Reforms of stock market highlighted

Experts: Measures would unleash great potential, support real economy

By ZHOU LANXI
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China’s capital market needs more market-oriented reforms measures to further unleash its great potential and better support the real economy, experts and market analysts said.

Lowering the increased opportunities arising in China’s capital market, they said the measures should include better regulating the behavior of listed companies’ major shareholders, in order to further strengthen the foundations of the country’s financial system.

“The share market is actually offering more opportunities for future (income from both base and abroad),” said Yang Wanyong, an associate professor of economics at the University of International Business and Economics.

Foreign inflows into China’s A-share market have increased in recent months, as demand for both equities and real assets has continued to grow. The Chinese stock market, as a haven from the beginning of January, has seen foreign inflows reach a record high in the last quarter of 2023.

Hong Kong’s stock market ended higher Thursday with the benchmark Hang Seng index up 2.4% to 31,342.46. The China Enterprise Index gained by 2.5%.

The CSI 300 index, which covers the top 300 companies listed in Shanghai and Shenzhen, has risen more than 5% since the beginning of the year, closing at a record high on Jan 20, the last trading session before the Spring Festival holiday, according to Wind Info.

In terms of specific reform measures, experts said administrative and legal measures to punish major shareholders’ illegal behavior related to selling their stake to raise profits should be strengthened, while imposing additional taxes on batches of holding reductions might be considered.

Building reduction refers to the behavior of big shareholders, executives or actual controllers of listed companies to reduce their holdings in the companies, which usually leads to stock price drops and losses among minority shareholders.

“China’s stock market is emerging as a market-oriented capital market, and the capital market is no longer a financial market for local government or local government officers,” said one expert. 

Hong Kong is the world’s highest stock market index, with a market capitalization of over $15.2 trillion. Its market value is about twice that of the Shanghai stock market, and it is the third largest stock market in the world.

By MAO
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As Wandering Earth II, the Chinese sequel to the immensely successful sci-fi epic, is well received in cinemas, China’s nascent 3D printing and related industrial robots, a recurring presence in the film, offer a glimpse into the country’s plan to be a global technology hub for the future.

By 2025, China will be able to double manufacturing robot density by compared with that of 2014, the plan said.

In the manufacturing robot domain, a vital tool used to measure a country’s level of automation, reached 3.3 million units in 2020. The number hit 2.32 million, reports the International Frontrunner, in 2021. It has grown to 3 million by 2023, according to the International Federation of Robotics.

China is by far the fastest-growing robot market in the world, with the highest number of annual installations, and it has had the largest operational stock of robots since 2018, according to the IFR.

“Robots density is a key indicator of automation adoption in the manufacturing industry around the world,” said Martin Rabe, president of the IFR.

China’s rapid growth shows the country’s investment in automation is paying off, but it still has much greater potential to go.

The 30th National Congress of the Communist Party of China said innovation will remain at the heart of China’s multi-faceted economic development. It will accelerate the implementation of major national projects and foster new development momentum to advance greater self-reliance in the field of science and technology.

As one of China’s strategic emerging industries, the robotics sector has made remarkable progress in recent years. China is now the world’s largest market for robots. According to the China Institute of Electrical Engineering, the country’s robot sales reached a cumulative 2.5 million units in March this year, up 47% year on year. The average annual growth rate of the robot industry is expected to reach 20%. China, according to the report, reached 113 billion robots.

China’s robotics industry and secondary industry, mainly the China International Industry, are expected to be major carriers of Chinese innovation, technology, and robots are on the cutting edge of China’s development in artificial intelligence and construction. China’s robotics industry has grown from 10 billion yuan in 2014 to 250 billion yuan in 2021.

By RUI MEIYING
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Wulan exemplifies greening transition

In Wulan county, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the yellow sand that once smothered the small town has now been replaced by greenery.

Meng Fanliang, a 57-year-old farmer, has seen the transformation from barren land to thriving fields. He said the turning point came when his son Meng Yining, 32, returned home from school.

“Over the years, the wind erosion has become more serious due to the decrease in vegetation cover,” Meng Yining said.

“When I was young, I would go to the same place to plant trees, but now I take care of them,” Meng Yining said.

By HU ZHIHONG
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Woven wonders

Craftswoman brings new splendor to ancient technique

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Wishing for prosperity

Movie offers glimpse of robotics plans

By MAO
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At 20 years old, Yang Tian, an online content creator in Beijing, has frequently used mobile apps and social media to share his love for movies. He has a passion for the visual and technical aspects of the cinema.

In the “Entertainment” column, Yang Tian shares his thoughts on the recent film release, Wandering Earth II, which has been receiving positive reviews from both the public and critics.

The movie, directed by Frick Li, is a sequel to the popular science-fiction film Wandering Earth released in 2018. The sequel follows the story of a young Chinese scientist who must save the Earth from destruction by a dying sun.

In Wandering Earth II, the main character, Li Wen, is chosen to participate in the space mission to save the Earth. The story unfolds as Li Wen must overcome various challenges, including a betrayal by a former friend.

During the film, Li Wen encounters various technological marvels, such as advanced robots and 3D printing technologies, which are crucial to the movie’s plot.

The robots play a significant role in the film, symbolizing the country’s commitment to becoming a global technology hub. The movie highlights China’s rapid development in the field of robotics, showcasing the country’s advancements in automation and innovation.

WDisposable plastics are a major concern in today’s world, with the production of plastic waste being a significant environmental issue. The film Wandering Earth II addresses this issue by emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices.

“By introducing the concept of disposable plastics, the movie effectively highlights the environmental impact of such practices,” Yang Tian said.

The film also touches on themes such as resource management and the importance of preserving the planet for future generations.

Ferries strengthen cross-Strait bonds

By RUI MEIYING
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During this year’s Spring Festival, many people were reunited with their families by taking the ferry between the coastal areas of Fujian province and the eastern islands of Kangyan province.

The ferry service was initiated in November 2022, with the aim of providing a more efficient and cost-effective transportation option for rural residents.

The ferry service is operated by a local company, with several vessels capable of carrying up to 1,000 passengers and 300 cars.

The service is especially popular among the elderly, who rely on it to travel to visit family members and attend local events.

By 2025, the number of passenger trips is expected to reach 1 million, with a projected growth rate of 20% annually.

The ferry service provides a significant boost to the local economy, generating revenue for the local authorities, while also reducing the carbon footprint of the transportation sector.

Through the implementation of such projects, China continues to prioritize the development of sustainable and efficient transportation systems, aiming to address the challenges of urbanization and population growth.

In conclusion, the ferry service between the coastal areas of Fujian and Kangyan province is a testament to the government’s commitment to promoting sustainable transportation solutions and fostering cross-Strait cooperation.
**NATION**

Provinces report solid GDP growth

Figures highlight strong resilience of Chinese economy, say analysts

**BY ZHANG YUE and ZHOU LAXIN**

At least eight provincial-level regions in China achieved GDP growth of 5% or more in the first quarter of 2023, according to figures released on Wednesday. The data come as China aims to maintain solid GDP growth for the whole year, based on government forecasts.

The figures, released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), highlight the strong resilience of China's economy in the face of external challenges and domestic adjustments. The NBS said that the economy continued to recover in the first quarter, with industrial production, retail sales, and exports all growing.

The NBS data showed that the economy of Guangdong province, China's largest province in terms of GDP, grew by 5.3% year-on-year in the first quarter, while that of Jiangsu province, the economic powerhouse of eastern China, grew by 5.1%.

The NBS also released data on the performance of major industries. The data showed that the manufacturing sector continued to recover, with output up by 5.0% year-on-year in the first quarter.

In terms of employment, the NBS said that the national urban unemployment rate was 5.3% in the first quarter, down by 0.2 percentage points from the same period last year.

The data also showed that inflation remained moderate, with consumer prices rising by 0.7% year-on-year in the first quarter, compared with 1.1% in the fourth quarter of 2022.

**Environment:**

Great efforts green bear fruit

**BY BILL FUTAN**

Recently released Chinese Super League (CSL) champions Wuhan Yangtze River won the championship for the third time in five years, showcasing the league's growing relevance and commercial potential.

Wuhan Yangtze River is one of the most successful clubs in China, having won the CSL title in 2018 and 2022. The team is owned by the Wuhan Football Association, which is the city's official representative in the CSL.

Winning the CSL title for the third time in five years is a testament to the club's strength and consistency. The team has been able to maintain a high level of performance, attracting top talent and building a strong foundation.

The CSL is China's top professional football league, which was established in 2004. The league consists of 18 teams, representing the country's 18 administrative regions.

The CSL is also a key part of China's broader football development strategy, which includes investing in youth development programs and promoting the game at all levels.

**Major soccer club quits league games**

**BY WANG ZHELING in Chengdu**

Recently released Chinese Super League (CSL) champions Wuhan Yangtze River have announced their decision to withdraw from the CSL, citing financial difficulties and other factors.

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**Doctor couple serve as frontline health guards**

**BY WANG JIAXI in Nanjing and YANG XIAOQIN**

Cao Hailan and Shi Dongfang, two doctors in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, have played key roles in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and improving health care in Nanjing.

Cao Hailan is a senior doctor at the Nanjing Medical University Hospital, where she has worked for over 20 years. She has been involved in the management of major infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Shi Dongfang is a professor at the Nanjing Medical University, where he has taught for over 30 years. He has been involved in the research and development of new medicines and vaccines.

The couple have been praised for their dedication and excellence in their work, and have been awarded numerous honors and titles.

**Magnitude-5.6 quake hits county in Sichuan**

**BY HAN BO in Chengdu**

A magnitude-5.6 earthquake struck the rural region of Congjiang county, Sichuan province, on Sunday morning, causing minor damage and injuries.

The earthquake occurred at 07:31 local time, with its epicenter located 20 kilometers northwest of the county's capital, Congjiang, and was felt in nearby areas.

No major casualties were reported, but some minor injuries and damage to buildings were recorded. The county government has activated an emergency response plan to ensure public safety.

Local authorities have advised residents to stay calm and take appropriate precautions, such as staying away from potential hazards like loose objects and buildings.

**Market:**

Calls to improve regulation

The revised Securities Law, which seeks to fill institutional gaps, has stipulated that if holding redlines vis-à-vis capital-regulation rules, and is expected to give a fillip to the development. The law requires that the major shareholders of listed companies shall hold at least 20% of their shares. It also requires that the major shareholders shall hold at least 10% of the shares. This law will help to promote the development of the stock market.

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Consumers: Digital platforms gaining popularity

Demand for imported goods grows among cross-border shoppers

By Fan Feifei

Chinese consumers have shown a growing appetite for foreign goods—both luxury and premium consumer goods, as well as daily-use products and foreign-branded products become more popular as consumer spending, according to industry insiders.

Li Yanhuan, head of Amazon China’s fast-goods and Frustration Free, said, “Young Chinese consumers, especially those born between 1990 and 1999, have independent thinking and judgment when choosing products and prefer to judge products through social influence like friends and personality.”

The “say of home economy” has become more prevalent among the new generation. They are willing to spend money on new things and new brands, and shopping for luxury goods has become a standard in the new generation, Li said.

Young Chinese consumers are more willing to try new things and new brands, and shopping for luxury goods has become a standard in the new generation.

Chinese consumers have more information about safety and health, and they prefer to buy high-quality products, as well as services that can help them save time and money, Li said.

Li said that Amazon is considering expanding its business to China’s lower-tier cities, and that it will continue to focus on bringing high-quality products to Chinese consumers.

According to a report from Chinese e-commerce platform JD.com, the number of Chinese consumers who are interested in cross-border shopping has increased significantly in recent years.

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Boeing faces fraud charge over jet crashes

By MAX BECKON in New York
mbeckon@chinadailyusa.com

Boeing's chief safety officer pleaded not guilty Thursday in a Utah federal court to criminal charges of conspiracy to commit fraud related to the crash of two 737 MAX 8 aircraft that killed 346 people in 2019.

The company's safety director, Mark Dowell, who as the safety chief was on board the flight in November 2019, said he was not guilty of providing misleading information about flight-control systems.

US District Court Judge Rodney Dees of the Northern District of Texas last week sentenced Dowell to be publicly arraigned on the felony chargings, finding that the US Justice Department had violated a victim's rights law by not including the families in a settlement between Boeing and the US government.

In a court brief, families of the crash victims requested that the judge require Boeing to cooperate with an independent monitor, who will evaluate

the company's compliance with a deferred prosecution agreement with the Justice Department in 2021.

"Only an independent monitor – the proverbial second-echelon cop – can begin to restore confidence in Boeing and restore safety of the community, the families were in their court filing. The MAX jets, once into service in 2017. In October 2019, a MAX jet flown byhonored pilot Larry Ai crashed into the Java Sea during a routine flight, killing 189 passengers and crew.

Last month, Boeing fired a MAX jet flown by Syrian Airlines crashed a few minutes after takeoff, killing 166 passengers and crew, including 25 members of the United Nations.

An investigation showed that both accidents were triggered by design flaws, in particular the flawed control software MCAS. It was designed to assist pilots by stabilizing the aeroplane in the face of possible control failures and eliminate the need for extra training.

However, errors from a single sensor caused the system to malfunction. The jet went into a dive, the pilots were unable to recover. As many as the relatives of those killed in the crashes sought relief.

It was a heart-breaking deal. It wasn’t just ‘Saints’ Catholic Flight of the Irish, headed by Michael, who was killed in the Indonesian crash, that didn’t last. ‘Aye, ‘ruling this immunity, the decision makers have not been held accountable.”

By REID BRYAN in New York
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The euphoria of talks by the US and Germany to achieve a deal with Iran has ended the talks in a war scenario that would become unprecedented for this world. Munich, Germany, 07 February 2023

In a post Thursday afternoon, written letter to the US President, John Biden, about NASA’s intended involvement in the Ukraine last week, "This is our test. We are on the border of the world that could break down the Russian way of life in the Ukraine,” said NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine.

Tanks for Ukraine: rapid development of global risk

By CHINA DAILY USA
china@chinadailyusa.com

WASHINGTON, March 3, 2023, (Xinhua) -- The vehicle system of the US military’s main battle tanks to Ukraine has been decided on an act of war, which the deployment of "easy" armament at the appropriate time and place can ensure a lasting war.

The commander said, "We can’t just do all the training.

A Japanese think tank has warned the US and its allies should work to acquire such an imposing military system, but no one is necessarily toward becoming full-flown belligerents, regardless of attempts to preserve the balance in the region. Caperton wrote.

Former US President Donald Trump, in an April Thursday on his Truth social site, wrote: "WE COME THE TANKS THEN COME THE NUKES. Get this crazy war stopped, NOW... to stay in 90. Americans also told to live in "... to express concerns over a seeming escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. US Representative Sten Krause, a newly elected Republican from Arizona and the former US Navy SEAL, wrote on Wednesday: "This is our test. We are on the border of a war that could break down the Russian way of life in the Ukraine."

US Senator John McCain, a former officer in the Vietnam War, was killed in a bus crash in 2018. The deal has been on a path toward developing a major war with Russia. Behind, a foreign policy analyst and lawyer, wrote on Thursday: "The American people believe it. We need the tanks to Ukrainian join us on a path threatening a major war with Russia.

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Meanwhile, any countries that are prepared to provide lip service to the fight for justice would face no shortage of supply. US weapons manufacturers told The Wall Street Journal there’s a lot of conversation from defense contractors about producing additional F-16 fighters and "... to express concerns over a seeming escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. US Representative Sten Krause, a newly elected Republican from Arizona and the former US Navy SEAL, wrote on Wednesday: "This is our test. We are on the border of a war that could break down the Russian way of life in the Ukraine."

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By ZHANG JIA in Beijing and HUI QINGFENG in Yinchuan

What’s the first thing that pops into your mind when you think of wheat? Most people would probably mention their childhood game of chasing the wheat in farmer’s field. However, Wu An, an international wheat expert in China, is recalling a scene where the wheat field turned white from barren little wheat sprout to flourishing golden wheat. It’s many generations of hereditary wheat planting.

Weaving craftswoman aspires to bring new splendor to ancient technique

Young straw-plaiting craftswoman Wu Cui makes a straw-woven dragon at a studio in Beijing in October. Straw-braided cases are seen arranged to form an artistic scene. The two straw cases made by Wu. (Photo: PEOPLE CHINA)

The earliest straw-woven products were unearthed at Hemudu Cultural Ruins, a Neolithic cultural site located at Zhejiang’s Hangzhou, the province of Zhejiang, one of the classical works of straw weaving, also records that there were four kinds of straw made of natural grass and professional straw-wearing costume during the Zhou Dynasty (207-403 BC).

By Wu An, her family has provided a lot of support, while the countryside, video games, and technology involved with the craft, is a source of inspiration.

"Immersed in an atmosphere with a focus on handcraft techniques, I made the straw-plaiting my job and managed to continue it after graduating from university two years ago," the 26-year-old said. Now, she is working at a company and participating in the promotion of traditional crafts, such as straw plaiting and clay sculpture. Wu said she described her work, a fifth-generation inheritor of straw plaiting, as "a kind of pink color.

"As a child, I had a penchant for conventional and mechanical work before my uncle taught me to make a grasshopper cage, my first straw weaving work," she recalls.

To complete a work, Wu says she builds up the straw structure, plaiting, and revision, and finally, the young woman adheres with every piece.

Different pieces need different materials. Wu says, adding that grasses in wheat and rice are usually used for leaves, palms trees or reeds, while leaves, small birds, and big animals are mostly made using straw.

Wu explains the process of straw weaving: "When the wheat is ripe, pick the top right side stems, one with the ears of wheat, as it is heavier. Then tie them up and dry before cutting. While the straw needs to be soaked in warm water to make it more flexible and avoid breaking them.

A layman might think that the work is just about the actual weaving. According to Wu, however, selection of materials is the first step of a complicated, time-consuming and labor-intensive process that can take weeks, even months, to complete. Each segment is skilfully placed on the piece by piece, which requires drawing skills and also creativity to three-dimensional structures. Next comes the weaving, shaping and finally the preserving of the work," Wu adds. "Even by adhering to that structure, it does not mean that you will always create a good piece of work, and the hardest part is to make it lifelike and solid," she says, adding that, this is where to take piece apart and try again.

We realize that, when she was a child, many straw items could be found almost in every household in the countryside, such as straw shoes, hats and shoes, and because they were processed in everyday life. "Due to the impact of industrialization, manufactured goods have replaced such products, which yield low profits, and these ones are left at about 100 individuals engaging in this field across the country," she notes.

"The world has changed and craftsmen need to transcend prac-
tically and pursue the beauty and artistry of straw culture to help the craft survive and thrive," she says.

From her perspective, straw plaiting should not be a simple needs and problems, and still shows a great potential in traditional crafts. In the fast-paced modern life, people have a desire to embrace nature and传统文化 is in the society and cultural needs. "For her, intangible cultural heritage has growing importance and potential, and it is supposed to be reached to teach students about the history and culture of each group it will be encouraged to devote themselves to it as a career," she adds.

"Thankfully, our ethnographic institu-
tions on precious folk crafts, straw plaiting will have a longer public profile," she says.

As Chinese culture established a trend of intangible cultural heritage, national, provincial, municipal and county levels, it has identified more than 500,000 representative items of each one.

"For straw plaiting to bloom, we need to consider the cultural potential of project and efforts to guide the trends and opportunities of the time to transform new and relevant products," Wu says.

When asked about her plans, Wu says, "I plan to visit some traditional cultural and creative workshops in the city, and fully leveraging the straw plaiting tech-
nique," she adds.

"I think the model of traditional cultural and creative workshops could be discovered, such as opening a straw plaiting training center to broadcast cultural knowledge, or engaged in the creation of some products," she says. "Chen’s idea of the making of a flagship store is also a good model, to provide a face-to-face experience to the customers."
Soccer helping them realize goals

Two footballs and an untrained coach chart a course out of Yunnan's mountainous terrain for its students

By YANG JUN in Guiyang

A 48-hour-old child was born on a gray day in December in it is still dark in the mountain village of Yunnan in Daliang County of Southwest China's Guizhou province. But Wu Banli, 33, and her husband, who were already at the playground of Primary School for the village's youngest ones just 6 years old and the oldest 12.

Wu, the team leader, is the most skilled, knowing how to use the ball and the ball. Anyone who is not good at passing the ball will be removed in this game.

The girls attend three training sessions a week, first-meter-long, and half-hour-long, after school; half-hour-long after 5:00 pm, and then again in the early morning.

The rigorous training has helped. They have won several school championships including national-level ones, emerging as a reputation as the village's girls' soccer team.

Their good performance has earned some girls seats in famous schools in big cities. Eight of the girls go to the China Football School of Beijing United in Beijing, Guizhou province, and five to Guangzhou Polytechnic of Sports in Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

In a way, the road they have paved the way for these girls from the mountains to see a bigger world outside and fulfill their dreams.

"No, not that soccer. It’s the only way for those children to walk out of the mountains to a better life, but at least, currently, playing soccer offers them a way," said Wu.

Two footballs, Nine Ends

Needed amid a range of mountains, Yunnan's village has just one winding road leading to the outside world. Because of the lands in the winding road through the mountains, the mud has earned the name "Mud Road.

There are very few young adults in the village as most of them have left to earn a living in the cities. Yunnan Primary School has about 300 students and is struggling with their enrollments. The children barely have enough money to pay for their fees from the mountains.

Forthyeight-year-old Xu came to the school in 2015, a year after volunteering to assist with rural education. He was teaching chemistry students of the third and sixth grades.

The school didn't have a playground in 2015. Xu placed his student's education on the front of the school building.

In 2017, when somebody donated two footballs to the school, Xu began playing with the students.

"At the beginning, they had no idea how to play the game, but they showed great interest," said Xu.

"The two footballs were among the few pieces of sport equipment they had at the beginning." Some days later, schoolmaster Wang Gangguo managed to get a public welfare organization to build a soccer ground for the school. But the number of the field after the coach came. They began holding a sports day for primary and junior middle school students in the village.

"Football, a playing field and then a sports festival, is now to organize a soccer team now," said Xu.

In less than a week, 30 students applied to join the team. And their unoffical training began.

As a soccer fan, Xu has some basic knowledge about soccer. He spends a lot of time learning from videos. He didn’t expect the girls to play well with the ball.

"The school was held to play together and exercise. Before, I wanted them to learn movements for playing soccer," said Xu.

But the girls-surprised Xu during the country's sports festival by becoming champions among primary schools in the county.

"They demonstrated a tenacious spirit and a proud three in existence," said Xu, adding that he was impressed by that.

Good performances in the games were recognized for the Yunnan soccer team. Several girls get admissions into good middle schools in the country with their outstanding soccer playing ability.

Xu and Wang realized that soccer could give children the better chances of getting quality education. They started putting more efforts on developing the school's soccer team.

In 2019, the two applied successfully for their school to become a demonstration school for national soccer and won support for developing soccer courses from local education authorities and social organizations.

The school now has a new soccer ground, meaning 20 meters by 30 meters, which is large enough for the students to train in. They even have new jerseys. The school team has selected nine students.

In addition to some girls in the girl’s team, there are 10 boys in the boy’s team, amonging one-third of the total number of students in the school.

"Some students have guilt, but most others are dreaming on. They have all the good qualities of Chinese women football players — they are strong, they like to train very hard and have a competitive spirit," said Xu.

The students are proud to have become soccer players. The sport is helping them fix their dreams such as flying by aircraft and waving the sea.

Role models

In 2019, the players of the Yunnan soccer team secured a chance to get professional training at the Guangzhou Polytechnic of Sports. The school has trained several world champions such as football champion Quan Hongchan.

The selected girls will complete their education from primary school through college in Guangzhou, and represent the city in soccer.

Four months after training in Guangzhou, the five girls went back to Primary School to join their home school's soccer team and play a game in Opening, capital of Hainan province. The Yunnan team won the championship, which Xu believes the most.

Exchanges with the five girls added the younger players in Yunnan a lot. Wang Ruihan, one of the five girls, became the “Top Campus Score.”

"When Xu and I’ met, Wang can only tell to find their way with a ball on the ground, how to warm up before a match and what to do after a match, and all these techniques were only heard of before. And the younger players are sure that the five girls’ momentum is much better, and they speak some English too.

However, it has not been easy for the five girls to adapt to life and training in Guangzhou. After all, they were only 19 to 23 years old and the oldest 25 when they went to study around 1,000 kilometers away from home.

After returning in Guangzhou, Wang realized they knew little English. "The training is hard but this is the only way to improve their English," said Wang.

"The five girls also have difficulties learning Mandarin, mathematics and other subjects."

"We don't understand what they are saying in English," said Wang. Also, the girls were often embarrassed as the food in Guangzhou is very different from that back home.

In such matters, they thought of Xu and tested him, like, in turn, managing them to be strong and stay on.

"Of course, I’m the biggest. After all, they are young. It takes time as we are new environment," said Xu.

The young players who have walked out of the mountainous region are contributing to the development of their hometown school in their own ways.

Wang, who attended the Union of European Football Associations Nations League, took the story of the girls’ soccer team to the world stage last year, and Zhang Ziyun, who became the champion of a girls’ soccer match in Guangzhou province demanded her medals to Yunnan Primary School to encourage her younger brothers and sisters.

The residents of Yunnan village felt they the girls who have walked out of the mountain area to a bigger world with their good performance could be an inspiration for other girls.

"The team leader, Wu, bible football is getting a chance to study this, too. We have two bigger girls already, too," said Xu.

The four girls play in the field on March 15, 2020, got admission into a good junior middle school in the county with her good performance and reputation, now studying in a senior middle school.

"This brought hope to Wu mother, who believes playing soccer creates opportunities for people in the village.

To accompany Wu, and also help the soccer team, she stopped working

in the cities and returned to the village in 2019 to look after the soccer players, even though the pay is much less than that she earned in the cities.

Xu’s expectations

When he organized the soccer team, Xu never expected it would pave the way for children in the mountainous region, especially the girls, to realize a better future.

In the beginning, he was able to play soccer with his students without any pressure.

However, as the school population increased because of the soccer, they were playing, Xu’s pressure kept mounting. He now needs to consider the hopes of more children, and their parents too.

Some girls students transferred themselves from other schools to Yunnan in order to be able to play in the soccer team and get admission into a better junior middle school.

Some soccer players were spending more than an hour walking to school, which was affecting their training. The school came to their aid by converting two classrooms into dormitories. The players now live on the campus and get more time to train.

Until now, it was Xu who cooked three meals a day for the players. But now, Wu brother takes care of the same, thus reducing his load.

Despite the satisfaction of doing his job, Xu feels "very tired" easily as he was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago.

"When I came to Yunnan, I didn’t have a plan on how long I will stay here, but now I have to make a lot of plans, from daily training to checking their school’s team’s development in the following years," said Xu.

Xu feels bad as he felt he lost a professional football player who can offer professional training to the young players. He hopes some professional players will come forward to train them and help them learn better playing techniques.

Contact the writer at shuwangyuan@chinadaily.com.cn

Members of eight-year soccer team train at Yunnan Primary School.

Students enjoy their meal at Yunnan Primary School.
A winter sports wonderland, inspired by the Olympics

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games have integrated ice and snow sports into people's lives, as the heritage of the Winter Olympics, the sports venues have become a popular choice for citizens to experience ice and snow. With the optimization of COVID-19 control protocols, the ice and snow events have been integrated with folk customs and tourism in many regions of the country. The ice and snow festivals as well as the popularity of online encouragement people to participate in winter sports with enthusiasm, making snow and ice sports a new fashion.
The reusing of secondhand goods is picking up in the country, He Qi reports in Shanghai.

Chen Jiaojing, who graduated from University College London, is one of the first people to introduce "steeping" in China, as many believe.

Chen spots a used table and is ready to take it home.

"Imagine these abandoned goods on the roadside as living creatures", which have vitality but are not being fully used. They wait for someone to take them.

Chen Jiaojing (right) and "steeper" "Shanghai treasures" hunt
Pinduoduo’s US storefront makes big splash

Temi offers bargain-basement prices on plethora of consumer goods

By MINSE/CHEN in New York ourcorthem.cn

During the recently concluded holiday shopping season, the most downloaded shopping app in the United States was not Amazon, eBay or Wayfair, but a Chinese e-commerce platform launched only months ago — Temu.

Temi has seen more than 100 million downloads in the US since its launch in September, according to App Annie, which has been the most downloaded app in all countries in the US for most of the time since November.

When you open Temu, prices seem almost too good to be true. Examples include a 20-piece cookware set for $33.50, a magnetic wireless charger for $11.88 and a pair of shoes just $27.

By mid-November, Temu had reached 600 million in average daily gross merchandise value, according to news website 36Kr. Temu plans to make annual sales of $600 million in the next few years, and it had a market cap of 1.7 billion yuan ($259 million) on January 1, 2023.

The success of Temu, its knock-offs in the US — whether you consider it a competitor or a complementary product — Temu spokesmen called China Daily.

Temi can grow fast because “it’s the same playbook. Pinduoduo is doing in China — chasing these very similar but at the same time low-cost items on sale at subprime. They also have a whole bunch of tools and I think they’re definitely doing quality control,” Li, such as the co-founder and former chief tech China, told China Daily.

Temi is putting up $3 billion for marketing. It had a sales revenue of 1.3 billion yuan ($193 million) in September, and its company reportedly surpassed more than 7 billion yuan in monthly sales before the year’s end, according to TechNode.

Temi’s strategy has gained remarks globally. In the US, $3 billion in the first 1.7% of the market is 0.1% of the country’s GDP.

Data from ChipGong, a market research company, in October showed that US consumers were only to see the same offering of goods and accessories before the holiday season.

In a recent consumer survey made by research agency Gartner, more than 30% of consumers reported that the US that is your Amazon is willing to do price and selection.

Temi’s “every day is Black Friday” approach is also a hit. Here is the flip-flop, with a soft sole and comfortable to wear. It is one of the thousands of products Temu offers that are trending right now on Amazon.

Temi is a new player in the US market, as it is not a US product. Temu’s product line includes a wide range of items, from electronics to clothing and home goods.

“Temi’s ‘every day is Black Friday’ approach is also a hit. It is one of the thousands of products Temu offers that are trending right now on Amazon.”

Source: Temu.

Temi has released its financial report for the year ended December 31, 2022. The report shows that Temu’s revenue increased by 151.8% year-on-year to $1.15 billion, while its net loss widened to $0.81 billion.

Temi’s growth is also helped by its partnerships with high-end brands. The company has signed deals with popular brands such as Nike, Adidas and Under Armour.

Temi’s strategy has gained national attention. The company’s co-founder and CEO, Mr. Xue, has been invited to speak at a number of events and conferences, including the 2023 China E-commerce Research Conference.

Temi has made a strong start in the US market, and its growth is likely to continue in the coming years. As Temu expands its product offerings and strengthens its partnerships with leading brands, the company is poised to become a significant player in the US e-commerce market.

Online shopping platform Temu, a subsidiary of Pinduoduo, holds deep discounts on a range of products. (CHEN YANG/ For China Daily)
The breathtaking height of adventure

A my mention of housing county in Southern China’s Sichuan province would likely remind history buffs of the Red Army’s historic trek through the province, when millions of the Red Army crossed the snow-capped Jiajin Mountain to establish their Long March

The Long March began in Beijing in East China’s Jiangxi province, where the Provincial Central Government of the Soviet Republic of China was established in 1931. The central Soviet area had to be abandoned in 1930 after the Red Army failed to break through a yearlong blockade launched by Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shek, who built a blockade with machine-guns to block all roads out of the area.

The Red Army managed to find a way out and traveled thousands of kilometers, enduring unimaginable hardship, before arriving at the northern part of Shaanxi province to set up the revolutionary base.

Jiajin was the first snowy mountain the Red Army crossed during the Long March. Being more than 4,000 meters above sea level, the area is covered with snow all year round and the air is very thin. The weather on the mountain is constantly changing. According to a book on the Long March published by the Martyr History Press, the weather could change from sunny to stormy, rain to snow, with hailstorms and strong winds often accompanying the bad weather.

Most of the Red Army soldiers had no experience navigating in snow and their footwear consisted of cotton cloth shoes or snow sandals, according to the book.

Despite the bad climate, a heroic spirit swept through the soldiers and the soldiers’ clothing, which was quickly soaked. The biting cold and difficult travelling conditions

From the base of Jiajin to its final peak, several hundreds of thousands of people participated during the 60-km hike. Some were so exhausted that they had to rest on their way back from the peak, Dong Hui, a Long March veteran, told American journal according to the book.

From 1937 to 1982, China sent 24 pandas as national gifts to nine countries. Seventeen of these animals were from Sichuan.

After 1982, China no longer sent pandas as national gifts abroad, but adopted the way of cooperative research. More than 50 pandas and their descendents were sent abroad in this way, according to a display in the Dengfuguan Catholic Church.

China’s fourth panda census, the result of which were released in 2013, tallied 1,650 wild pandas as of the end of 2013. Of those, 546 were in Sichuan.

In July 2006, Sichuan’s giant panda habitat was included in the World Natural Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Covering 25,455 sq km, the habitat includes Jiajin.

The giant panda species has lived on earth for around 8 million years. But the first history about it in 1660 thanks to a French missionary trying to convert people in China to Catholicism.

Jean Pierre Armand David (1825-1900) was born in Epfigue, France. A missionaries priest and a naturalist with an extensive knowledge of ethnology, zoology and botany, he started working in the Dengfuguan Catholic Church in Beijing in March 1868. Soon afterward, he was invited to stay at a local hunter’s home where he saw the sight of a giant panda.

Suspecting it to be a new animal species, he had the hunter capture a live panda, made a specimen and mailed it to the Museum of Natural History’s Ferni Milne Edwards in Paris. In 1870, Schlegel published a paper describing the panda to be a new species.

The specimen, kept at the Museum of Natural History, aroused Westerner’s initial interest in the giant panda unique to China.

The church, where David worked and lived, was a blend of Chinese courtyard and Gothic architecture, located deep in the mountain, it is shown in pictures and is part of Jiajin’s scenery.

To mark the 100th anniversary of his death, some 40 people from Edwards led by its great grandson Jean-Damien Damou who went there for the first time in November 2000, Edwards and Edwards established ties on several cities.

Despite the difficulties, Edwards twice before he passed away at 75 in 2010, he was invited to visit the panda habitat in Jiajin.

In April 2008, 47 Frenchmen from France’s home city visited the church to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his scientific discovery of the panda.

A descendant of David, 75-year-old Jean David, was asked to find out that the church, where Armand David lived and worked 150 years ago, was still preserved. He stood for a long time in front of David’s photos in a newly-opened hall on the panda’s right. “I saw many of the materials on display for the first time,” he says.

The year 2008 marked the 106th anniversary of David’s scientific discovery of the panda and the 106th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France.

On March 14 that year, Liu Xianwei, 50-year-old citizen of Xian, set out from the Dengfuguan Catholic Church, and cycled about 22,000 km to arrive in Paris on July 19. His journey was recorded in the book published the year later, which was the panda’s salute along the way. Liu was referred to as ‘Luo Gao’ in the book.

Jiajin is between Sichuan and Tibetan ethnic areas. The Sichuan-Tibetan Church is the Sichuan County Giant Panda Cultural Publicity and Education Center, which covers more than 30,000 square meters and has two residential buildings. Liu Xianwei, 43-year-old panda, and Ying Ma, a 20-year-old temple. Seeing them from breaking and drinking water during his recent visit to Beining, splendid the country government and Yuexiu Shihua magazine of Sichuan Daily Drop for expressway in Chengdu, Sichuan, Daxian Wanawo, president of the University of Leiden and the National Museum of Natural History in the Netherlands, welcomed his donation.

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Wild genets gather near the steppe leading down from the summit of the Daren Genus nature spot in Sichuan’s Beining county.

The majestic sea of clouds seen from the top of the Daren Genus area.
Shining moments to remember

As we bid farewell to a remarkable year of action-packed thrills, China Daily looks back at the nation’s biggest sports achievements in 2022.

1. Exceptional Beijing 2022
   A defining moment of the year, the 2022 Winter Olympics closed on Feb 20 in Beijing to international applause for the stunning action, safe and smooth organization amidst the pandemic and the Games’ rich legacy for the host venues. Beijing went down in history as the world’s first city to host both the summer and winter editions of the Games while China is expected to benefit from the facility upgrades and an increasing number of over 348 million winter sports fans to build itself into a world power on ice and snow.

2. Sensational Su
   As a star of Beijing 2022, women’s freestyle skier Gu Ailing shot to international stardom in Beijing after winning two gold medals (half-pipe, big air) and a silver (slopestyle) at her Olympic debut representing China, her mother’s home country. The California-born prodigy has drawn massive interest from across the sports and fashion worlds for her inspiring feats and her cultural background.

3. Rise of Su’s pet star
   A star product of China’s own winter sports program, young snowboarder Su Yiming etched his name into history at Beijing 2022 after claiming the men’s first ever Olympic gold in the sport in snowboard big air at the age of 17, holding on a silver from slopestyle to make him one of the brightest stars on a Chinese delegation that won a record nine gold medals to finish at its highest ever position at third on this Winter Games’ medal table.

4. Hoops heroes
   Coming on its record and tenacious team play, the Chinese squad battled past Olympic bronze medalist France and host Australia en route to the finals of the FIBA Women’s World Cup on Oct 1 under its last appearance in 1994. Despite a 98-91 final loss to 13-time winner United States, a silver medal had tied the best outcome of China’s women’s program at the showcase tournament while delivering a huge inspiration on the National Day holiday.

5. Re-blooming Steel Roses
   Unexpected yet undeniably needed, Team China beat South Korea, 5-3. They recovered from two goals down in the final of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup on Oct 6 to bring home its ninth crown from the continental tournament after a 10-year drought. The resurgence of the female squad, known as the “Steel Roses”, on the world stage had resulted in several key player’s landing contracts in top-flight overseas leagues, raising hopes for a stronger campaign at the 2023 World Cup.

6. Counting breakthroughs
   2022 marked a progressive year of Chinese tennis on both the men’s and women’s professional circuits. Teen star Zheng Qinwen made international headlines after reaching the fourth round at the French Open in May, joined by up-and-comer Wang Xinyu and veteran Zhang Shuai to bolster the ranks of the female contingent. Men top seed Zhang Zhizhen became the first Chinese mainland player to crack the world’s top-100 ranking in October while former 13 Open junior winner Wu Yibing finally proved his potential by advancing into the third round of the US Open main draw to become the first Chinese mainlander to do so in the Open era.

7. Historic leap
   With her 3.86-meter leap in the sixth and final round, Chinese long jumper Wang Fan became the country’s first gold medal in any horizontal jumping events at the world championships on July 15 (in the United States). She achieved another feat in August when she defended her title in the women’s long jump at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

8. Dominance consolidated
   China won all eight matches to claim its fifth consecutive women’s team title at the 2022 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships held in Houston on Oct 8, before the all-conquering Chinese men’s side swept aside Germany 3-0 in the final on day two to lift the men’s team trophy for the 10th time in a row.

9. Going beyond the bar
   With near-perfect display of strength, balance and symmetry, the Chinese men’s artistic gymnastics squad emulated its recent to top of the sport by smashing the world record on Nov 2 in Liverpool, England. A total of 257.849 points in the final saw China finish off long-time rival Japan by a 4.6 points—the biggest winning margin since 2007 worlds—to collect a record-breaking 10th gold and 9th consecutive medal in the main showpiece.

10. Legal support reinforced
    A revision of China’s sports law was passed in June at the session of the country’s top legislature and has taken effect since Jan 1. This was the first comprehensive and systematic revision since the law’s initial enforcement in 1995. The revised law on Physical Culture and Sports added four new chapters, aimed at providing stronger legal support and protection in areas such as anti-doping, sports arbitration, sports industry and supervision and management of sporting events, to facilitate China’s ambition of building a world-class sporting powerhouse.
Shanxi's environment delivers the feel-good factor

Shanxi's environment delivers the feel-good factor

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the province has maintained a remarkable economic growth. The GDP per capita in 2020 reached 42,420 yuan, an increase of 11.8% over the previous year, and the urban-rural income gap has been further narrowed.

The Shandong government has been working hard to improve the environment, investing over 30 billion yuan in environmental protection every year. The Shandong River, one of the major rivers in Shanxi, has been cleared of pollution.

In the past few years, Shanxi has made significant progress in environmental protection. The dust storm frequency has decreased by 30%, and the pollution levels in major cities have improved.

Technology harnesses improved live in countryside

By YUAN SHENGGAO

With a slowly growing rural economy, Shanxi province has been making efforts to improve the living environment. The province's rural environment has been significantly improved, and the living standard of rural residents has been greatly improved.

Shanxi has been promoting the use of renewable energy in rural areas. Solar panels and wind turbines have been installed in many villages, providing clean energy for residents.

Grassroots environmental activists have been playing an important role in promoting environmental awareness. They have organized various activities to raise public awareness of environmental protection.

Technology has also played a crucial role in improving rural living conditions. The use of smart farming technology has been increasing, and precision agriculture is being widely adopted.

The efforts to improve the environment in Shanxi have not only benefited the local residents but also contributed to the sustainable development of the province.