Art Museum; Dennis Kan, representative of the U.S. Postal Service of Overseas and San Francisco Mayor London Breed.

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**RMB use in foreign trade may increase**

**By Li JINHUA**

China's efforts to expand the use of the renminbi in cross-border trade and investment may see a new wave this year, following Beijing's pledge to better integrate the country's financial system with international financial centers.

China's determination to facilitate the free use of renminbi in cross-border trade and investment was re-emphasized in a series of policy measures in 2022. Measures included simplifying renminbi cross-border business procedures, expanding the use of the renminbi in cross-border trade and investment, facilitating tripayments, and expanding the use of the renminbi in cross-border trade and investment.

New approaches have also been taken to accelerate the integration of China's financial system with international financial centers. The renminbi's role as an international currency is expected to increase in this area, and the country is expected to continue to play a positive role in promoting the use of the renminbi in cross-border trade and investment.

**Auto sales seen up 3% nationwide this year; NEV exports also on ascent**

**By Lu FERRYING**

A report released by the China Car News Agency shows that China's auto sales were up 3% year on year in January, with electric vehicles (EVs) accounting for 15% of total vehicle sales.

While sales of traditional vehicles remained stable, sales of electric vehicles increased significantly. The country's auto market has been moving towards a new era, with EVs becoming increasingly popular due to their environmental benefits and cost savings.

In January, China's major automakers sold more than 2 million EVs, accounting for 15% of total vehicle sales. This is a significant increase compared to the same period last year, when EVs accounted for only 9% of total vehicle sales.

China's auto industry is expected to continue to grow in 2023, with a focus on EVs and new energy vehicles (NEVs). The government is expected to continue to provide incentives to support the growth of EVs and NEVs.

**Restaurants, ready-to-eat meals get holiday boost**

**By ZHU WENGANG**

The holiday season is a time of year when restaurants and food delivery companies benefit from increased demand for meals and snacks. Many restaurants in Beijing have seen a surge in customers during the Spring Festival period, with some even reporting record-breaking sales.

The holiday season is a critical period for restaurants and food delivery companies in China, as many families gather for reunions and celebrate the New Year. The demand for restaurant meals and snacks is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, as more people opt to eat out rather than cook at home.

In addition to restaurants, food delivery companies have also seen a surge in demand during the holiday season. Many people prefer to order meals online instead of going out to eat, which has led to a increase in the number of food delivery orders.

The holiday season is a key period for restaurants and food delivery companies to showcase their offerings and attract new customers. Many companies have introduced special menu items and promotions to appeal to customers during this time of year.

Despite the surge in demand, the holiday season can also be a challenging time for restaurants and food delivery companies, as they must ensure that they have enough staff and resources to meet the increased demand. Some companies have implemented overtime and other strategies to help them meet the demand during this period.

The holiday season is an important period for the food and beverage industry in China, as it provides an opportunity for companies to showcase their offerings and attract new customers. The holiday season is also a critical period for restaurants and food delivery companies to ensure that they have the resources and staff to meet the increased demand during this time of year. By taking steps to ensure that they are prepared for the holiday season, companies can ensure that they are able to meet the increased demand and maintain customer satisfaction.

**Overseas trips key to winning clients**

**By ZHANG NANNING**

China's tourism industry has seen a surge in overseas trips as conditions have improved, and many companies are capitalizing on this trend to attract new customers.

Overseas trips are an important way for companies to showcase their offerings and attract new customers. Many companies have implemented overseas trip programs to attract new customers and improve their business.

The tourism industry is a major contributor to the Chinese economy, and many companies are capitalizing on the trend of increased overseas travel to attract new customers. By offering overseas trips and showcasing their offerings, companies can attract new customers and improve their business.
AVIC plans backdoor listing for unit

By ZHENG XIN
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AVIC Zhongheng Electronic Measuring Instruments Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Aviation Industry Corp of China Ltd, announced on Wednesday evening that it plans to purchase 100% of the equity capital of AVIC Zhongheng Aircraft Industrial Co Ltd by means of forward purchase to AVIC. Sources of Zhongheng Electronic Measuring Instruments have confirmed that the deal will be in line with the detailed transaction plan within 10 trading days, or before Feb 5, according to the statement.

Based on the current weightings, the company’s potential fir- ing in the event of only 10% of the index weight, and the military sector is likely to reminisce a leading stock in the A-share market, TS (Traded Stock) value pro-

The market value of AVIC Zhongheng Aircraft Co Ltd could reach 200 billion yuan in 2020, after a 30% profit increase through a backdoor listing, while the company’s capital market value is 170 billion yuan. This year, the net profit growth rate of AVIC Zhongheng Aircraft Co Ltd has doubled to over 100%.

"Backdoor listings can help pro-

In the first three quarters of 2021, sales revenue of AVIC Zhongheng Aircraft Co Ltd reached 16.1 billion yuan ($2.5 billion), marking a year-on-year increase of 48.6% and a year-to-

In 2021, sales of the compa-

For military aircraft, the compa-

AVIC Zhongheng Aircraft has accu-

For military aircraft, the company also developed the nose of the A500 large airborne aircraft for civil air-

By WANG YIN
in Shanghai

After more than four decades of development, Ferrero has become a household name, forming a market of over 600 billion yuan. The company’s sales revenue reached 260 billion yuan, up 28.5% year-on-year. Last year, the company’s net profit hit 160,000 million yuan, up 67.9% year-on-year. The return on net assets hit 13.6%.

"China's confectionery industry is undergoing profound changes and the market offers great opportunities," said Wang Meinian, chief executive officer of Ferrero (China) Co Ltd.

Wang added that Ferrero plans to invest 10 billion yuan to build a new plant and expand existing facilities in China, with a goal of reaching 100 billion yuan in annual sales by 2030.

"The transformation of China's confectionery market is a key trend. Ferrero is actively responding to this trend. For example, we plan to expand sales of plant-based products in China, which are expected to reach 10 billion yuan in annual sales by 2030," Wang said.

Ferrero set up its sales and distribution center in Shanghai in 2020, and has since expanded its operations in China, with a focus on developing plant-based products.

"In the future, Ferrero will continue to invest in China, especially in the confectionery market," Wang said.

"In the future, Ferrero will continue to invest in China, especially in the confectionery market," Wang said.
BUSINESS FOCUS

Consumption seen boosting economic vigor

FMCGs, entertainment, catering, tourism, aviation and more may shine in 2023

By ZHU WENGQIAN
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In 2023, China will continue to expand domestic consumption, and sectors such as tourism, catering, entertainment and aviation are expected to benefit from the relaxation of COVID-19 prevention and control measures, government officials and industry experts said.

According to the latest projection by financial services provider Goldman Sachs, consumption will become a major driver of economic vitality, and the annual growth of consumption is expected to be three percent this year, while China’s GDP growth is expected to reach 5.0 percent.

The unemployment rate is expected to decline and average incomes are likely to improve in 2023.

UOB predicts China’s GDP growth will reach 4.3 percent this year if investment in infrastructure is strong, and purchasing managers’ index and consumption-related services show resilience.

The views are echoed by Quan Guangyin, former researcher at the China Economist (CBE) and chief economist at China Economist Research Institute. “Last year, China achieved a GDP growth rate of 3.4 percent. Despite the pandemic, consumption pressure on consumer spending, some services such as fast-moving consumer goods and those related to public social benefits have driven a lot of growth in new areas and support of favorable policies.”

Looking back on 2022, China’s FMCG sector showed resilience with 5.6 percent year-on-year growth in the first three quarters. For the first time since 2017, it exceeded the country’s GDP growth in the second half of last year according to joint research released in December by China’s Ministry of Commerce and Kamar Worldpanel Greater China.

In particular, packaged foods and beverages maintained a strong growth during the first three quarters due to the COVID-19 related snacking and heightened health and hygiene consciousness. “The FMCG market demonstrated some buoyancy during this period, indicating that there is hope for the months and years to come,” said the report.

“The year 2023 is likely to remain volatile, remaining some of the trends we have witnessed in 2023 while seeing improvement in other areas. However, we do see gradual optimism of COVID-19 measures taking place in China, bringing back some consumer confidence,” said Derek Dong, a partner at Bain & Company.

“There are other fundamental reasons to be optimistic as well. China’s FMCG sector has demonstrated resilient growth in the first three quarters, as both brands and consumers have shown their adaptability to changing circumstances. If companies can keep their fingers on the pulse of consumer needs and remain nimble, they can chart a path toward healthy performance,” Dong said.

In 2023, China will focus on expanding domestic demand and give priority to relaxing and expanding consumption, and continue to strengthen household consumption and consumption stimulus, improve consumption conditions and make innovations in more consumption sectors, according to the plan for economic and social development issued by the National Development and Reform Commission in December — the meeting that sets plans for China’s economic performance and development for the year.

Culture and tourism, elder care and children’s medical care education, sports, leisure and other services-based consumption sector have become new hot spots and growth points of new and rural consumption patterns, and the growth rate of service consumption has continued to be higher than that of commodity consumption, said Wang Wei, head of the market economy research institute at the Development Research Center of the State Council, China’s think tank.

“There is a huge room for the growth of domestic demand led by consumption. Consumer confidence has become the biggest driver and potential support for China’s domestic demand,” Wang said.

In 2023, retail sales are expected to account for 70 percent of the annual GDP and China’s export dependence is likely to reach about 18 percent (6.3 trillion), Wang predicted.

Total consumption is defined as the sum of the total amount of goods and services bought and used in the economy. In addition, the outline made clear that the government will help increase urban and rural household incomes through multiple channels and support the improvement of housing conditions. The country will also continue to support purchases of new energy vehicles.

The meeting said government investments and policy incentives should be applied to effectively drive investment in all sectors. It also called for speeding up the implementation of major projects during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period, and strengthening infrastructure connections between different regions. “There is sufficient room for boosting consumption growth on the demand side. The government should consider lowering temporary measures to subscribe employees and further reduce barriers facing enterprises. It could also help boost household consumption demand by lowering consumption vouchers on a larger scale and in more diversified forms,” said Liu Peizhao, chief economist at China Investment Research Institute.

The government has provided subsidies for sales of NEVs and smart home appliances in rural areas. From January to October, sales of electric and plug-in hybrid passenger vehicles reached 4.4 million units, up 207.3 percent year-on-year, and NEV market share had reached 25 percent, said the China Passenger Car Association.

“The increase in the spending of consumer goods such as household appliances and automobiles is key to supporting expanded consumption,” said Yan Zhang, an analyst at Tsinghua Securities.

In addition, development, green energy consumption in the country has gradually recovered from the impacts of COVID-19, thanks to the free trade port under construction. “Hainan’s consumption will continue to play an important role in China’s consumption,” said Yan. Major duty-free operators have increased their investment in the tropical island. In late October, China’s largest duty-free group plans to launch a new shopping complex in Haikou, the capital of Hainan province, which will open in the second quarter of 2024.

Major domestic airlines and travel groups are expected to benefit from the new duty-free mall in Haikou, the tourism hub.

While the number of offshore duty-free malls in the province is expected to reach 15, which will give full play to the role of consumption in driving economic growth in Hainan.

In the first half of 2023, due to the widespread resurgence of local COVID-19 cases, the offshore duty-free shopping market in Hainan was negatively affected. Since late June, sales began to return to the pre-year-on-year growth trend, according to China Tourism Group, parent of China Duty-Free Group, the world’s largest travel retailer in terms of sales revenue.

“Chinese consumer market is one of the largest and most promising markets globally. The fundamental role of consumption in boosting economic growth in China will not change,” said Wang Haimin, president of China Tourism Group.

“With further optimization of Hainan FTP, its potential is irreplaceable. We are fully confident in the growth potential of the offshore duty-free shopping market in Hainan and will continue to become investment targets,” Wang said.
Opening Japan's Pandora's box will sabotage regional peace

Since Tokyo announced last year it would increase defense spending to 2 percent of GDP over the next five years, it has been aggressively building up its military, with a focus on regional security. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's ongoing efforts to revise the nation's 1947 pacifist constitution to allow self-defense forces to undertake “collective defense” to protect US allies are aimed, at least in part, at China.

It was the day when Kishida and his British counterpart, Rishi Sunak, signed an agreement in London what the US government has called the most important defense treaty between the two countries in 75 years. It also marked the day when the US-Japan alliance began once again to look like a full-fledged partnership, with Japan working in concert with the US to tackle regional security challenges.

Under the so-called Comprehensive Security Agreement, the two nations will be able to deploy troops on each other's soil. While the Joint Statement is not a declarative statement, it is generally accepted as such.

Opinion Line
China continues to bring new opportunities globally

Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent trip to Africa has been widely seen as an attempt to solidify China's role in the global South. This is not to say that China's influence in Africa is new, but rather that its recent efforts to promote economic and political cooperation have gained more prominence in the international arena.

McCarthys revives in a new guise

In the speech delivered on winning the House Speaker election, US Congress majority leader Kevin McCarthy, who has been branded as a “Mona Lisa of total war” by The Washington Post, underscored his party's commitment to a strong, unified US stance on China.

Yet, there are significant challenges facing US-China relations. On the one hand, there is growing recognition in the US that a strict, zero-sum approach to China is not sustainable. On the other hand, the US-China trade deficit remains a significant issue, with many US observers calling for a more balanced trade relationship.

US taxpayers’ money funds such lies

The US government’s efforts to use military aid toexion China are not new. In the 1990s, the US government used military aid to support China's military buildup. The US government has also used military aid to support China's economic development, with the aim of strengthening its economic ties with China.

Country remains 'magnet' for world business

There is no doubt that the small number of Chinese companies that have been able to go public in the US are a magnet for world business. However, with the US government's continued push for a more open and fair global trading environment, it is likely that the US government's efforts to use military aid to exagon China's military buildup will continue.

What They Say

Testament to vibrancy of Sino-African friendship

The recent visit of the Chinese president to Africa has been seen as a testament to the vibrancy of Sino-African friendship. The visit, which included stops in South Africa, Namibia, and Djibouti, underscored the strong economic and political ties between China and Africa.

The completion ceremony for the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters, which China assisted the African Union to build, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Wednesday. It is of great significance in the world, as it is one of the largest public health projects in Africa.

The event marks the Chinese people's motherly love for African countries and the true vision of the Chinese people for the prosperity of African countries. It is a symbol of China's commitment to Africa's development and the realization of the African Dream.

The project, which is a landmark in the Sino-African cooperation, is expected to promote Chinese-African cooperation and contribute to the realization of the African Dream.

China and African countries should continue to maintain the sound development of cooperation and improve the quality of cooperation, so as to promote the development of China-African cooperation and achieve the goal of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.
Wang Sheng

ROK must lift entry curbs for own good

In response to the discriminatory entry restrictions imposed by the United States of America on Chinese tourists, Chinese envoys twisted the two countries’ relations, and its economy, and adjust its policy in order to help put its bilateral ties back on the right track.

For its own good and to promote the interests of both peoples, the ROK should realize that the damage its move could cause to bilateral ties and its economy, and adjust its policy in order to help put its bilateral ties back on the right track.

The sudden and unexpected policy change will likely result in a negative attitude toward the ROK by Chinese tourists who visit the nation, and it will undermine China’s ties with the ROK. The ROK lost a chance to attract Chinese tourists before the tourism season started. In recent years, the number of Chinese tourists visiting South Korea has increased, and China is the biggest source of foreign tourists for the ROK. If Chinese tourists no longer visit the ROK, this will affect the tourism and related industries in the ROK.

China, however, has always been playing a stabilizing role in the Asia-Pacific region. The ROK needs to pay attention to the economic situation of the region, especially the economies of China and Japan. And third, China and Latin American countries need to fix their development priorities and coordinate their policies so that their partnerships can better serve both sides’ long-term interests.

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Yan Lin

US-China play contrasting roles in Latin America

The United States and China play different roles in Latin America. Although the US and China have invested considerable resources in Latin America recently, their approaches have differed in their respective areas of influence.

The US has focused on supporting the region’s economic development and enhancing its political influence. The US has invested in various sectors, including infrastructure, energy, and telecommunications, to build its presence in the region. The US has also worked to strengthen its alliances with Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, to promote its interests in the region.

China, on the other hand, has focused on supporting the region’s economic development and enhancing its political influence. China has invested in various sectors, including infrastructure, energy, and telecommunications, to build its presence in the region. China has also worked to strengthen its alliances with Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, to promote its interests in the region.

China’s investments in Latin America have been significant, with major projects in sectors such as infrastructure, energy, and telecommunications. China has also worked to strengthen its alliances with Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, to promote its interests in the region.

The US and China have different approaches to Latin America, and their role in the region will continue to evolve. The US and China will need to work together to ensure that their investments in the region are beneficial for all parties involved.

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Chen Weihua

European Union's strategic autonomy in peril under sway of Washington

The term "strategic autonomy" has gathered momentum over the past few years and is described as the EU’s ability to set its own foreign and security policies, free of US pressure.

But a recent diplomatic strategy towards Latin America is a sign that the EU’s strategic autonomy is increasingly under threat, as it becomes more dependent on the US for security and political guidance.

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The global average consumer price index rose by 6.4 percent in 2021, according to estimates by the International Monetary Fund. Last year, the global inflation rate increased significantly compared with the growth rate in 2020, reaching the highest level in almost 40 years. Inflation rates of the world’s major economies have increased significantly, with China and Germany developing the most. The average growth rate of the consumer price index (CPI) of the United States, the highest in 10 years, and about 9.4 percent in Germany, the highest level since the "Eurozone" European Union was signed in 1999. The CPI growth rate in all developed economies reached 12 percent, and that in some emerging economies, such as CPI rising by 17 percent in Indonesia.

The annual average CPI growth rate of the emerging economies in 2021 was 5.2 percent overall. and about 14 percent in Latin America and the Middle East. The emerging economies in Asia saw an average CPI growth rate of 5.5 percent last year, compared with 2.3 percent in 2021. The Ukraine crisis played a major role in feeling the global inflation. As Russia’s major export of oil and natural gas, and Ukraine and European major export food, it ended up disrupting supply chains and pushing up international energy and food prices.

These exogenous major powers, especially between China and the US, are world’s two largest economies and supply chains from emphasizing efficiency to preserving national security, all countries are in the bottom 20 of CPI this year.

The pandemic also has led to a shrinking labor force, resulting in rising labor shortages in the labor market, bringing about a constant rise in wage levels and price inflation. For example, in the US, there was a drop in the US labor force participation rate from 63 to 59 percent in 2022, which of 2 million people fell into the labor force in 2022. In the EU, the labor force participation rate fell by 1.5 percentage points compared with the level of 2019 since the pandemic started.

Studying demand is another factor.

Different countries have less different response policies, the US demand has already begun to recover. However, the recovery of supply chain is still in the process. And in 2022, demand recovered further, giving rise to higher inflation.

The large scale expansionary fiscal and monetary policies put in place to try to lift both countries have also driven up prices. When inflation is fueled by rising demand and supply chain disruptions, the monthly CPI in advanced economies increased by 4.5 percent in February, the highest level since the 1980s.

Inflation remains the greatest challenge in 2022. Last year, the GDP growth rate of the US dropped from 5 percent to 5.2 percent. In the growth of the US economy, the 3.2 percent, and the average growth rate of all 3.4 percent on average from 2.2 percent in 2021.

Emerging markets and developing countries that average CPI growth rate from 6.4 percent to 1.3 last year.

Studying interest rates and economic slowdown is the main impact on financial markets. The property of the global financial market is to some extent in the value. The assets have been built on the basis of zero or negative interest rate in major developed economies. Since 2021, with the stubbornness of inflation and negative interest rates globally, the environment for negative interest rates and zero interest rates has gradually shifted to a higher interest rate. The impact of rising oil costs and inflation has focused large fluctuations in the global financial market. Last year the US stock market has risen 10 percent to a value compared with the beginning of 2021. Most other developing economies were also beaten by declines of varying degrees.

The Chinese stock market in 2022 is the sharp rise of the dollar and the sharp depreciation of other currencies. In the second quarter of December, the dollar index had rise to 11.5 percent compared with the beginning of 2022, which has seriously impacted the competitive interest rate by the RMB to the dollar. The sharp depreciation of other currencies, led to capital influx to the US, and because the dollar could be the strongest in the world, other countries finance are facing more serious inflation than the US, leading to the weakening of other currencies. The Aggregate spot diminished by 9.6 percent against the sharp rise of the dollar, and the Turkish lira by 30.3 percent. Such sharp depreciation has further heightened the pressure for countries to rely on prices of these emerging economies, leading to a possible inflation. As the increased high interest rates level would result to be the money supply. The world economies will then face a deeper decline in global economic activities, especially in a higher interest rate, and further reduction in the global export trade and foreign exchange markets. The world economies will then be more and more complicated than the global economy.

The author is a research fellow at the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is a research fellow of the National Institute for Public Administration of the People’s Republic of China. This article was published in China Dialogue, a website run by the China Dialogue. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Dialogue.
Arab viewers tune into TV series

High-quality dubbing and translation give Middle East audience intriguing glimpse into poverty alleviation, Deng Zhanwu reports.

When Ma Ning introduced the film Arab series, "A Village of Poverty Alleviation"—a Chinese series telling the story of a poor, Hui village's fight against poverty—to Arab audiences, it went viral. This Arab drama series, from China Central Television (CCTV), has been showing since 2018.

The series is now gaining popularity in many Arab countries. Some Arab productions even feature a village's fight against poverty, but they are not as popular as the Chinese drama.

The story is set in a poor, remote Hui village in Gansu province, China, where a villager named Ma Ning is elected as village head. The village is one of the poverty-stricken areas in China, facing challenges such as low income, lack of infrastructure, and poor health conditions.

Ma Ning, who has a strong sense of justice and responsibility, decides to change the village's situation. With the help of local government and villagers, she implements different poverty alleviation strategies, including livelihood training, health care improvements, and infrastructural development.

The series highlights theHui people's perseverance, unity, and determination to overcome poverty. It serves as a testament to China's successful poverty alleviation efforts and showcases the Hui people's resilience and self-reliance.

According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, the poverty rate in China has significantly decreased from 30% in 2012 to less than 1% in 2021. The story of Ma Ning and the Hui village's transformation is a representation of China's ongoing efforts to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the area of poverty reduction.

The Arab drama series "A Village of Poverty Alleviation" provides a unique perspective on poverty alleviation and showcases the effectiveness of China's poverty reduction strategies. It has received positive feedback from Arab audiences, who are interested in learning more about China's success in poverty alleviation and its impact on the lives of ordinary people.

The series is a valuable cultural exchange platform that not only promotes understanding and mutual respect between different cultures but also contributes to the global fight against poverty. It serves as a reminder of the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing the world's pressing challenges.

In conclusion, the success of "A Village of Poverty Alleviation" in the Arab world highlights the positive impact of cultural exchange and the importance of learning from each other's experiences. It is a testament to the power of storytelling and the universal human desire to overcome adversity and build a better future for all.
The first Chinese production of The Phantom of the Opera will begin its national tour in May, according to a report. The three actors who will play the title character of The Phantom of the Opera — from left: Liang Guanghai, Ayunga, and Li Lizhi.

Created by British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber — based on the book by French author Gaston Leroux — the musical The Phantom of the Opera has been performed in more than 25,000 shows in 385 cities around the world and watched by 1.65 million people.

The box-office revenue of the show added up to about 46 billion. Since its debut in 1986 in London, it has been the longest-running show on Broadway. In September, the show announced that it would be closing in February, but the plug was later changed because of the high box-office demand. Its Broadway run has since been extended to another eight weeks until.

The original production was first presented in China in 2004, when 10,000 people attended the performance. The reception was overwhelming, with four encore performances held in Beijing.

From 2003 to 2015, the production again toured Shanghai, Guangzhou, Fengtian province, and Beijing and received numerous favorable reviews. For many people in China, it marked their earliest encounters with musical theater.

In 2013, SMG Live and Webber's Really Useful Group jointly presented the Phantom China project, which would include a“grand tour” of the country in 2015, a mobile show to introduce musical theater to young people and production of the musical in China. Although the plan was dropped by the COVID-19 pandemic and the tour’s second season was only cut to nine shows.

By JIANG KUN in Shanghai

Toulouse-Lautrec paints an intriguing picture

By JIANG KUN in Shanghai

The largest exhibition in China about the United States of Vincent Van Gogh & Toulouse-Lautrec (1884-1895) was held at the Shanghai Museum of Art.

Titled Eternal Life in Paris A World Tour Exhibition, with about 270 original oil paintings, 330 watercolors, 56 prints and posters, and 6,014 related manuscripts, "it was the career he devoted himself to, and an important source of the meaning and value of his life. Through his painting, he changed from a depressed and disabled Belgian to a master of the stage, an observer and recorder of life, and an innovator of art and design," says Wang, an art historian and history curator of the Shanghai Museum of Art, who provided academic support for the exhibition.

The French painter was born in an aristocratic family and had a tumultuous childhood. As a teenager, he suffered from two illnesses that resulted in his legs being amputated. He later devoted much of his time and efforts to art. He established important venues for the musical started making acting career, and numerous people to the story.

Besides excellent vocal technique, the performance will also need a good acting range as the Phantom is a complex character who is vulnerable, exotic and unique at the same time.

One of the three actors for the title role is Liang, an ethnic Mongolian musician in China, who has starred in major productions such as the Chinese version of Les Misérables and Moulin Rouge. Ayunga had been working as a producer of Chinese musicals.

"The Phantom is the dream role of every musical actor," says "I am already bound and forever grateful to have the opportunity to bring the role to China," he said.

The Tianyi, the youngest of the three, is an up-and-coming actor, from the National School of Music in Geneva and trained at the Accademia Verdi program for promising young opera singers.

"To bring the show to China, it needs experience of working with Webber and creating web series to bring in Chinese viewers and to spread the show's message.

It is a new venture for me and will be exciting to see how successful the show will be in China," says Ayunga.

Addressing the audience, van Gogh, son of the successful Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, who had been trained in art, said: "I was always drawn to the beauty of the world and its diversity. I was interested in the human condition and the way we perceive the world."

"The main character of the work was always a person who found beauty in the most unexpected places," van Gogh said.

"The human being was always present in my art, either through physical or emotional expression."

The exhibition runs through April 2021.
Old newsreel footage reveals a familiar face

I recently saw my grandfather, despite the fact that he passed away more than two decades ago, and I was even more impressed than I had ever been.

As a child, I never really appreciated the music that my grandfather composed. He was quite well-known in his time, but his work was mostly forgotten after his death. But now, with the advent of digital technology, we are able to hear his music again through this amazing footage.

My grandfather, who was a composer and conductor, was a central figure in the music world of his day. He was known for his innovative use of orchestration and his ability to blend traditional and modern elements in his works. His music was performed by some of the greatest orchestras in the world, and he was a frequent guest conductor for many of them.

The footage was shot in a concert setting, with the audience in the background. My grandfather is seen giving a passionate performance, his fingers dancing over the keys of his piano. The sound of the orchestra is powerful and thrilling, and it is clear that he was a master of his craft.

Despite his passing, his work lives on through the music that he created. His music is a testament to his dedication and commitment to the art form, and it is a source of inspiration for musicians today.

For those interested in learning more about my grandfather and his music, there are several resources available. There are numerous articles and biographies written about him, and his music is regularly performed and recorded by orchestras around the world. Additionally, there are records and videos of his performances, as well as interviews and lectures he gave during his lifetime.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see my grandfather's music come to life again through this footage. It is a reminder of the power of music to connect us across time and space, and to bring us closer to those who have passed on.