President lands newspaper's grasper of economic affairs

By YU WEI

President Xi Jinping has called on the country's ruling Communist Party to continue its fight against corruption as a key measure to maintain the high-quality growth of the Chinese economy.

In a long essay in the People's Daily, the Communist Party's official newspaper, Xi expounded on the principle of economic development in China.

"I'm a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and the Central Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China," he wrote in the article titled "The White House Letter on the 40th anniversary of China's economic development.

"I am also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and the Central Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China," he wrote in the article titled "The White House Letter on the 40th anniversary of China's economic development.

Strong resilience, immense potential of Chinese economy highlighted in address

By YU WEI

President Xi Jinping's New Year address, in which he conveyed messages to the global news media, emphasized his determination to keep up the momentum of China's economic development in 2023.

"I'm a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and the Central Poli..."
Xi hails Antigua and Barbuda ties

Nations congratulate each other on 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations

By MO-XINQI

China Daily Beijing

President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that China has steadily developed relations with Antigua and Barbuda, and will work with its Government to jointly promote the two nations’ ties in the new era to create a better future for the two peoples.

Xi made the remarks as he exchanged congratula-
tions with Prime Minister Gaston Browne on the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Since the two countries established diplomatic relations, they have forged ahead smoothly with deepened mutual political trust, fruitful practical cooperation and growing friendship between the two peoples, he said.

The two countries have helped and supported each other in over-
coming difficulties since the begin-
ning of the COVID-19 pandemic, writing a new chapter of their friendly relations, he said.

Xi said that he is ready to work with Browne to take the 40th anni-
versary as a new starting point to deepen and promote the high-quality development of bilateral relations.

Xi said that Antigua and Barbuda have achieved steady economic growth and improvements in medical care, supportingw.

On Friday, the NPCSC adopted an interpretation of the national security law, which defines the national Security of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), as well as the legal basis for handling new situations in safeguarding national security in Hong Kong.

The interpretation came in response to repeated calls by some Hong Kong activists to declare the law null and void, and to challenge the government’s authority to implement the law.

A committee of the Standing Committee of the NPCSC has adopted an interpretation of the national security law for the HKSAR, which the NPCSC interprets and explains the national security law for the HKSAR to implement the national security law for the HKSAR on the basis of the basic law.

Interpretation safeguards HK national security

By CAI XIUSHI

To take out all traceable street performances in Kexian, capital of Shaanxi province, on Saturday. After the recent adjustment in COVID-19 restrictions across the country, many Chinese have set out to visit the New Year holiday (20 Jan - 1 Feb).

Opra gala celebrates tradition and cultural diversity

By LI YQI

An evening gala of classical Chinese opera was staged on Friday to commemorate the New Year and promote the heritage of Chinese culture and the anticipation of national progress for the new year.

A diverse program was broad-
astly packaged in the evening’s ap-
pearance, in addition to the tradition of operas across the country, which has set up a trend with the traditional art.

The gala opened with the tale of Mou Guiling, a story revolved around many tales from the ancient Chinese operas with the ancient Chinese operas, which were known for their cultural value, artist, and the ancient Chinese operas.

Bus drivers pull out all stops to combat COVID patients

By LI WENXUAN

Bus drivers were being trained to stem traffic congestion in areas across the country as medical emergencies call surge due to the last progression of COVID-19 testing.

In the heart of Wuhan, an urban area with a large population and quick traffic congestions, the medical needs are rising due to the quick spread of the virus.

The initial group of the city, who have joined the emergency medical center after completion of the training, said they are prepared to help with medical emergencies.

In Nangang, Zhejiang province, 200 doctors and maintenance workers in the city’s public transport system are getting on board with medical emergency transport.

Other drivers providing much-needed assistance in Beijing, 20-year-old driver Xie Qiumei has even served dinner in carry-

Address: Commitment to peace and development

From page 1

The president said that people on both sides should remain free of animosity and engage in talks that are both practical and realistic with a view to jointly fostering the future of the two peoples.

Xi said it is important to work with Taiwan to lead the relationship between the two countries to a higher level and make the island a China-Afa-

Barbuda tios

A joint council to tackle tourism issues was set in place in Shaanxi, capital of Shaanxi province, on Saturday. After the recent adjustment in COVID-19 restrictions across the country, many Chinese have set out to visit the New Year holiday (20 Jan - 1 Feb).
Changes: China gears up for the future

From page 1

However, for Liu Fan, a 25-year-old who had not yet been infected with COVID-19, the period of lockdown had been a welcome respite from his busy work at the (the HIE) The venturing Beijing International Financial Center had never been closer to realizing its dream of a shiny, international business hub. When Liu and his colleagues heard that their plan was on the verge of becoming a reality, they were elated.

"The city is on its way to recovery, and I was able to spend more time at home with my family," Liu said. "I have a feeling that we will be able to harvest the fruits of all our hard work soon."

But Liu had to reunite with his family on the occasion of the upcoming Chinese New Year. "At first, I was a little worried about the situation," he said. "But I have been reassured by the government's measures, and I believe that things will be back to normal soon."
Xi speech hailed for illuminating future

By CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels, YANG HAN in Hong Kong and LEE JIN in Seoul

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended New Year greetings in an address to the country on Saturday to ring in 2023. In the New Year address, the chairman of the Central Military Commission and China's top leader hailed a historic victory and emphasized the need for China to maintain a steady course and promote the country's development as the world's central power.

The address also included a call for the nation to maintain a steady course.

China's economic growth will continue to maintain high quality.

China's development strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's national security strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's foreign policy strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's diplomatic relations strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's cultural development strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's social development strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's environmental protection strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's domestic development strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

China's international development strategy will continue to maintain high quality.

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Visually impaired kids put auditory gifts to good use

Challenged by musical scores, students master singing through memorization

By ZHE YONGCHANG and TEZHIDENG

When God closes a door, he opens a window, the saying goes. For 15-year-old Zeng Xiaomeng who lost her sight a few months ago when she was born on this very day, it brings her a window to the world. Many reports on the emotional sound of her singing. In a video of Zeng and those of her schoolmates singing—posted on the internet by chief teacher—those beautiful voices have amazed and touched many.

“Thanks to your encouragement and belief, you have opened a window and allowed us to sing better, and life better,” the four girls with help have replied to the messages they receive.

Years ago, when Zeng realized her dream, she told her parents about her wish of learning to sing. She started her school days at Baoding Special Education College in Hubei province 15 years ago.

“She has a gift for music and loves singing more than others,” said Zeng’s teacher at the school.

“It is not easy for visually impaired students to sing. They need to use staff while I read the lyrics. They also need to practice the melody and rhythm repeatedly. It takes up to a month to form a song.” Repetition is a basic learning method for Zeng and the other three girls in her classes.

“We have to listen to the song many times to have the sense of rhythm behind the lyrics, and when I encounter problems I will ask teachers and friends for help,” Zeng said.

“A renewed person, Zeng said she rarely talked with others when she first came to the school.

“The environment was totally new to me, both in terms of facilities and people, and gradually I made more friends and became more willing to communicate with others,” she said.

Schools usually start at 8 am and finishes around 4 pm. Besides music classes, she also takes Chinese, mathematics and management. The other three girls in her class are Zeng Lulu, Liu Li, and Su Yang—all music lovers.

Born in 2009, Zeng Lulu enjoys playing drums.

“There is certain distance between each order, and I need time to remember the positions of the drums and symbols,” she said. “It’s also harder for us to remember music scores. Sometimes a song can have up to six pages of scores.”

Music has brought great changes to the six lives and personalities.

“I think I have become more confident about myself and more optimistic, especially when I know that people encourage us on the internet and say we sang well,” Zeng said.

The teacher Zhang has always been worried about the future employment of her students.

“There are very few employment opportunities for visually impaired students, but I hope the film industry may provide chances,” said Zhang.

During summer breaks, both students and teachers go on touring-platforms. At her suggestion, Zeng Xiaomeng opened her own social media account where people can hear her song.

“Knowing the problem had some teachers and the clan don’t have them adjusted, but with her learning, she now is willing to have her worth strengthened,” Zhang said.

“I feel that the brighter happier she begins communicating with people on the internet,” Zeng Xiaomeng’s mother said. “I haven’t thought about a long-term plan for Xiaomeng, but I am happy she is satisfied with the current situation.

Through her social media account, Zeng Xiaomeng hopes she will be able to attract more fans, and both she and Zeng Lulu want to plant their feet in the music sector in the future.

Contact the writers at zhengxiaomeng@163.com

Restaurant in Beijing comes alive in silence

By DU JUAN

Xiao Min from the Beijing 49th branch of the Beijing Rehabilitation Center has come alive since her sight was restored with the help of her friends.

“Xiao Min is a visually impaired student at the Beijing Rehabilitation Center. She has a visual impairment that prevents her from seeing," said Li, a teacher at the school.

“The center’s program for blind students includes music, painting, and drama, which open up opportunities for students to express themselves and develop social skills,” Li said.

After graduation, Li helped her students to find jobs or pursue higher education. Her students have also joined various clubs and organizations, and have become more independent and confident.

Li’s support is not limited to the students. She has also been actively involved in volunteering and advocacy for the blind community.

“Through my work, I have been able to help many visually impaired students find their voice and explore their potential,” Li said.

Contact the writers at djuan@chinadaily.com.cn

By KUI KUN in Wuhan and ZHE LIXIN

Over the 10 years, 15-year-old Li Hongmiao from Wuhan, Hubei province, has helped nearly 50 deaf-mute children return to school.

As a teacher at the Little Sunflower Rehabilitation Center in Wuhan, Li has gained experience and developed her own techniques for teaching the children with hearing loss.

“I always teach them through a picture first. Then, when a student understands the picture, I give him a paper on the same thing. Finally, I use a model for the concept. It’s a great way to see the paper listing in the main hall,” Li said.

In her classroom, the Little Sunflower Rehabilitation Center in Wuhan as a volunteer and started working with deaf-mute children.

“She often told the children who had a visual impairment about the beauty of life,” Li said.

Li’s husband is a professor at the rehabilitation center. Together, they have been working with children with hearing loss for more than 10 years.

Li’s commitment to the cause is matched by her husband’s support. Together, they have been able to help many children overcome their disabilities and achieve their goals.

In 2013, Li Hongmiao and her husband founded the Little Sunflower Rehabilitation Center to provide education and support to children with hearing loss.

“Through my work, I have been able to help many deaf-mute children find their voice and explore their potential,” Li said.

Contact the writers at dfkun@chinadaily.com.cn
Online teaching provides a valuable lesson

Rural schools in South China’s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region get connected to more facilities and give students greater opportunities, report Yang Feiyue and Zhang Li in Nanning.

Zhang Jiaqun had her students enrolled at an online space travel class. The 6-year-old girls learned about theories and advancements behind the Space Station. The class was given remotely from a scholar of thousands of kilometers away from her village. No new common urban children, online education was a novelty to Zhang and many of her rural counterparts.

Unable to provide teachers at Andong Primary School in Changzhong town, Daxin Yao autonomous county, South China’s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. The knowledge she has acquired.

The program brings rural schools across to provide quality education from the cities.

It all started when Chen Yanfai came on the scene. After finishing his doctoral degree in physics at Peking University in 2018, Chen engaged in high-tech work at the Guangdong development and reform commission.

In April last year, Chen was sent by the commission to Gaoshan, Gaoling, as part of a secret society. When he paid a visit to Jiuxia Primary School, the only teaching spot in the village, the 15-year-old was heartbroken by what he saw. "It was the utmost amount of the basic teaching equipment," he said. "The students didn’t know how to use the electricity, and the teachers didn’t know how to use the electricity."

His idea was to bring the technology to the village. "Our teaching environment is very poor. The network connection is very poor. The teaching materials are very limited," said Chen.

To improve the situation, he decided to set up an online teaching class. The program brings rural schools across to provide quality education from the cities.

Under recommendation from the social affairs division within the Chinese Communist Party’s rural affairs department, Chen founded a company in the Zhuhai Youth Development Board.

More than 1.2 million yuan ($185,400) was used to upgrade the school and to construct a library, library room, and fun park. Children from neighboring villages, whose parents had left home to work in Beijing, have also been enrolled in the school.

"They didn’t have a library room, but I asked the students if they wanted one. They said yes," said Chen.

So far, 20 teachers have started an online class in Changzhong town, Daxin Yao autonomous county, South China’s Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

The online teaching program also offers faculty training, such as Mandarin, which brings huge benefits to the students.

"We have asked for teachers to listen carefully and take students to do some extended thinking after the online class to develop their thinking," says Chen.

"I hope that the course will be more systematic and increase the training of teachers in rural areas as teaching assistants." Huang says, adding that the format of live-streaming class training achieves full coverage "not at teachers’ level accompanied by consistent training mechanisms".

To date, more than 20 teachers have joined the program, and classes, including these on calligraphy, painting, and astronomy, have been given on a regular basis.

As it peaks, more than 50,000 students are now using the platform as an extension to their classroom.

"We can see a wider world outside, and the needs of exploring the knowledge are planted in their hearts," Huang says.

Liu Jianmin, Party secretary of Daxin, says that he hopes the learning mode can be promoted to benefit more schools in the country’s remote rural areas.

No positive influence has already shown themselves in the student responses.

"It felt magical how a teacher can touch us thousands of kilometers away," Zhang says about her experience at the classroom.

"I feel like there are no walls to stand on rural areas. I feel like there are no walls to stand on rural areas."

It is expected that this program will be launched in the entire country’s rural areas.

The program also provides for more courses in art and science, and even more in the future.

Contact the writer at yangfeiyue@financechina.com.cn
Projectionist finds fulfillment in giving back

Yang Mingjin, who is from Lushui county of Nujiang, in southwest China’s Yunnan province, has worked as a volunteer projectionist for more than 30 years. Yang said his decision to work with moving pictures dates back to childhood. He started voluntary screenings in the late 1980s, shortly after he graduated from a vocational school for auto repair, having all the needed licenses. Over the past two decades, the dedicated projectionist has toured numerous villages and screened thousands of movies set in the open. He said this has given him a sense of fulfillment. Today, the local region has been lifted out of extreme poverty and local people have more options for entertainment, but Yang believes the open-air cinema will always play a special role especially for the children and elderly people left behind.

XU CHAO / XINHUA

Yang Mingjin shows a movie to children in a special education school in Lushui county, Nujiang prefecture, on October 21, 2022.

From left to right: Yang Mingjin changes tires at a tire shop in Lushui county of Nujiang prefecture, Yunnan province, on October 21, 2022. Yang plays a movie at the film exhibition hall in Lushui county of Nujiang prefecture, Yunnan province, on October 21, 2022. Yang shows the film at the film exhibition hall in Lushui county of Nujiang prefecture, Yunnan province, on October 20, 2022.
UK shortages edged on by several crises

From avian flu, to rising energy costs and labor shortages, Britain’s agricultural sector is facing a bleak 2023. However, there may be lessons to learn from China.

**TREND**

Empty shelves in the egg stall inside a supermarket in London that trigger unusually high prices and trigger spikes in the cost of living. British retailers are redirecting spending back to domestic suppliers in response to recessionary conditions, according to the Confederation of British Industry. (Photo: Getty Images)

**UK shortages edged on by several crises**

From avian flu, to rising energy costs and labor shortages, Britain’s agricultural sector is facing a bleak 2023. However, there may be lessons to learn from China.

Paul Kelly, a poultry farmer at Kirby Turvey, said: “The current compensation scheme fixed dates in law, that’s what the poultry industry needs to see. There’s a fantastic demand for food in the UK, and it’s £50 million that could be going out of the country, that’s not an insignificant amount.”

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**Rising energy costs**

The Johnson Government had said that the average would be reduced to 30,000 in 2023. Under the new scheme, farmers have to meet a certain level of training, which is currently 20 per cent.

The government had said that the average would be reduced to 30,000 in 2023. Under the new scheme, farmers have to meet a certain level of training, which is currently 20 per cent.

**Poultry farmers** have been affected by high energy prices, which has led to a shortage of labor in the industry. The government has announced that it will provide funding to help farmers with energy costs.

**Chicken prices** have risen sharply in recent months, with the price of live birds increasing from £2.50 per kilogram in January to £4.50 per kilogram in April. This has led to a significant increase in the cost of production for poultry farmers, who are struggling to remain profitable.

**Avian flu** has also caused significant disruption to the poultry industry, with outbreaks reported in several regions of the country. The government has announced a new compensation scheme to help farmers affected by the disease.

**Energy prices** have risen sharply in recent months, with the price of natural gas increasing by 25 per cent in the first quarter of 2023. This has led to a significant increase in the cost of production for poultry farmers, who are struggling to remain profitable.

**Supply chains** are under pressure due to the combination of high energy prices and labor shortages, which is leading to a decrease in the availability of poultry products on the market.

** 갖춤감마**

**Global food crisis**

The global food crisis is a serious issue that requires urgent action in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation. The world is facing a perfect storm of challenges that is putting pressure on food security, including climate change, conflict, and economic instability.

**Korea Times**

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The global food crisis is a serious issue that requires urgent action in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation. The world is facing a perfect storm of challenges that is putting pressure on food security, including climate change, conflict, and economic instability.
RV production in full swing in Shandong

Rongcheng aims to grow sector into pillar by building complete export supply chain

By ZHOU YUWEN in Rongcheng

On the production lines run by a recreational vehicle producer in Rongcheng, a county-level city in Shandong province, workers are busy assembling campers in late September. These campers will soon be shipped to overseas markets including the United States and South Korea.

During the first 10 months of 2022, over 1.3 billion yuan ($162 million) worth of RVs were exported via Rongcheng. Currently, the year-on-year increase of 20 percent is due to the department.

Radio production

Yuewen, a worker at a production line in Rongcheng, says RVs are being built mainly of the art production lines to improve quality.

Rongcheng Mingguang Outdoor Leisure Products Co Ltd said its company spent more than 60 million yuan building two workshops with a coverage area of 10,000 square meters to produce RVs.

Recreational vehicle workshops and assembly workshops will bring RV productivity in Rongcheng, said Xu Chuanyi, executive director of the company.

Mingguang tied up with United States' University of Science and Technology to jointly develop welding technology, a major process used in under production.

To meet consumer demand for personalized designs, Compal has been using an industrial internet system through which consumers can view online.

For example, consumers can choose the vehicle according to their needs, said a deputy general manager of the overseas sales company.

In comparison with just one, it took the company one year to improve its steel chassis with an aluminum alloy alternative to make the trailer lighter and thus more fuel efficient, he said.

China's RVs favored by consumers

A total of 3,000 RVs, including self-propelled flannel and trailers, rolled off production lines in Rongcheng in 2022, generating total sales of two billion yuan.

Traders produced in the city are sold to countries including Australia, New Zealand, the US, South Korea and Japan, said the city's bureau of industry and information technology.

In countries like the UK, Canada and Australia, traders usually account for 90 percent of total RV sales, said Li Ronghua, secretary general of the China Passenger Car Association, and a recent article about the RV market.

China's RVs have been gaining popularity in recent years, bringing steady profit for the companies.

Rongcheng Customs has been using smart systems to verify certificates applications submitted by companies to ensure companies are fulfilling their responsibilities.

Mobile Automotive Technology Co Ltd in Rongcheng said more than 2,700 RVs were exported in January of 2023. The firm had sourced 300 certificates of origin, which had accumulated 10 million yuan in profits for the company, according to an article published on the official website of Tribune.

The RUP Certificate of Origin, which offers preferential tariff treatment, has given RV producers in Rongcheng a boost to expand overseas markets.

Innovation-driven technologies

RV production in Rongcheng is building mass-of-art production lines to improve productivity.

Rongcheng Mingguang Outdoor Leisure Products Co Ltd spent more than 60 million yuan building two workshops with a coverage area of 10,000 square meters to produce RVs. The automated welding workshop and assembly workshop will boost RV productivity in Rongcheng, said Xu Chuanyi, executive director of the company.

Mingguang has tied up with the University of Science and Technology to jointly develop welding technology, a major process used in under production.

To meet consumer demand for personalized designs, Compal has been using an industrial internet system through which consumers can view online.

For example, consumers can choose the vehicle according to their needs, and they will be provided with a single-person, one-click online shopping experience, said the company.

The manual is easy to use, said a deputy general manager of the overseas sales company.

In comparison with just one, it took the company one year to improve its steel chassis with an aluminum alloy alternative to make the trailer lighter and thus more fuel efficient, he said.

RVs on the homestead

In China, RVs are favored by consumers. A total of 12,000 RVs were sold in China in 2021, a year-on-year increase of 11 percent. 

More than 3,500 RVs were sold out in 2021, according to statistics provided by the industry association in China.

The International RV and Camping Expo held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, this year attracted over 130 companies, among which nearly 400 were old, with 30 percent 30 to 60 RVs being sold, and 70 percent 60 to 300 RVs being sold.

There is a big potential to develop the domestic RV market as more and more people would like to experience RV tours,” said a company.

This year, more than 40 companies will be able to experience the tour, said a company.

RV owners are becoming more and more loyal to their companies, and they will be able to get some discounts this year, said a company.

“RV demand will increase with more campers and support facilities being built in the near future,” he added.

Recreational vehicles being roaded by storm as China embraces wanderlust

By ZHU YUANRAN

Recreational vehicles have become a new trend in China and continue to gain popularity, becoming a new sub-industry in the country compared with more developed markets.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic first broke out in late 2019, the travel and outdoor industries have continued to expand, with more and more travelers preferring to travel outdoors instead of going to crowded urban centers.

In the first half of 2022, sales revenue of RV industry in China increased by 150 percent year-on-year.

As COVID-19 and the pandemic continued, more and more people in China are seeking outdoor activities, especially in rural areas.

In September of this year, the total sales of RVs in China reached 50.6 billion yuan ($6.8 billion), up by 20 percent year-on-year.

About 1 million RVs have been exported to countries including South Korea, Japan and the United States.

China is also known as the world’s largest RV market.

China is a vast country, with diverse landscapes and climates, so there is a large demand for RVs in different regions.

In the western part of China, where there is a large desert area, RVs are used for tourism and exploration.

In the eastern part of China, where there is a large coastline, RVs are used for leisure and recreation.

In the southern part of China, where there is a large mountain area, RVs are used for outdoor sports and adventure.

In the northern part of China, where there is a large plain area, RVs are used for outdoor living and camping.

China is also known as the world’s largest RV market.
Cold comfort

The country’s northeast builds on winter travel, as a legacy of the 2022 Games, report Liu Mingtao in Changchun and Zhou Huying in Harbin

Winter scenes and features in Harbin province are a traditional specialty of hot water from pots into the terrace area, creating a spectacular scene as the water instantly freezes to form ice and agate “turtles,” at the opening ceremony of the first winter tourism festival in Changchun, Harbin, and Sanya, where temperatures opened in December. (Provided to CNA)

Liu Mingtao in Changchun

A father helps his child put on clothes before skiing at the 2022 Harbin Ice and Snow World. (Provided to CNA)

Zhou Huying in Harbin

Hot water is poured from a hot water source into an ice sculpture and sculp- tures, turning the park into i.e. wonderland. Activities, including riding on a 1,000-meter slide, the longest at the park to date. A rope slide in the shape of a giant snowflake has been built to provide a thrilling experience in a dancing world after dark.

One concern centred on health safety on a long journey. I have suspender my family annual travel plans,” said local resident Zhou Tian. But as the local suspension plan is in effect, my husband and I brought our son ‘Snowy puppy’ for a visit here.”

We all expected to find such a spectacular landscape even though we know it is cold and snow is a nuisance.”

Northenmost city

Picked for its historical importance in Mole dropping to minus 40 C. Chin’s northernmost city to preside over its winter charm to tourists.

The city of Harbin in Heilongjiang province is known as “the city that never sleeps” and is famous for its ice sculptures. Winter begins in mid-October in Harbin, where the highest temperatures drop to minus 25 C. The city has a long history, having been a winter capital for many dynasties in China’s history. Harbin is also known for its winter tourism and has been hosting winter tourism events for decades.

In the opening ceremony, the City of Harbin held a traditional parade of barefoot dancers from doors into the streets for the “Ice and Snow Festival.” A variety of winter activities, including ice sculpting and snowboarding, were held to mark the start of winter. The festival, which is known as “Ice and Snow Village,” is a popular attraction for tourists in this cold city.

A man takes a photo of an ice sculpture at the 2022 Harbin Ice and Snow World. (Provided to CNA)

Zhou Huying in Harbin

Winter scenes and features in Harbin province are a traditional specialty of hot water from pots into the terrace area, creating a spectacular scene as the water instantly freezes to form ice and agate “turtles,” at the opening ceremony of the first winter tourism festival in Changchun, Harbin, and Sanya, where temperatures opened in December. (Provided to CNA)
**Billiards**

People play pool in an open space in Harare, Zimbabwe on Nov 19, 2023. Previously a minority sport in Zimbabwe, the game has increased in popularity over the years.

Leshete, 19 years old, who has been playing pool since 2012, said, "I take to the game because there's a lot of money on the line." Leshete, along with his friends and family, hold regular pool sessions in their home.

**A cue for success?**

Zimbabwe's pool players are betting on the sport to make a living.

Leshete Chisamba, 19 years old, lines up his shot while playing pool on the outside of a Harare, Zimbabwe, Nov 19, 2023. Chisamba struggled to find a job in Zimbabwe's struggling industries. The outburst of COVID-19 forced him to a billiard's store. His dream is to turn his passion into a profession.

"It is not easy to get a job," said Chisamba. "I have been playing pool since I was 15 years old. I have won many awards in this sport." Chisamba hopes to make a living from this sport in the future.

**Celebrity**

Ledcke earns AP female athlete of year for second time

A change of scenery worked out just fine for Katie Ledcke.

Heading coach and cooker last summer's Tokyo Olympics, the American swimmer turned in another stellar performance at the world championships, set a pair of world records and eclipsed 2023 at The Associated Press Women's Athlete of the Year for 2023.

Ledcke, who previously won the award in 2019, has been topping the world rankings for 400 and 800 meters and sprints from overseas and across the country.

She received the award on Dec 11, 2023.

"I'm really happy," said Ledcke, who was the most decorated female athlete of the year. "I think I'm really happy to be in this position."

Ledcke, who won her first Olympic gold medal in 2012 at age 18, has managed to stay on top in female freestyle swimming's longest pool events for the better part of a decade. She has held the long-course world record in both the 400 and 800-meter freestyle events since 2022, and she has been on the medal stand at the Olympics for the past 10 years.

At this year's world championships in Budapest, Hungary, Ledcke swam the 400-meter freestyle for the first time since 2012 and won the event in 4:04.14. She also claimed gold in the 800-meter freestyle in 8:09.18.

Ledcke, who is now training at the University of Texas in Austin, said she is ready to make another splash at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"I think I'm ready to make another splash," she said. "I'm really happy to be in this position."

Ledcke's next goal is to qualify for the 2024 Olympic team in the 200-meter freestyle event.

"I'm excited to see how I perform," she said. "I'm ready to make another splash."
Messi-mania lights up World Cup

How crazy fans from around the world show their passion and love to the Argentina superstar

A Lionel Messi supporter poses with a replica of the FIFA World Cup Trophy before the Qatar 2022 World Cup final match between Argentina and France at Lusail Stadium, north of Doha, on Dec. 18.

A Cuban fan of the Argentine national team has his face painted before watching the live broadcast of the Qatar 2022 final match between Argentina and France in Havana on Dec. 18.

Fans wearing masks of Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina forward Lionel Messi pose prior to the Qatar 2022 World Cup third place play-off match between Croatia and Morocco.

The picture taken on Dec. 18 shows Argentina's supporters watching the Qatar 2022 World Cup final between Argentina and France in Tienhai.

An 35-meter-long Argentinian shirt featuring Lionel Messi's surname is displayed at the Monumento a la Bandera in Rosario, Argentina, on Dec. 19.