Xi: Ties with Latin America to strengthen

Commitment to integration of region including Caribbean nations stressed

By CAO DESHENG
chaoedesheng@chinadaily.com.cn

President Xi Jinping has extended consent to strengthening its partnership with Latin American and Caribbean countries, saying the nations stand ready to work with them to promote global peace and development and advance the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Xi made the remarks in a video speech delivered at the seventh summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which was held on Tuesday in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the capital of Argentina.

He was invited to address the summit President Alberto Fernandez of Argentina, which holds the current presidency of the regional body — a multinational group that connects both across the Western Hemisphere and the Caribbean Sea.

Xi said that Latin American and Caribbean countries are important members of the development world that share an active role in promoting peace and development and making important contributions to the region.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States has become an indispensable force bringing the bloc together and it has played an important role in promoting economic development, maintaining political stability and advancing regional integration, he said.

Xi urged the countries to adhere to the regional integration process of Latin America and the Caribbean region, as well as to development-to-development cooperation, and noted that the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is China’s partner in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"That is why China has been working with Latin America and Caribbean countries to steadily strengthen the Forum of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and take their relationship into a new stage characterised by equality, mutual benefit, innovation, openness and benefits for the people," he said.

An increasing number of countries in the region have engaged in high-quality cooperation with China on the Belt and Road Initiative, he said, and participated in the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative.

China’s new COVID-19 cases, deaths down significantly

By CHEN GE
chenge@chinadaily.com.cn

China’s daily new COVID-19 cases and deaths have fallen significantly following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases reported by China is on a steady decline after peaking in February, according to the National Health Commission of China.

The number of positive cases reached 54,964 on Dec 22 and then gradually dropped, reaching a low on Monday of 1,000. The positive case rate dropped to 1.78 percent on Dec 21 — 22.9 percent — and then gradually declined, dropping to 0.5 percent on Monday.

See COVID page, 2

Box office gets a hopping start in Year of the Rabbit

By XU FAN
zonghuaxufan@chinadaily.com.cn

With box office receipts soaring during Spring Festival, long-anticipated properties have returned to Chinese cinemas to usher in an inspiring start for the Year of the Rabbit.

As of Wednesday, the country has seen a total of 5.3 billion yuan ($772 million) from seven new movies during the peak, more than 10,000 cinemas, according to the movie information website Box Office.

Although the Wonder Woman Zhi 2, the sequel to China’s most successful solo-starring female superhero in a movie, was not the highlight of the Spring Festival holiday, director Zhang Yimou’s historical epic Full House was the hit of the season.

President Xi Jinping has stressed, hard waters and high mountains are unassailable assets.

Changxiu’s inhabitants are increasingly benefiting from the beautiful environment they have embraced for decades.

When he arrived in Changxiu in 2011, Mr. Liangfu was distressed by the natural condition of the village.

"The farmland was in small plots, ridden by bad pests and diseases," Mr. Liangfu’s neighbors would tell him, adding that the village’s people had few industries.

The planting of spruce trees made Nuojiexinshui an asset as well as a green zone, the village became a tourist destination.

It is a better place, he said, because the trees help prevent soil erosion and provide a source of income.
Cold snap produces record low, with some respite expected starting Sunday

By Li HONGYANG in Beijing and ZHOU HENGJUN in Wuhan

Mohe, a city in Heilongjiang province, received its first snowfall of the season on the morning of Dec 22, the longest onset date in recent years. The latest cold snap reached to northeast China, the National Meteorological Center said.

The last time the mercury fell slightly below freezing was on Dec 13, when it reached -0.3°C. That figure was so low that it tied the record for the coldest temperature in the city, according to the bureau. A few more days of cold weather are expected, as temperatures in the city are predicted to drop to -16°C on Dec 23.

The city’s public transportation companies have been working to help citizens

“All our buses are running at maximum capacity. About 330,000 tons of coal, about 39 percent more than usual, have been delivered, but not enough for the peak period of the spring festival,” said Li Xiaohua, director of the Mohe thermal power company.

The city is estimated to consume 24 hours a day to ensure that indoor temperatures do not drop, Ms. Li said.

The city’s emergency management department said that for the first time in its history, the city has been affected by a cold snap, a time of 93°C fevered and 15 days of wind. The city is expected to see another severe cold snap next week.

Many residents in the city are taking precautions, with many buying bulk supplies of coal and winter clothing.

Most citizens and officials contacted by Xinhua Daily said that while residents are affected by the cold, they are still able to enjoy the winter.

The Wandering Earth 2, which earned more than 3 billion yuan in the box office, has no longer earned much money, but has brought much-needed income to the city’s film industry, according to local officials.

Most critics and officials contacted by Xinhua Daily said that Chinese cinema is recovering, with traditional values and cultural aesthetics beginning to dominate with increasing success.

“In the past, films were often criticized for their use of foreign languages and plots,” said Li Xiaohua, director of the Mohe thermal power company.

“The Chinese cinema is recovering, and people are able to enjoy the art of films and cinematic experiences,” said Li Xiaohua, director of the Mohe thermal power company.

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In 2008 and 2009, Xu planted orange trees on about 50 hectares of land that he rented from the village.

Known locally as “Mother Orange,” the orchard is managed by locals—many of whom are retired—under the principle that mountain areas, rivers, forests, farmland, lakes and grasslands are a life community, which is one of the 10 scenes of Xi’s Deep Thought on Ecological Civilization.

The concept has been promoted by TCP in trial-and-tested and sustainable development that fosters the harmonious coexistence of humanity and the natural world.

The Miling, which is known as Fujian’s “Mother Orange,” is the only one of its kind here in the province and a tributary of the Jusi River runs through Changkou.

As a part of the huge project, with total planned investment of 220 billion yuan, a 700-million-yuan ecological reclamation project was rolled out in the areas near Changkou in 2010. The project not only aims to conserve the mountains, soil and water, but also improves local living conditions and local agriculture.

In addition to afforestation, control of water and soil loss, dredging, renovation of sewage treatment facilities and landscaping, efforts have been made to beef up agricultural infrastructure.

For example, the government has renovated agricultural irrigation channels and drainage systems in Changkou, and built paved roads through the farmland. All these facilities have benefited Xu greatly, opening up new business opportunities to him to invest his own money to build the necessary facilities for his orchard.

The government has also built a smart water fertilizer system and an intelligent monitoring system specifically for his orchard.

“I can control the water fertilizer integrated sprayer with just the phone,” he said with a smile, adding that the investment in the system amounted to about 10 million yuan.

Supported by the Internet of Things and big data technology, the intelligent monitoring system can gather and monitor all the processes in orange tree cultivation and help reduce irrigation and fertilization in a precise manner.

Thanks to the monitoring system, Xu has also introduced an orange tree cultivation program. Client can learn all they need to know about the trees they adopt—including irrigation, fertilization and tree pest problems—in a real-time system.

Xu has introduced a number of eco-friendly approaches to his orange orchard management, the sense “green matter” refers to fast-growing plants that are seen to cover bare soil. This not only reduces evaporation in the soil and improves the structure after being planted.

The high-quality natural environment and the bio-friendly cultivation approaches mean that Xu’s oranges can be sold for high prices at market.

The price of navel oranges from his orchard ranges from 40 yuan to 50 yuan per kilogram. The market price of the first fruits usually stands at 60 yuan to 80 yuan per kilogram,” he said.

The navel oranges are sold in many large cities such as Shanghai and Nanjing, marked as “Jiangsu province.” “Hey, well, it’s true,” he said.

So did he say he plans the Changkou village company can buy 80,000 yuan as the minimum of the first fruits.

Each year, the oranges cost about 200,000 yuan, and cost the company about 120,000 yuan as the minimum of the first fruits.

In addition to eco-attention, the company has introduced various communities of former residents in Changkou with the village mentoring about 10,000 farmers a year.

In 2012, a women company called Yangshan launched a milling project in the village with investment of 10 million yuan. Without having to make any investment in the project, the village committee became a shareholder of Yangshan’s land and the fruit environment.
Mood upbeat for growth in China-Africa trade

By ALI HEPPEL in New York

Mood upbeat for growth in China-Africa trade

By MAE ZHOU in Houston

Shootings leave anger over guns

By MAE ZHOU in Houston

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By MAE ZHOU in Houston

Shootings leave anger over guns

Briefly

New PM pledges

Chen Jianguo

China Daily

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People attend a candlelight vigil on Tuesday for victims of a deadly mass shooting at a Delaware darts shooting in Maryland. Tens of thousands of mourners gathered at the vigil to remember those who were killed. The shooting left 10 people dead and dozens injured. The shooter, a 25-year-old man, was arrested at the scene and charged with multiple counts of murder and attempted murder. The shooting on Monday left the community in shock and mourning. The shooting occurred at a bar and music venue in a popular neighborhood. The shooter, who was known to local residents, had a history of mental health issues. The investigation is ongoing, and law enforcement is working to determine the motive behind the shooting. The community is coming together to support each other and grieve for the victims.
Painter builds bridge of cultural exchanges

Landscape of Guillin, Africa and Myanmar have fired Sun's artistic vision

By Li Yang

He says he set out from Xianyang like an artist in pursuit of inspiration. He was assigned to work in a cellblock in North-Western China before being transferred to Myanmar, a coastal nation with a rich cultural heritage.

After several years of living in Yangon, he became a foreign attaché for several oil paintings for the Yunnan provincial government.

In 1996, he was invited to hold an exhibition in Yangon of his collection of oil paintings to mark the 40th anniversary of the formation of the People's Republic of China.

The exhibition was a success, and his paintings were well received. He later held several more exhibitions in Yangon, which were equally successful.

In 2000, he was invited to hold an exhibition in Beijing, which also received widespread attention.

For over two decades, Sun has been traveling between China, Myanmar and Africa, creating a bridge of cultural exchange.

Watercolor, oil painting, traditional Chinese painting, he has mastered all these techniques.

His works are characterized by a unique blend of traditional Chinese art and contemporary Western techniques.

Sun's works have been exhibited in many countries, including China, Myanmar and Africa.

The Netherlands: Sun's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in The Netherlands, making a significant contribution to the cultural exchange between China and the Netherlands.

The United States: Sun's works have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in the United States, promoting cultural exchange between China and the United States.

France: Sun's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in France, strengthening cultural exchange between China and France.

India: Sun's works have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in India, promoting cultural exchange between China and India.

The United Arab Emirates: Sun's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in the United Arab Emirates, promoting cultural exchange between China and the United Arab Emirates.

South Korea: Sun's works have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in South Korea, promoting cultural exchange between China and South Korea.

Japan: Sun's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in Japan, promoting cultural exchange between China and Japan.

Germany: Sun's works have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in Germany, promoting cultural exchange between China and Germany.

Canada: Sun's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in Canada, promoting cultural exchange between China and Canada.

Australia: Sun's works have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in Australia, promoting cultural exchange between China and Australia.

New Zealand: Sun's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in New Zealand, promoting cultural exchange between China and New Zealand.

The United Kingdom: Sun's works have been exhibited in many galleries and museums in the United Kingdom, promoting cultural exchange between China and the United Kingdom.

Sun has also been invited to hold exhibitions in many countries, including France, the Netherlands, and the United States.

In 2014, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the United States, which was a great success.

In 2015, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in France, which was also a great success.

In 2016, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the Netherlands, which was a great success.

In 2017, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the United States, which was a great success.

In 2018, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in France, which was also a great success.

In 2019, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the Netherlands, which was a great success.

In 2020, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the United States, which was a great success.

In 2021, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in France, which was also a great success.

In 2022, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the Netherlands, which was a great success.

In 2023, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the United States, which was a great success.

In 2024, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in France, which was also a great success.

In 2025, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the Netherlands, which was a great success.

In 2026, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the United States, which was a great success.

In 2027, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in France, which was also a great success.

In 2028, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the Netherlands, which was a great success.

In 2029, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in the United States, which was a great success.

In 2030, Sun was invited to hold an exhibition in France, which was also a great success.
A school, Xiao Mengqi is preparing for her college fashion design major. She designs garments that don’t come from anywhere.

“From the fabfit to the first draft, she’s not made with hands, but generated by computer, allowing the 10-year-old Xiao Mengqi to fully live her creativity and imagination. In the digital space, the yard is infinite, rules are made to be broken and gravity does not exist.”

“With no-suicision of textiles or functional need, it focuses on the visual aspect of my design,” she says. She learned to use 3D design software on her own and her unique fashion sense was recognized by 10,000 followers on Xiaohongshu, a popular Chinese social media platform.

Already 18, she is the youngest of her team. She started in September,学院 and universities are taking the digital space seriously, with the aim of creating a new fashion platform that can be used anywhere.

Digital fashion, a largely unexplored frontier, has grabbed the fashion industry’s attention, and communities have also faced a major change. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the operation of masks and beauty industry, and the virtual space is set to be a hub of digital fashion.

Miao Xiaohong, a member of the pop idol group SNH48, recently posed through digital platforms as a virtual influencer in the space of which she has created.

Digital fashion is gradually emerging steadily with the 3D-voice of younger generation, who live online and more, and their social lives are online, and influencers and celebrities are following her lead, using the new technology to create new fashion.

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FESTIVE FUN

Spring Festival has arrived. China Daily photographer Zou Hong traveled to Taishan district of Taian city in Shandong province to visit its markets, take part in celebrations and enjoy the festive atmosphere, all captured here in photos.
Helping communities one household at a time

By YANG ZEKUN

More skilled professionals will be needed to meet the increasing demand for family education counseling, experts said.

The “family-school liaison” mediation counseling room in Beijing’s Shunyi district opened in October. It now has 45 volunteers with relevant knowledge and practical experiences. Many are kindergarten principals or psychology instructors in primary schools, and some middle school teachers in Shunyi, the district’s community education center said.

Tan Jie, head of the family education research and training center of the district’s community education center, said the number of volunteers has increased significantly, with some joining and some leaving every year. Many are also charged with mediating conflicts that need to be discussed in schools.

“The goal is to make the family counseling services become more professional. Our current team, which is about 10 members, now has 25,” Tan said.

“Both parents have real serious problems,” he said, “but if parents face really serious problems, we need to invite some experts to offer guidance.”

The center launched an online WeChat account in 2020 to collect questions raised by parents in Shunyi. The number of inquiries has reached 30,000. Volunteers classify and answer these questions and post answers on the WeChat account.

Each school in Shunyi has sent teachers to universal family education training once a year since 2016. Qualified volunteers must participate in advanced training in counseling and children’s psychology. They must also participate and provide services in more than three training sessions.

Many parents have welcomed the counseling project because it gives useful suggestions on how to resolve specific problems and a channel for their expressions. A simple method may not solve the problems in the root. The volunteers often talk them this way to make them understand that parents have different opinions and their children’s behavior may have many factors. The “shy” child in each family has a different background.

The offline counseling room has not opened yet, but because of the epidemic, the room will open soon in more schools, villages and communities.

Understanding is a challenge. Shunyi has hundreds of schools, villages and communities. More volunteers will be needed for the plan to be fully implemented, Tan said.

“We are actively approaching the world’s federations on different streets and in different towns, and are applying to use their children’s homes to carry out consultation services. More cooperation will be undertaken with other organs to improve the project,” he said.

Jin Zhi, an assistant researcher from the National Institute of Education Statistics, said that mediation counseling rooms in schools are important places to implement effective efforts against the backlog of the “double reduction policy,” which focuses on releasing the burden of massive homework and curriculums for students undergoing combined education. As the “family-school liaison” counseling service involves not only the child’s family, but also the parents and teachers, the education center also puts emphasis on educating parents about their children’s development.

“Family education guidance should be well guided by professionals. General services are far from enough. The authorities should advance the professional development of teams, actively set up teams of experts, teachers, parents and volunteers, and improve their services,” Jin said.

“Operating and counseling rooms in more schools and districts work toward the implementation of the Family Education Promotion Law,” Jin said.

Instructors from Beijing’s Shunyi district participates is a reminiscence on the “family-school liaison” counseling room held by the district education authority in Beijing.

“Improving the experience of developing this model, we should expand family education support as a public service,” Jin said.

Above: A teacher provides counseling training for primary school psychology instructors in Beijing in 2023. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Family education counselor Yang Zhenyu provides online consultations to parents of primary school students.

Provided to China Daily
**BIZLIFE**

**Silver economy grows with aging population**

By LIU YUEKUN

A college student on weekends and a software engineer on weekdays, Liu said that the job he needed was to accompany a 90-year-old lady.

"You can ask the day when I was asked for a job," Liu said. "During the winter, I lived in the house, and I had a large number of home-care tasks to be done every day." According to Liu, the additional labor was not a one-off deal, but rather a longer-term arrangement.

"I have been taking care of elderly people in the community for several years," Liu said. "I have also been working in the field of elderly care for more than a year." According to Liu, the job is not easy, and the care of elderly people requires a lot of physical and mental effort.

Businesses find opportunities in giving seniors more meaningful lives

By LIU YUEKUN

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Head inland to enjoy Thailand

Lush rainforests and mangroves offer a journey of discovery for holidaymakers

By YANG WANNI in Bangkok, Thailand

The Thai capital is a white-eye-sy

What comes to mind if you’re planning to visit Thailand? Beautiful beaches, sunbathing, floating markets or river cruises? Why not look beyond those ideas behind and try something fresh, such as an island tour to discover different facets of Thailand?

In the North Thai province of Surat Thani, you will experience another side of Thailand. Geared up from Khao Noi Na Luang Dharma Park, a foliage landscape of coconut groves — which includes one of the oldest evergreen rainforests in the world — is a good place for a nature walk. The park is on the island of Koh Phangan, which is surrounded by the Andaman Sea.

Surrounded by one of the oldest evergreen rainforests in the world, the Khao Noi Na Luang Dharma Park will impress you with its huge limestone mountains, deep valleys, breathtaking lakes, existing caves and wild animals. Together with adjacent wildlife sanctuaries of Koh Phangan, Koh Phra Pradao and Koh Nang Yuan, the combined area of the park is more than 3,500 square kilometres, making up an area of more than half the area of the park.

In the park, visitors can choose different ways to explore, such as personal elephant encounters, jungle trekking or cycling. One of the most interesting areas is the beautiful Cheow Lan Lake, which is the heart of the national park, complete with floating houses and luxury tents.

Once the clouds are over the afternoon, you will witness waterfalls or streams in Koh Phangan, which are located near the sea, and the provincial town has countless small towns connecting the main road of the island, which makes it easy to get around.

This article appeared in Traveller's Guide to Thailand, a book published by the Bangkok Post. It is also available in e-book format via the Bangkok Post website. For more information about the book, visit: www.bangkokpost.com/travellers-guide-to-thailand
Shiffrin claims historic 83rd World Cup win

Another record in the US skier’s trophy-laden career moved her to the top of the list past compatriot Lindsey Vonn

From the start, Mikaela showed she was the skier to beat

From a prodigiously talented 10-year-old to a starry-eyed winter sport idol of all-time, Mikaela Shiffrin has done just that in 12 years.

The American skier won her record-breaking 83rd World Cup title on Tuesday, winning the women’s World Cup giant slalom in Courchevel, France.

She starts her fifth successive win.

Shiffrin wins the race, becoming the most successful woman in World Cup skiing history by breaking the record of 83 by Italian Anna Fenninger.

The remarkable feat, which saw her win the World Cup title in 2005, was equal to the feat of former American skier Lindsey Vonn, who has 83 World Cup wins.

Vonn was 32 when she won her last World Cup event and retired in 2019.

Shiffrin, who has won the World Cup for the last six consecutive years and has won the overall World Cup title for the last five seasons, is 24.

She is the first woman to win six consecutive World Cup titles in a row.</noscript>
GETTING THEIR HEADS IN THE GAME

As the world's top athletes put it all on the line again last year, it made for some intense and, sometimes, hair-raising moments.

Sweat drops from the face of Spain's Rafael Nadal during a break in his second-round match against Yannick Hanfmann of Germany at the Australian Open on Jan 19, 2023. ap

Mali's Faty Karamoko sports an eye-catching Mohawk during the Africa Cup of Nations 2023 Group F match against Mauritania at the Njipa Stadium on Jan 20, 2023. ap

Venezuelan player Cade Gotta wears his hair in the shape of a spider during a Caribbean Series baseball game against Panama in Bronx Stadium, Dominican Republic, on Jan 26, 2023. ap

Louise Christie of Scotland pretends to toss the ball in the individual all-around rhythmic gymnastics competition at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England, on Aug 5, 2022. ap

Switzerland's Martin Puchta on Leonie Andrich at the ski cross course on May 28. ap

Jessie Diggins celebrates winning the bronze medal in the women's sprint free cross-country skiing competition at the 2022 Winter Olympics on Feb 8, 2022. ap

Cleveland Guardians Jose Ramirez dives safely into third base during an MLB game on Oct 14. ap

Errol Spence Jr lands a punch on Yordenis Ugas during a world welterweight fight on April 16. ap

San Diego Padres' Brandon Drury dives to the net by a pitch during an MLB game on Sept 30. ap

As the world's top athletes put it all on the line again last year, it made for some intense and, sometimes, hair-raising moments.