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HO IAT SENG VISITED THE NON-GAMBLING FACILITIES OF THE SIX CASINO OPERATORS TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFICATION

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LVS UPBEAT ON STRONG RECOVERY IN MACAU: GOLDSTEIN

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ASIA TRAVEL HOTSPOTS QUIET AS CHINESE TOURISTS STAY AWAY

▲ P6



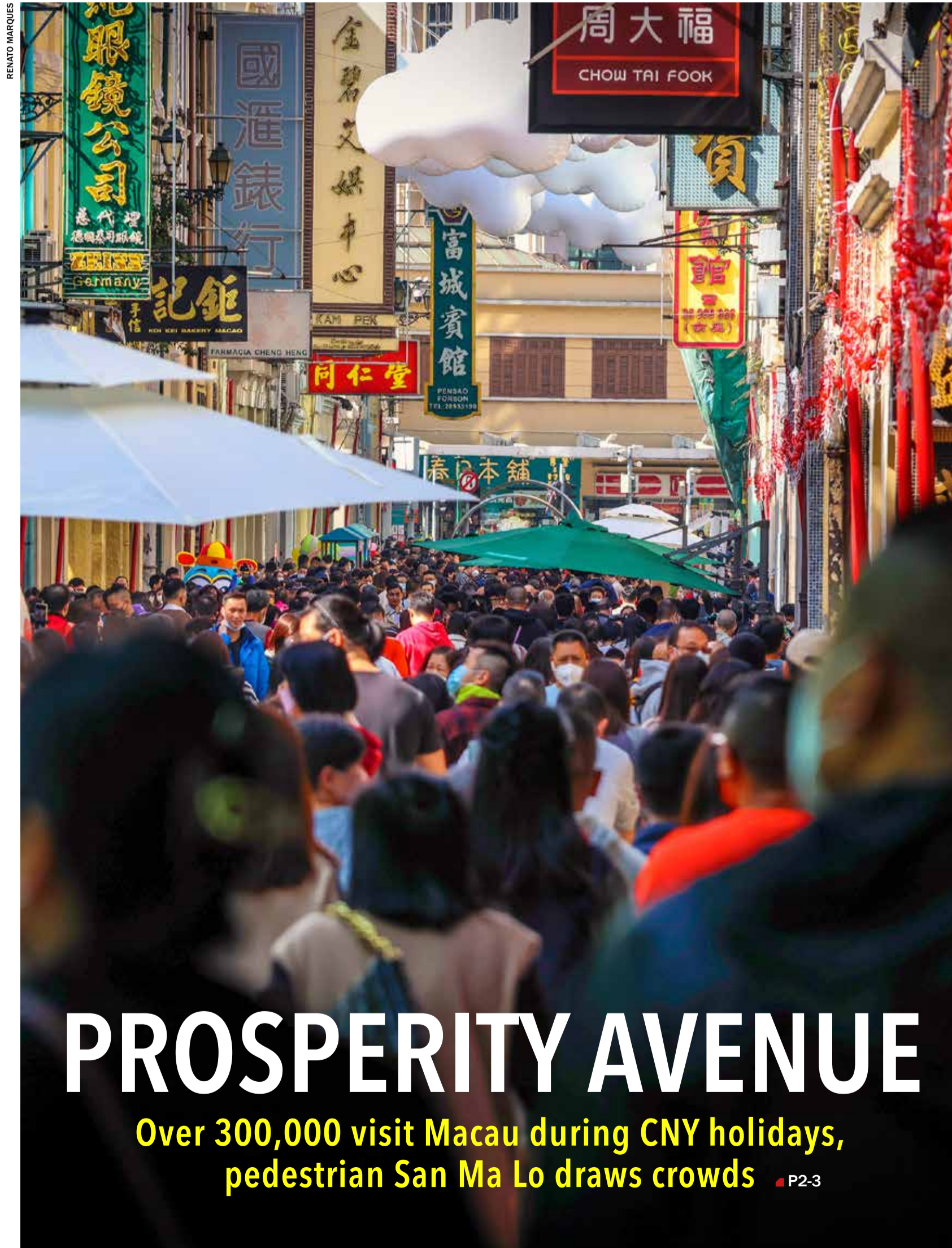
China A Chinese official said yesterday that eight people have died in the sinking of a cargo ship in waters between Japan and South Korea. There were 22 crew members — 14 from China and eight from Myanmar — on the 6,551-ton Jin Tian. It sank early Wednesday about 160 kilometers southwest of Nagasaki, Japan.



Japan successfully launched a rocket carrying a government intelligence-gathering satellite on a mission to watch movements at military sites in North Korea and improve natural disaster response. The H2A rocket, launched by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., successfully lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan, carrying the IGS-Radar 7 reconnaissance satellite as part of Tokyo's effort to build up its military capability.



Australians marked the 235th anniversary of British colonization yesterday with a public holiday that evokes anger at Indigenous injustice, focusing national attention on a new government push to acknowledge Australia's first inhabitants in the constitution. The government joined several large corporations in allowing staff the choice of taking the holiday, in recognition of growing public unease at celebrating the 1788 hoisting of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove.



PROSPERITY AVENUE

Over 300,000 visit Macau during CNY holidays, pedestrian San Ma Lo draws crowds

▲ P2-3

GAMING

LVS upbeat on strong recovery in Macau: Goldstein

RENATO MARQUES

ROB Goldstein, chairman and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS), said the group is seeing “strong” momentum in its Macau operations during the Chinese New Year (CNY) period, after authorities dropped most Covid-related travel restrictions.

“We are past the break-even point; we are now in the positive territory,” stated Goldstein, referring to the group’s performance during the week-long CNY holiday. “We are in very positive territory and keep moving upside,” he said as quoted by GGR Asia.

Goldstein revealed that customer volume was so high during the festive period, that “some patrons cannot get a seat” at table games. Tables games “are running at 95 percent to 100 percent capacity, and it’s the same on slots and electronic table games,” he added.

According to LVS’ CEO, “If things keep going as they are going, we will be in a very happy place in 2023, especially in the summer and the second half of the year, as normal travel patterns resume, Hong Kong gets back on speed.”

He also sees “a lot of growth potential” in mainland China.

His comments were made yesterday [Macau time] during a conference call with investment analysts following the firm’s announcement of last year’s fourth-quarter results.



LVS REPORTS

‘NARROWING’ LOSSES IN Q4

The parent of local company Sands China Limited, LVS continued to report net losses at the end of 2022 as shown by the fourth quarter (Q4) report.

Nonetheless, the Q4 report shows losses have been narrowing especially when compared year-on-year with 2021, thus showing signs of recovery.

With its Macau operations affected by travel restrictions, the

company hopes for a recovery and good results for 2023.

“While travel restrictions and reduced visitation continued to impact our financial performance during the quarter, we remain confident in a robust recovery in travel and tourism spending across our markets and deeply enthusiastic about the opportunity to welcome more guests back to our properties throughout 2023 and in the years ahead,” said Robert G.

Goldstein, chairman and chief executive officer of LVS. He noted the grant of a new concession for the upcoming 10 years, making the company “deeply confident in the future of Macau and consider Macau an ideal market for additional capital investment.”

The company showed a Q4 net revenue of USD1.12 billion (MOP9.04B), an increase of 10.8% from the same quarter in 2021.

Net losses from continuing operations in the fourth quarter of 2022 totaled USD269 million (MOP2.17B), less than the figure recorded y-o-y of USD315 million (MOP2.64B) in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Consolidated adjusted property EBITDA (Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) in Q4 2022 was USD222 million (MOP1.79B), some MOP234 million less than in the same quarter in 2021 (MOP2.03B).

Still, the consolidated hold-normalized adjusted property EBITDA increased from USD234 million (MOP1.89B) in Q4 2021, to USD329 million (MOP2.65B) in 2022.

The results account for the full-year 2022 operating loss of USD792 million (MOP6.39B), which represents an increase of MOP830 million when compared to 2021 (USD689 million or MOP5.56B) in 2021.

SCL saw a 31.7% decrease in total net revenues compared to the fourth quarter of 2021 to USD439 million (MOP3.54B), while the net loss was USD348 million (MOP2.81B), significantly higher than the MOP1.98B registered in the fourth quarter of 2021.

In general terms, SCL’s 2022 full-year net revenues shrank 44.2% compared y-o-y with the full year 2021.

GAMING

The market is ‘healthier’ without junkets, Wilfred Wong says

RENATO MARQUES

SANDS China Limited (SCL) president and executive director Wilfred Wong thinks the local gaming market is now “healthier” without the gaming promoters, also known as junkets, but that it will not reach the same level as before the pandemic.

“The junkets are no longer there. We are relying

mainly on mass and premium mass [markets]. So, the GGR (Gross Gaming Revenue) is healthy but not at the same level as before the pandemic,” Wong told TDM during an interview.

The SCL president also expressed optimism about the group’s performance in 2023, noting the recovery might happen earlier than expected.

“I think the trend is healthy, and we are optimistic about the results because the pandemic is over, and Macau is a preferred destination for tourism. So, we are quite happy with what’s happened. It’s probably happening faster than expected,” he said.

Taking advantage of Macau’s border reopening, SCL will this year

focus on the resumption of non-gaming entertainment. It will also be a push forward for sports and large-scale events, which the reopening of the Hong Kong border has made more possible, said Wong.

The border reopening has also contributed to a business recovery of about 50% of the one seen before the pandemic, according to figures



aired by Wong.

Such optimism is grounded in the fact that during this week’s lunar

new year holidays, the group’s hotel occupancy has reached maximum capacity, he said.

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RENATO MARQUES



SAN MA LO WALKING LANE TO RETURN FEB. 4 & 5

After a packed three days for the San Ma Lo pedestrian zone, which attracted 93,000 people, the government will bring back the initiative on Feb. 4 and 5, with the latter day commonly regarded as the Chinese Valentine's Day. The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the main organizing body, said the event's return will again transform 450 meters of the main road into an urban forest, presenting multifaceted activities, featured food and beverage offerings, cultural merchandise and intangible cultural heritage shows.

RETAIL FIREWORKS 40% MORE EXPENSIVE THAN LAST YEAR

Despite an average price rise of 40%, retail firecrackers and fireworks have remained a popular festive purchase during the Lunar New Year holidays. Vendors have blamed the price rise on the government's restrictive import quota. The mass outbreak of Covid-19 before the holiday has also impacted production. Nonetheless, the crowd was about 40% bigger than last year. Vendors have been satisfied with revenues, having sold about 70% of their stock. Vendors hope the government will allow larger imports next year.

SOME TOURISM DISTRICT RESTAURANTS SEE FOUR-FOLD BUSINESS BOUNCE

A restaurateur in a tourism district said on the third day of the Lunar New Year alone his business garnered four times as much revenue as the average of the previous year. The mean waiting time for a table at the restaurant was 20 minutes, he added. Souvenir snack shops also saw high demand. Although extra stock had been kept on hand, the first three days of the Lunar New Year saw some shelves already emptied. One shop owner said he has offered MOP3000 extra remuneration to incentivize his sales team to work during the holidays.

TOURISM

Visitor figures during CNY holidays exceed forecast

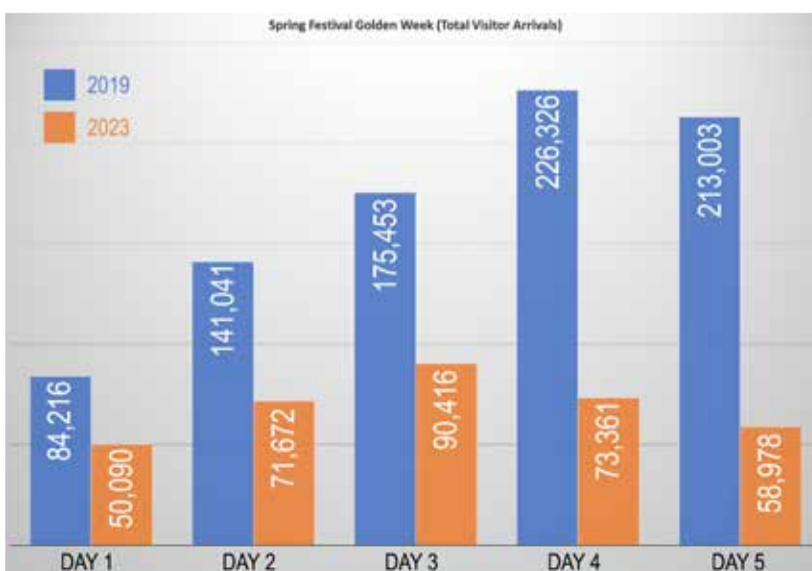
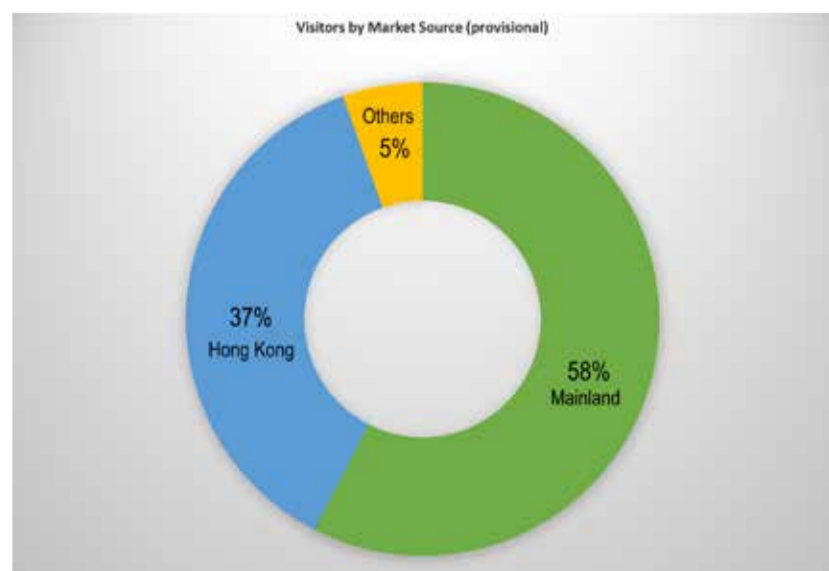
RENATO MARQUES

THE number of tourists entering Macau during the Spring Festival Golden Week has exceeded the Macao Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) expectations and forecasts, reaching a daily average of 68,903.4 visitors in the first five days. Initially, the MGTO officials had forecast a daily average of around 48,000 visitors per day

with a potential peak of around 60,000 visitors during the first three days of the lunar new year. Although the results show a significant increase compared with previous years in which, under the pandemic-related border restrictions, many were unwilling or unable to visit Macau, the figure represents just 41% of arrivals recorded pre-pandemic when, in the same given period, 840,039 visitors

entered Macau at a daily average of 168,007.8 visitors/day. The third day of the lunar new year (Jan. 24) saw the most visitors when 90,416 people entered Macau, one-third more than local tourism authorities had initially predicted. The mainland is the biggest visitor source market, representing 57.6% of all entries, followed by Hong Kong, accounting for 37%. Visitors from other places, including Taiwan

and other countries, accounted for only 5.4%. Provisional figures from yesterday at 5 p.m. (the fifth day of the lunar new year) show a slightly decreasing trend compared to the peak on the third day (Jan. 24) but are still above those registered in the first two days and well above the estimate. The fact that the Spring Festival Golden Week started on a Sunday facilitated a visitor influx even in the days before the official holiday season, with a similar outcome expected at end of the week. This is a factor particularly relevant for those traveling to Macau from neighboring cities for a one-day trip. In this sense, the visitor figure will likely remain high, at least until Sunday (Jan. 29).



TOP OFFICIALS VISIT CITY TO SEND CNY GREETINGS

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng visited the non-gambling facilities of the six casino operators Wednesday, while the five secretaries visited their topical facilities across the city.

During the visit, Ho heard from gambling concessionaires' representatives about their current situation as well as figures on visitors and hotel guests, information about the future development of non-gambling elements and working conditions.

Ho emphasized the importance of the non-gambling elements. He said with a growth in tourism, these elements will become popular and will be major factors that appeal to tourists. Such elements will also help support the city's development, especially in the areas of leisure and entertainment.

The head of the government also reminded casino operators to fully comply with the contract they signed with the government for the concession. Not only should they fulfill corporate social responsibility, but they should also ensure employment and vertical career mobility for the local work-



force, he said.

Ho visited the MGM Cotai, the City of Dreams, the Wynn Palace, the Grand Lisboa Palace, the Venetian Macao and the Galaxy Macau.

On the same day, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, inspected municipal facilities such as markets and hawkers areas, and the road facility maintenance workers of the Municipal Affairs Bureau.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, met communal business leaders and visited

businesses near the Inner Harbour district. The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, inspected several border checkpoints.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, visited two hospitals, public housing estates, and daycare centers. The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, visited ferry terminals, the airport, bus stations, light rail stations and the Inner Harbour to inspect operational conditions of these facilities during the peak season. **AL**

OBITUARY

JOURNALIST ISABEL MENESES PASSES AWAY IN MACAU

FORMER reporter at TDM television and Ponto Final newspaper and former Public Relations at Leal Senado and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (now IAM), Isabel Meneses, passed away aged 54 in Macau last Friday.

According to the newspaper Ponto Final, the journalist was in Macau for about three months preparing a documentary report on the Covid-19 pandemic in Asia for a Portuguese media outlet at the time of her sudden death.

The Portuguese daily cites lawyer and former publisher Frederico Rato who recalled Meneses as "a nice and educated person who was pleasant to talk to and hang out with." He said that as a journalist "she was an outstanding professional, very knowledgeable, discreet and she had a great sense of ethics and professionalism."

Also in comments to Ponto Final, Jorge Silva, journalist and managing editor at

TDM-TV, recalled her capacity to easily adjust to Macau reality and highlighted an interview Meneses conducted with the writer Umberto Eco in 1993 as well as her news coverage on the Oklahoma bombing two years later.

"A great journalist and professional. It is with great sadness that I see her go," Silva added.

Friends organized a requiem mass in tribute to her that will take place today at the Macau Cathedral Church at 6 p.m. **RM**



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RETAIL

Generational mindsets are changing, so should brand images

ANTHONY LAM

MATURE brands should take the younger generation's shopping habits into account in their development plans, Calvin Chen, Senior Sales & Marketing Manager and Senior Brand Ambassador for Louis XIII, said at a recent business event.

By 2025, half the market's main clientele will be millennials and Generation Z. "It is a critical market – not just for China – but for the entire world," he said, adding that he was not only referring to the top 1% of the wealthy population, but the next 10% to 20%.

Using a stereotypical image, he asked the audience to engage in a mental experiment by associating various items with cognac, Louis XIII's first product. At the end, he revealed most people usually imagine a bearded middle-aged man sitting in an armchair by the



Calvin Chen, Senior Sales & Marketing Manager and Senior Brand Ambassador, Louis XIII

fireplace in a wooden or rocky bungalow, sipping the drink from a glass in his hand.

Chen then critiqued this stereotypical image by noting the current target audience of Louis XIII – the millennials and the Generation Z – does not fit into that imagery, but is more chic, more tech friendly, and engages in se-

lective spending.

Nevertheless, he said the brand is not moving away from the more mature clients, but is expanding its target audience to include the younger spenders.

Chen next discussed some of the identifying characteristics of the new shoppers or spenders. He said they will not, or will not

only, see how big the price tag is – although they can afford the products – but will also examine how socially responsible the brand is, including the brand's carbon footprint in producing and delivering a product, as well as how environmentally sustainable the production line is.

"They will look at how the grapes are grown for the wine or cognac they drink," Chen said. "They will see if the grapes are grown sustainably and if the vineyard does any harm to the neighborhood."

In terms of technological awareness, Chen said his five-year-old daughter once picked up his smartphone and started using some functions on it in almost no time, but it took him nearly two hours to teach his parents how to text on WhatsApp.

Because the younger generations are more tech-savvy, it can more easily delve deep into the background and practices of a

company than many from older generations can, Chen noted.

Combined with their high education levels, they can easily google information and understand much more about a company than their ancestors. "Before the internet search era, it was almost impossible for us to know what a company was up to," Chen said.

On the positive side, Chen said, companies have a good means of marketing positive images. Nonetheless, bad news can spread in a matter of seconds.

However, with the nature of technology being speedy, the brand ambassador said there are actually pros for brands. "When bad things happen, brands can manage the spread in no time," he said. News swiftly comes under the gaze of brand people so that they can respond quickly.

Moreover, newer generations treasure a brand's qualities rather than whether owning a brand's products will make them "better or wealthier" than their counterparts.

In conclusion, the brand executive said newer generations are purchasing high-end products that fit and show their characters, instead of showing off how rich they are, which was a common mentality in the 1980s and 1990s. It is a display of an attitude or a way of life, Chen added.

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The very few: A Chinese tourist poses for a picture at Tha Phae Gate in Chiang Mai province, northern Thailand

CNY

ASIA TRAVEL HOTSPOTS QUIET AS CHINESE TOURISTS STAY AWAY

TASSANEE VEJPONGSA & ELAINE KURTENBACH, CHIANG MAI

JUST a handful of Chinese visitors were posing for photos and basking in the sun this week in the market and plazas near Chiang Mai's ancient Tha Phae Gate, one of many tourist hotspots still waiting for millions of Chinese travelers to return.

The beaches and temples of destinations like Bali and Chiang Mai are the busiest they have been since the pandemic struck three years ago, but they're still relatively quiet.

Still, Chanatip Pansomboon, a soft drinks seller in the Chinatown district of Chiang Mai, a scenic riverside city in northern Thailand, was upbeat. He trusts that with the number of flights from China steadily increasing, it's only a matter of time.

"If a lot of them can return, it will be great as they have buying power," Chanatip said.

The expected resumption of group tours from China is likely to bring far more visitors. For now, it's only individual travelers who can afford to pay, with flights costing more than triple what they normally do, who are ventu-

ring abroad.

This includes people like Chen Jiao Jiao, a doctor who was posing for pictures with her children in front of Tha Phae Gate's red brick wall, escaping the damp chill of Shanghai to enjoy Chiang Mai's warm sun and cool breezes on her first overseas vacation since the virus surfaced in China in early 2020.

"After three years of pandemic and a severe winter, now it's opening up," Chen said. "For we Chinese, the first choice is to visit Chiang Mai because the weather is warm and the people here are very warmhearted."

In 2019, 1.2 million Chinese tourists visited Chiang Mai, generating 15 billion baht (\$450 million) of tourism-related income, money sorely missed across the region as countries shut their borders to most travel.

Group tours are due to resume from Feb. 6, but the number of tourists who will come will depend on how many flights are operating, said Sulladda Sarutilawan, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Chiang Mai office. She said the hope is for about 500,000-600,000 visitors from China this year.

Of course more Chinese

would like to visit, said Li Wei, a businessman from Shanghai, as he visited the ancient wall with his extended family of seven.

"Since visas and flights are not back to normal yet, maybe tourists will come in the next three months," Li said.

Far to the south, on the tropical Indonesian resort island of Bali, the shops and restaurants — some decorated with festive red lanterns and red and gold envelopes used for Lunar New Year cash presents — were still relatively empty.

Bali's first post-pandemic direct flight from China arrived on Sunday, bringing 210 tourists from the southern city of Shenzhen who were greeted with garlands of marigolds and dance performances.

"Before COVID, we worked with travel agents who handled Chinese tourists who brought us guests from China everyday, but since they closed down there are far fewer guests," said Made Sutarma, a seafood restaurant owner in Bali's Jimbaran area.

After three long years of almost no customers, Nyoman Wisana, the general manager of a Chinese restaurant, said he was "very happy" to see Chinese tourists return.

Fewer than 23,000 Chinese

tourists visited Bali from January-November of last year and only a quarter of the island's 80 tour operators who mostly handle Chinese clients are operating, said Putu Winastira, chairman of the Bali Association of Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies.

"Actually, we're very concerned about this," he said.

Indonesia is developing programs to attract more Chinese tourists, including exploring starting direct flights from major cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, he said.

Those who did visit this week seemed elated after enduring many months of strict pandemic controls that put international travel beyond the reach of almost all Chinese.

"I'm feeling fantastic since I haven't gone abroad and haven't come to Southeast Asia to spend my holidays for the last three years," said Li Zhao-long, a tourist enjoying a day at the beach. "Bali is a very beautiful place so I'm very happy coming here."

Closer to home, casinos in the gambling enclave of Macau and popular tourist spots in Hong Kong drew bigger crowds than usual but nothing compared to the days

before COVID-19. Normally, places like Hong Kong's scenic Ocean Park and Wong Tai Sin temple, with its Nine-Dragon Wall, would be packed with visitors from the Chinese mainland.

Leo Guo, who works in the travel industry, brought his wife, daughter, sister and parents for a week filled with visits to Hong Kong Disneyland, Victoria Peak and the skyline-studded harbor, and of course, shopping.

"For mainland Chinese, Hong Kong is a special city different from other Chinese cities," said Lee. "It's a top destination for us."

Further afield in Australia, Sydney-based travel agent Eric Wang said the high cost of travel still appears to be keeping Chinese away even as Chinese airlines increase flights.

Chinese accounted for nearly a third of all tourism spending in Australia before the pandemic, with more than 1.4 million visiting in 2019. Australia, like Japan, the U.S. and some other countries, is requiring visitors coming from China to take COVID-19 tests before departure. But Wang, who works for CBT Holidays, a company specializing in travel to and from China, said he didn't view that as a serious obstacle.

"It's more about the airlines, because flights are not back to normal frequency yet so air fares are like five times more expensive," he said.

MDT/AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Fallen rocks after a landslide are seen on a road to Moxi Township in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province early yesterday

the U.S. Geological Survey.

Although 5.5 magnitude quakes are not particularly strong, shallow temblors are more likely to cause damage.

The official Xinhua News Agency said about 100 rescuers were on their way to the site, but it gave no details on their work expertise or duties. China typically mobilizes firefighters, paramilitary troops and local volunteers as first responders to earthquakes and wildfires in remote mountainous regions with limited roads.

A 6.8 magnitude quake struck the same region in September, killing more than 90 people, injuring over 400 and destroying or damaging thousands of buildings.

The China Earthquake Networks Center gave the magnitude as 5.6 and depth at 11 kilometers. After-shocks followed in the area, including one registering magnitude 4.9.

Roughly 200 kilometers from the provincial capital Chengdu, Luding is located in the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau, where tectonic plates grind up against each other.

China's deadliest earthquake in recent years was a 7.9 magnitude quake in 2008 that killed nearly 90,000 people in Sichuan. The temblor devastated towns, schools and rural communities outside Chengdu, leading to years of rebuilding with more quake-resistant materials. **MDT/AP**

US COURTS

EX-STUDENT GETS 8 YEARS FOR SPYING FOR CHINESE GOVERNMENT

A former Chicago graduate student was sentenced to eight years in prison yesterday [Macau time] for spying for the Chinese government by gathering information on scientists and engineers in the U.S. with knowledge about aerospace and satellite technology.

A federal jury in Chicago in September convicted Ji Chaoqun, 31, of conspiracy to act as an agent of China's Ministry of State Security without notifying the U.S. attorney general, acting as a spy in the U.S., and lying on a government form about his contacts with foreign agencies.

The charges alleged that Ji was targeted by agents with the Ministry of State Security, or MSS, shortly before he came to the U.S. in 2013 to study engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

After traveling back to China for the winter break, prosecutors said, Ji was "wined and dined" by his MSS handlers. He was eventually given a top secret contract in which he swore an oath of allegiance to the agency's cause, agreeing to "devote the rest of my life to state security," according to prosecutors.

Ji ultimately gathered background reports on eight U.S. citizens, all born in Taiwan or China, with careers in science and technology industries, including several who specialized in the aerospace field, prosecutors said. Seven worked for U.S. defense contractors.

He sent the reports back to his handlers in a zipped attachment that was falsely labeled as sets of "midterm exam" questions, Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Jonas said at Ji's trial. **MDT/AP**

TIBETAN PLATEAU

Shallow 5.5 quake sets off rockslides in Sichuan province

RESCUERS were headed to the site of a magnitude 5.5 earthquake yesterday in a region of southwestern China at the base of the Tibetan plateau that is prone to deadly quakes. Roads into the area have been

blocked by rockslides, although there have been no reported casualties or other damage.

The temblor struck at 3:49 a.m. at a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers in Sichuan province's mountainous Luding county, according to

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USA

Monterey Park, an Asian cultural hub, shaken by shooting

TERRY TANG,
MONTEREY PARK (CALIF.)

FOR decades, Monterey Park has been a haven for Asian immigrants seeking to maintain a strong cultural identity — and a culinary heaven worth visiting for anybody near Los Angeles craving authentic Asian cuisine.

Signs across the vibrant suburb are written in English and Chinese. Families raise bilingual children. And residents in their golden years enjoy karaoke, the Chinese tile game mah jong and — as the outside world learned last week after a horrific mass shooting — ballroom dancing.

“It’s a very quiet, humble place. And we mind our own,” says Denny Mu, a second-generation American who runs the popular Mandarin Noodle House started by his grandfather.

That sense of peace was shattered after a gunman killed 11 people in their 50s, 60s and 70s and wounded nine others last Saturday during a Lunar New Year celebration at the Star Dance Ballroom. But while residents of the tight-knit community work through the trauma — just as they did during the coronavirus pandemic, when anti-Asian sentiment rose nationwide — the tragedy has only sharpened their feelings about what makes Monterey Park so special, and worth protecting.

Kristina Hayes, who started staging tango events at Star Ballroom when the studio reopened after the pandemic, said dance is “hugely important” for Monterey Park’s seniors.

“It’s a pastime, hobby and even competitive — but in the best way possible.”

Mu, whose restaurant is known for its scallion pancakes and beef noodle soup, said he has no plans of leaving Monterey Park, and believes the slowdown in visitors over the past week will be fleeting.

“It’s the food mecca, especially if you like any sort of Asian food,” said Mu, who is Chinese.

Monterey Park’s transformation to a predominantly Asian city was the brainchild



of Fred Hsieh, a Chinese immigrant who was also a savvy real estate developer. He is credited with first coining the city’s nickname of the “Chinese Beverly Hills.” In the ‘70s and ‘80s, he used that phrase in Asian newspapers abroad to lure people from Hong Kong and Taiwan to the land of opportunity. He cleverly highlighted the city’s area code, 818. In Chinese culture, the number eight is seen by some as a symbol of prosperity and good fortune.

When Hsieh died in 1999, Monterey Park had at the time become the only U.S. city with an Asian-majority population, with 65% Asian residents, according to an Associated Press obituary. Today, nearly 70% of the residents are Asian, mostly of Chinese descent.

As residents deal with the shock and grief that the shooting brought, they hope people will continue to see the city of about 60,000 for the vibrant community it is.

The backstory of Mandarin Noodle House, which at 43 years old remains one of the oldest restaurants in Monterey Park, is the story of many Asian immigrant families who have stayed faithful

to the community and elevated it beyond some cookie-cutter suburb. For decades, the city has been revered as the flagship location in Southern California for authentic Asian food, particularly Chinese cuisine from various regions.

For the 36-year-old Mu, the regular customers at Mandarin Noodle House are one reason he can’t see himself leaving Monterey Park.

“It’s nice to go to a restaurant and ask the customer ‘How was your day? How was your kid’s dance recital? ... All that stuff,’” Mu said. “It’s all about community.”

Hayes said her specialty over the years has been creating dance programs for seniors, especially for those who have lost mobility or have dementia. Some dedicated dancers who came to the ballroom showed up after work and on the weekends.

“In the Asian American community across the country, seniors have kept ballroom dancing alive,” said Hayes, who is white.

Betina Hsieh, a second-generation Taiwanese American and an associate professor at Cal State Long Beach’s College of Educa-

tion, knows at least one person whose parents went to Star Ballroom. Dance halls and churches in Asian communities have traditionally been safe spaces for older people.

“There is a big separation or tension between immigrant parents and people like me who are second generation,” Hsieh said. “Our families bought into this idea of helping us kids assimilate. But, they remained in their ethnic enclaves and mingled among themselves, which means they have limited spaces to gather as they age.”

Kevin Mok, 32 and of Chinese descent, runs Japanese dessert shop Mr. Obanyaki with his parents and brother. Since the shooting, he said he still feels “there’s a sense of fear in this community,” because there are less people on the streets.

“It’s quieter than usual,” Mok said, while eating lunch at Mu’s restaurant. “I feel like my sales have dropped like 15 to 20% at night. Hopefully, it’ll come back.”

The gunman — a 72-year-old Asian man known in the community — shot and killed himself. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1945 AUSCHWITZ DEATH CAMP LIBERATED



The Red Army has liberated the Nazis’ biggest concentration camp at Auschwitz in south-western Poland.

According to reports, hundreds of thousands of Polish people, as well as Jews from a number of other European countries, have been held prisoner there in appalling conditions and many have been killed in the gas chambers.

Few details have emerged of the capture of Auschwitz, which has gained a reputation as the most notorious of the Nazi death camps.

Some reports say the German guards were given orders several days ago to destroy the crematoria and gas chambers. Tens of thousands of prisoners — those who were able to walk — have been moved out of the prison and forced to march to other camps in Germany.

Before they went they were told they were being exchanged in Poland for prisoners of war and made to write cheerful letters to relatives at home telling them what was happening.

According to the Polish Ministry of Information, the gas chambers are capable of killing 6,000 people a day.

Another report from Poland told of mass arrests in the village of Garbatka near Radom in the early hours of one morning in August 1942. Workmen were accused of plotting to blow up a local factory. Twenty were executed on the spot, the rest were sent to Auschwitz.

Since its establishment in 1940, only a handful of prisoners have escaped to tell of the full horror of the camp.

In October last year, a group of Polish prisoners mounted an attack on their German guards. The Germans reportedly machine-gunned the barracks killing 200 Polish prisoners. The Poles succeeded in killing six of their executioners.

When the Red Army arrived at the camp they found only a few thousand prisoners remaining. They had been too sick to leave.

The capture of Auschwitz comes as the Red Army has made important advances on three fronts: in East Prussia to the north, in western Poland as well as Silesia in eastern Germany. Fighting is continuing around the historic Polish western city of Poznan.

The Polish capital, Warsaw, was liberated a week ago after five-and-a-half years of German occupation.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Although few details of the liberation of Auschwitz were given in the British press at the time, it had gained a reputation as the worst of the German concentration camps.

On 8 May 1945 a State commission compiled by the Soviets with advice from Polish, French and Czechoslovak experts revealed the full horror of conditions at the camp.

Nearly 3,000 survivors of various nationalities were questioned and on the basis of their evidence the report estimated 4,000,000 people had perished there between 1941 and early 1945.

The dead included citizens from the Soviet Union, Poland, France, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Italy and Greece. The final death toll was later revised, by the Auschwitz Museum, to between 1 and 1.5 million, including almost 1m Jews.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Try to avoid functions that will bring you in contact with those you find difficult to get along with. Try to be there for someone if they need assistance. Keep calm.

TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20
Take a break; you can finally mend any disputes on the home front. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum.

GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21
Changes to your self image will be to your benefit as long as you don't over pay. Disharmony in your relationship may cause minor ailments.

CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Spend time with your lover today. Visit someone who hasn't been feeling well lately. Don't avoid situations that may deteriorate; try to mend them.

LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Exercise your talents and present your ideas to groups you think you can contribute to. Your attitude could be up and down like a yo-yo.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Your personal secrets may be revealed if you let coworkers in on your family dilemmas. Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts.

LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You can get a promotion if you put in a little extra detail. Talk to someone you trust if you need advice about broaching the subject. Travel will be in your best interest.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Emotional disputes will only end in sorrow. You can make new friends who could turn into intimate connections if you join clubs or take creative courses.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Use discrimination and play hard to get. You have two choices; Get out on your own, or bend to your mate's whims. Be creative in your pursuits.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You are best to sign your partner up for activities that will be tiring. Your own small business on the side could ease your financial stress.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You need to keep the peace and you will have to bend in order to do so. Get involved in activities that will bring you knowledge about foreign land, philosophies, or cultures.

PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You will be viewed as a sensitive, compassionate individual and others will ask you for advice. Spend some time with people who can shed some light on your personal situation.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+				
6	5	8			4		5	1	
		4		9		6	4	5	3
4	7		3	9	6	8			
5	1			7		6	7		6
3	2					4		8	
9	6	3		5	2				
1	4	8	2			3	6		
	5		1						
			4	7	2				

MEDIUM					HARD				
	1	3	9	8		6	1		9
				6	4	2			
			1				4	2	
8			7	2					
7	4			9	3				
	2	5			4				
1			3						
	2	3	6						
		8		7	2	5			

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-9	1	fine
Changchun	-22	-13	fine
Chengdu	1	12	fine
Chongqing	6	11	cloudy
Fuzhou	7	15	fine
Guangzhou	10	16	cloudy
Guiyang	1	5	cloudy
Haikou	14	18	cloudy
Hangzhou	0	5	fine
Harbin	-29	-17	fine
Hefei	-3	5	cloudy
Nanjing	-2	3	cloudy
Shanghai	0	5	fine
Taipei	9	14	cloudy
Wuhan	-3	8	fine
Hong Kong	9	17	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-6	-1	snow
Frankfurt	0	3	snow
Paris	2	5	rain
London	0	7	cloudy
New York	2	6	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Dull; 6- Latin stars; 11- Self starter?; 14- Beside oneself; 15- Direct; 16- Calendar col.; 17- Tire (out); 18- Egyptian peninsula; 19- Fell; 20- Like helium; 22- Club alternative; 24- Macaroon flavoring; 28- More nasty; 29- Celtic paradise; 30- Large piece; 32- River crossing; 33- Lieu; 35- Ratio words; 39- K-6; 40- Building wing; 41- Phaser setting; 42- Indifferent; 43- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 45- Fork feature; 46- Mystery writer Marsh; 48- Objects from everyday life; 50- Sea god; 53- Link; 54- Follows orders; 55- Unfettered; 57- Not emp.; 58- Piles; 60- Summarize; 65- Like some vbs.; 66- Conclude by; 67- Vulgar; 68- From ___ Z; 69- Staggers; 70- Jerks;

DOWN 1- With it; 2- Bauxite, e.g.; 3- Covering for the head; 4- U of U athlete; 5- Breed of sheep; 6- It's a plus; 7- Be up and about; 8- Portable shelter; 9- Mens ___ (criminal intent); 10- Out of bed; 11- One of the Allens; 12- Jacket material; 13- Effluent system; 21- Sisters; 23- Republic in S Asia; 24- Sidewalk eateries; 25- Convex molding; 26- Ministers to; 27- Inherited wealth; 28- Mire; 30- Big fiddle?; 31- Patriot Nathan; 34- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 36- Subway turner; 37- Part of a military uniform; 38- ___ a time (singly); 43- Barker and Bell; 44- Greek god of love; 47- Flowing oil well; 49- Vigor; 50- Water wheel; 51- Movie critic Roger; 52- Back in; 53- Prices paid; 55- Put aboard; 56- Opaque gemstone; 59- Hydrocarbon ending; 61- Baseball stat; 62- Jailbird; 63- Invite; 64- Letter addenda;

Friday's solution

A	B	C	S	A	H	E	A	D	B	R	A	D
L	E	A	P	R	U	G	L	E	E	V	E	
M	E	R	E	T	O	G	O	N	A	M	E	N
A	P	P	A	L	L	E	S	T	U	A	R	Y
			K	I	M	I	S	E	E			
L	I	G	E	S	T	O	R	M	A	T	H	O
N	E	C	S	A	P	S	E	E	I	T		
U	N	L	U	C	K	Y	O	V	E	R	N	L
S	T	A	S	H								
E	S	T	E	E	R	O	A	D	S	I	D	E
P	R	O	S	P	E	R						
L	E	A	H									
E	R	O										
A	L	B	O									

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
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- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

THE multiverse-skipping sci-fi indie hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once" led nominations to the 95th Academy Awards as Hollywood heaped honors on big-screen spectacles like "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" a year after a streaming service won best picture for the first time.

Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan's "Everything Everywhere All at Once" landed a leading 11 nominations this week, including nods for Michelle Yeoh and comeback kid Ke Huy Quan, the former child star of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom." Released back in March, the A24 film has proven an unlikely Oscar heavyweight against the expectations of even its makers. Yeoh became the first Asian actor nominated for best actress.

"Even just to be nominated means validation, love, from your peers," said an "overwhelmed" Yeoh speaking by phone from London. "What it means for the rest of the Asians around the world, not just in America but globally, is to say we have a seat at the table. We finally have a seat at the table. We are being recognized and being seen."

The 10 movies up for best picture are: "Everything Everywhere All at Once," "The Banshees of Inisherin," "The Fabelmans," "Tár," "Top Gun: Maverick," "Avatar: The Way of Water," "Elvis,"

OSCARS

'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE' TOPS NOMINATIONS WITH 11



From left, Stephanie Hsu, Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan in a scene from "Everything Everywhere All At Once"

"All Quiet on the Western Front," "Women Talking" and "Triangle of Sadness."

For the first time, two sequels — "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" — were nominated for best picture. The two films together account for some \$3.5 billion in box office. Tom Cruise missed out on an acting nomination, but "Top Gun:

Maverick" — often credited with bringing many moviegoers back to theaters — walked away with seven nominations, including best sound, best visual effects and best song for Lada Gaga's "Hold My Hand." Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," made in the wake of Chadwick Boseman's death, also scored five nominations, including the first

acting nod for a performance in a Marvel movie: Angela Bassett, the likely favorite to win best supporting actress.

Nine of the 10 best-picture nominees were theatrical releases — something cheered by "Tár" filmmaker Todd Field, nominated for direction and screenplay. Field noted the theatrical marketplace — especially the specialty busi-

ness — is still in recovery mode.

"I hope that the faith and the enthusiasm that's been paid for theatrical films continues," Field said by phone from Los Angeles.

Going by earlier guild nominations, Martin McDonagh's Ireland-set dark comedy "The Banshees of Inisherin" may be the stiffest competition for "Everything Everywhere All at Once" at the Oscars. The Searchlight Pictures film landed nine nominations, including nods for McDonagh's directing and screenplay, and a quartet of acting nominations: Colin Farrell for best actor, Kerry Condon for best supporting actress and both Brendan Gleeson and Barry Keoghan for best supporting actor.

Baz Luhrmann's bedazzled biopic "Elvis" — another summer box-office hit, with \$287.3 million worldwide — came away with eight nominations, including a best actor nod for star Austin Butler and nominations for its costumes, sound and production design.

Though Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans" struggled to catch on with audiences, the director's autobiographical coming-of-age tale landed Spielberg his 20th Oscar nomination and ninth nod for best-director.

Only one streaming title broke into the best picture field: The German WWI film "All Quiet on the Western Front." **MDT/AP**

AD

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TASTE OF EDESIA

Seafood stories

IRENE SAM, MDT

THE Manor latest Stories of the Sea edition, The Eleventh Chapter, has launched. The six-course menu crafted by Executive Sous Chef Michele Dell'Aquila showcases the extravagant array of seasonal ingredients, enticing the palate with exceptional flavor and texture.

To start, Kyoto King Crab from Japan is served with carrot, beetroot yuzu and Amarelli licorice sorbet. The combination of ingredients gives contrast to the inherent richness and sweetness of the king crab and refreshes the palate.

For the next course, Sicilian Red Prawn is topped with stracciatella and almond panna cotta, cherry blossom and Calvisius Royal caviar; followed by the Boston Lob-

ster dashi and Jerusalem artichoke soup served with green asparagus. To impart a rich yet delicate flavor to the Boston lobster, Chef Michele's infused coffee to the Jerusalem artichoke, giving a layered flavor profile to the dish.

Dive deeper into your culinary journey with Pinched Agnolotti served with Ligurian scampi, crustacean sea urchin sauce and Smoked Mediterranean Turbot dressed with Maître d'hôtel butter, garden leek and farm potato. Both promising to satisfy your taste buds with their robust natural sweetness and seasonal flavors.

For dessert, Chocolate Millefeuille – a Valrhona chocolate mousse with chestnut, Tonka bean, and mango jelly is a feast to the eyes and senses, a perfect conclusion to an exceptional meal.



Boston lobster with Jerusalem artichoke and coffee



Kyoto king crab with beetroot yuzu and Amarelli licorice



Pinched agnolotti with Ligurian scampi and crustacean sea urchin sauce



Sicilian red prawn with stracciatella and almond panna cotta and caviar



Smoked Mediterranean turbot with garden leek and farm potato

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE LIAONING 1050 METRES SAND

2023-01-28|Sat|15:25

HAPPY New Year of the Year of The Rabbit to all Macau Daily Times readers. Carrot is rabbit's favourite we have donuts for all our readers for this Saturday. **Mr. Donut** is tracking for a New Year Win in this particular race. He is in sound form and holding the trump card in this race, with his consistency on the sand track in MJC as well as the booking of C L Cheung, **Mr. Donut** should be rewarded once more for his connection in the New Year. Our Fat Choy banker bet this Saturday.

**Race 3 Horse no. 4 Mr. Donut
Win & Place Fat Choy Bets**



OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**NO BACKTRACKING
 ON REFORM AND
 OPENING-UP**

With the refining of the COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control measures, the Chinese economy is set for a robust rebound in growth, and China took the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, as an opportunity to consolidate the world's confidence that the rebound will be sustained and to welcome foreign investment.

For that purpose, in his speech, Vice-Premier Liu He touched upon almost every key strength of the Chinese economy — its potential and openness in particular — and the Communist Party of China's resolve to let the world continue to share the development dividends of the second-largest economy.

Yet it was his assertion that the Party is not returning the country to a planned economy, which as he said, is "by no means possible", that has caught the most attention, as it represents a direct rebuttal to growing speculation to that effect.

In the first place, it should be seen that almost all major economies have given more play to the government's role in adjusting the market and economy over the past three years to cushion the impacts of the pandemic, the spillover effects of the US-manufactured inflation and the shocks of escalating geopolitical tensions. China is not only not immune to any of these factors, but also bears the main brunt of the United States' decoupling and containment attempts.

Be it the efforts to form a dual-circulation economic paradigm or the probes into malpractices of some big-name private companies, such moves should be observed against that background. They are all necessary to defuse risks in the process of opening-up, and plug loopholes in the market supervision so as to prevent monopoly practices and encourage healthy market competition.

It is a distortion to ignore the inherent connections of these moves with other macro-adjustment actions, and overgeneralize the overall trend of the Chinese economy as becoming more introverted and closed, if not the intention of the Party, from that partial observation. That prejudiced analysis caters to the China-bashing forces in the US, and serves their push to decouple the US economy from that of China, as well as their attempts to pervert the goals of the CPC.

Those parroting that biased appraisal are simply disregarding the crucial role the private economy plays in China. The private sector accounts for more than 50 percent of the government's tax revenue, over 60 percent of the country's gross domestic product, over 70 percent of innovations, more than 80 percent of jobs and over 90 percent of the number of enterprises and businesses.

The difficulties the private economy faces originate from multiple factors, as well as some institutional restrictions, rather than the Party or the government, which instead have remained steadfast in supporting its healthy development and maintaining its dynamism through deepening systematic reforms and using suitable policy tools in ways that comply with both the actual situation in China and the practices of the world market.

That is why the connections between China and the world economy have only become stronger and closer, and China remains a magnet for investment.

**DONALD TRUMP TO BE ALLOWED BACK
 ON FACEBOOK AFTER 2-YEAR BAN**

THE
BUZZ

Facebook parent Meta said it will restore former President Donald Trump's personal account in the coming weeks, ending a two-year suspension it imposed in the wake of the Jan. 6 insurrection.

The company said in a blog post it is adding "new guardrails" to ensure there are no "repeat offenders" who violate its rules, even if they are political candidates or world leaders.

"The public should be able to hear what their politicians are saying — the good, the bad and the ugly — so that they

can make informed choices at the ballot box," wrote Nick Clegg, Meta's vice president of global affairs.

Clegg added that when there is a "clear risk" to real-world harm, Meta will intervene.

Facebook suspended Trump on Jan. 7, 2021, for praising people engaged in violent acts at the Capitol a day earlier.

Meta said Trump's accounts will be restored "in the coming weeks" on both Facebook and Instagram. Banned from mainstream social media, Trump has been relying on Truth Social, which he launched after being blocked from Twitter.

AP PHOTO



Flourishing poppy fields spread through hills at Nampatka village, Northern Shan State, Myanmar (2014)

**UN: MYANMAR OPIUM
 CULTIVATION HAS SURGED
 33% AMID VIOLENCE**

DAVID RISING,
 BANGKOK

THE production of opium in Myanmar has flourished since the military's seizure of power, with the cultivation of poppies up by a third in the past year as eradication efforts have dropped off and the faltering economy has led more people toward the drug trade, according to a United Nations report released yesterday.

In 2022, in the first full growing season since the military wrested control of the country from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, Myanmar saw a 33% increase in cultivation area to 40,100 hectares, according to the report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

"Economic, security and governance disruptions that followed the military takeover of February 2021 have converged, and farmers in remote, often conflict-prone areas in northern Shan and border states have had little option but to move back to opium," said the U.N. office's regional representative Jeremy Douglas.

The overall value of the

Myanmar opiate economy, based on U.N. estimates, ranges between \$660 million and \$2 billion, depending on how much was sold locally, and how much of the raw opium was processed into heroin or other drugs.

"Virtually all the heroin reported in East and Southeast Asia and Australia originates in Myanmar, and the country remains the second-largest opium and heroin producer in the world after Afghanistan," Douglas said. "There is no comparing the two at this point as Afghanistan still produces far more, but the expansion underway in Myanmar should not be dismissed and needs attention as it will likely continue — it is directly tied to the security and economic situation we see unfolding today."

The so-called Golden Triangle area, where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet, has historically been a major production area for opium and hosted many of the labs that converted it to heroin. Decades of political instability have made the frontier regions of Myanmar, also known as Burma, largely lawless, to

be exploited by drug producers and traffickers.

Most of the opium exported by Myanmar goes to China and Vietnam, while heroin goes to many countries across the region, Douglas said.

"It is really where the value is for traffickers," he said. "Very high profits."

The cultivation of opium had been trending downward in recent years before the military took control of the government in 2021.

Production estimates hit a bottom of 400 metric tons (440 tons) in 2020. After rising slightly in 2021, that spiked in 2022 to an estimated 790 metric tons (870 tons), according to the report.

Since it took control of the government, the military's use of deadly force to hold on to power has escalated conflict with its civilian opponents to the point that some experts describe the country as now being in a state of civil war.

The costs have been high, with 2,810 people killed by government forces to date and 17,427 detained, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Israeli forces killed at least nine Palestinians, including a 60-year-old woman, and wounded several others during a raid in a flashpoint area of the occupied West Bank yesterday, Palestinian health officials said. The violence occurred during what Palestinian health officials described as a fierce operation in broad daylight in the Jenin refugee camp, a militant stronghold of the West Bank that has been a focus of nearly a year of Israeli arrest raids.

AP PHOTO



Ukraine Germany and the United States announced that they will send advanced battle tanks to Ukraine, offering what one expert called an "armored punching force" to help Kyiv break combat stalemates as the Russian invasion enters its 12th month. The announcement marked the first stage of a coordinated effort by the West to provide dozens of the heavy weapons, which Ukrainian military commanders said would enable counter-offensives, reduce casualties and help restore dwindling ammunition supplies.

AP PHOTO



Spain A machete-wielding man killed a sexton and injured a priest at two Catholic churches in the city of Algeciras yesterday [Macau time] before being arrested, Spain's interior ministry said. Authorities are investigating the attacks as a possible act of terrorism. The suspect is in the custody of Spain's National Police.