Stable China-Europe ties in focus at talks

Xi calls for cooperation, mutual trust in meeting with Macron, von der Leyen

By CAI DEHENG

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China and France agreed on Thursday to keep bilateral ties stable and promote mutual benefits and cooperation, and they pledged to maintain an open and inclusive stance in the face of the Ukraine crisis and play a positive role in advancing a multipolar world.

Inside
President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron reached an agreement during the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Macron visited Xi firstly in a European leader with a full range of cooperation with China's exchanges with the world, Xi said at a joint press conference with Macron.

President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron reached an agreement during their talks in Beijing Thursday, in which the two leaders affirmed the importance of upholding a multipolar world, strengthening China-France cooperation, and promoting the two nations' joint progress.

Xi Jinping and Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, issued a joint statement on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France.

Both China and France are major countries in the world, major trading partners and diplomatic and economic cooperation partners, and are important poles in the global governance system.

Both China and France said in the joint statement that they will continue to deepen mutual trust, support for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and core interests, and promote peace and development.

China and France also reaffirmed their commitment to upholding multilateralism, strengthening global governance and enhancing global communication, and emphasized the need to maintain a stable and strong global energy system.

Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to upholding the principles of the United Nations and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, and expressed their support for the ongoing negotiations and efforts to resolve the crisis in Ukraine.

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LIFE MADE EASIER AS FARMERS TURN TO TECH

By ZHAO RUIXUE

In Shouguang, Shandong province autonomous000@chinadaily.com.cn

At an agricultural technology company in a city known as the “vegetable capital of China,” crops are thriving in a shipping container.

The roots of these greenleaf vegetables are immersed in water rich in nutrition. A sensor in the container shows information about the temperature, humidity, concentration of carbon dioxide, the lighting levels and concentration of the nutrient solution.

Liu Pengjun, who oversees the container vegetable project at Shou

guang Jitai Agricultural Co. in Ruide town, Shouguang, said it takes 26 days for these vegetable seedlings to grow before they can be harvested — much less than the traditional method.

“Using hydroponic systems, we designed the modular shipping container vegetable form, which can withstand the transport and climate conditions suitable for fresh vegetables to be grown locally and sold in cities,” Liu said.

In comparison, in Xining, the Qinghai autonomous region, workers build railways and highways. In its sparsely populated areas, there are more than 15,000 farmers to buy fresh vegetables, Liu said, who has worked in Xining for several years. The container-based system allows vegetables to grow regardless of climate or location.

After three years’ work analyzing data collected by sensors installed in the containers, the company developed a comprehensive continuous monitoring information system to grow the vegetables. The vegetables are typically sold in 4,500 pieces of packaging, each of 1.5 square meters of farmland, he said.

Since launching the first hydroponic vegetable farm in 2015, the company has sold more than 40,000 tons (44,000 metric tons) of vegetables, mainly from China, Russia, Malaysia, Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates.

“I expect to sell more than 10,000 farms this year as businesses recover from the COVID pandemic,” said Wang Jun, a technician at Shandong Jitai Agricultural Co., which is based in Ruide.

Based on the hydroponic system, farmers in Shouguang, Shandong, developed a deep flow technique to grow chives.

Wang, a technician at Shandong Jitai Agricultural Co., which is based in Ruide, said, “The roots of chives grow in a 10-centimeter water solution of 9 to 10 centimeters, which ensures the plants have sufficient nutrients and oxygen. Crops grown by using hydroponic systems are not affected by disease, a pest that attacks the roots, Wu said.

“In our greenhouse, we don’t need to use pesticides on the chives,” Wu added, attesting that the crops are welcomed at markets. Along with hydroponic systems, vegetable-growing technologies are used widely by farmers in Shandong to grow fresh green vegetables.

Smart greenhouses At a demonstration base in Shou

guang for modern agricultural techniques, a smart glass greenhouse being used to grow tomatoes from February worth of 120 patented technologies developed by a team from the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Data showing humidity, temperature and carbon dioxide levels are updated on a large electronic screen in the greenhouse.

Growing about 80,000 square meters, the area occupied by 10 mandarin orange fields, the greenhouse requires few workers. Instead, robots and other devices are used to pick and transport the tomatoes.

Wang Qiang, deputy-director of the operation room at the greenhouse, said, “If we could only be difficult to manage such a big structure with a human labor force, we use the intelligent management system to maintain the right conditions for the crops.”

Smart farms and smart technologies have enabled farmers to keep a close eye on their plants and make necessary adjustments to the lights, water, nutrients and temperature, which is uploaded to a platform to be analyzed. Based on the analysis, the concrete level of water and fertilizer are supplied to the crops by the automatic irrigation system, Wang said.

With air-source heat pumps and facilities to make hot water, the structure can create extreme temperature requirements of energy in winter, unlike traditional greenhouses.

“Growing crops in a controlled environment enables farmers to produce high-quality products, maintain high food safety standards and avoid the use of pesticides,” Wang said.

In addition to the smart greenhouses, organizations such as the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the National Research Center for Information Technology in Agriculture are developing greenhouses to demonstrate these technologies based on state-of-the-art techniques in this field.

These structures include new greenhouse techniques, those with sliding covers, and assembled prefabricated structures.

Wang said, “Many of the newly developed technologies have been approved for widespread use among farmers. For example, in Cuilun Village, farmer Cui Xincheng uses his smartphone as a ‘digitally efficient and sustainable agricultural tool’.”

HortoGreen’s greenhouses, which occupy 2,000 square meters and grow square tomatoes, at every greenhouse shows data about the indoor conditions, such as the temperature and pH value of the soil, which refers to the composition of vegetables.

Cui uses his phone to control his greenhouse. When he clicks on the irrigation button, the system begins watering the tomatoes.

“The greenhouse also features smart devices to adjust fertilizer and the lighting.”

“Years ago, growing vegetables in a single greenhouse was relying on labor, but now we are shifting from labor-intensive tasks to these greenhouses,” Cui said.

Greenhouses equipped with smart systems based on the Internet of Things and big data accounts for more than 10 percent of the total number in Shouguang, according to the city government. According to a recent survey, 37,000 greenhouses producing 6.5 million metric tons of vegetables annually.

Soilless technologies Farmers in northern Shouguang, which has a cold climate with a high content of nitrogen, produce tomatoes using soilless growing technologies.

In villages at the Shuanggegang Hydroponic Demonstration Center, these crops are produced by methods that use a mix of sand and cinder.

In 2000, farmers in these villages only raised 900 tons from each sea of land due to the cold, high-salt subsoil. Han Xianggang, who farms in Shuanggegang town, said the land soil used to be dubbed “white land,” as the high temperature and light intensity are distroying “fruits on tops, as soil.”

“A plant is the left with soilless technologies to grow tomatoes,” according to Han Xianggang, who is an agricultural technology specialist.

“We use a drip irrigation system to water the plants and give them nutrients, which was a considerable amount of ‘waste.’”

Using soilless growing techniques allows tomato farmers to increase their harvests without the threat of soil contamination. Farmers do not add more soilless technologies to the field, which is likely to be followed by pests.

The soilless growing system not only provides high-quality vegetables, but also regenerates extremely low-maintenance nutrient solutions.

As farmers become skilled in using soilless technologies, they are growing more types of eggs and vegetables in different settings.

Cuilun Village, said “Smart technologies have made our work much easier and more efficient. Being farmers is no longer as hard as it used to be.”

Couples benefit from return to the countryside as new venture takes root

By ZHAO RUIXUE

Li Xiaoyang, 38, and her husband are among those who have returned to rural areas to develop agricultural technology to develop agricultural businesses.

In 2010, Li returned to her hometown Jintai Village in Dithai town, Shandong province, after graduating from Tsinghua University in 2005, where she studied agricultural management and crop production.

She and her husband grow new crops such as lentils, celery and tomatoes in three greenhouses than use hydroponic technology. “They also have good greenhouses whose vegetables are grown in a soilless mix base. These greenhouses produce vegetables worth one million yuan (US$146,000) annually.”

For years ago, when the couple developed an interest in growing vegetables in greenhouses equipped with hydroponic technology, Li doubted whether the venture would succeed.

“My husband trusted me, and said hydroponic vegetables take the public for healthy food,” she said.

Over 10 million work, their first greenhouse equipped with hydroponic technology started operating in 2013, growing a type of cabbage.

“It takes 20 days for the cabbages to grow in the nutrient-rich water solution, so we planted the crops all year round,” Li said, adding that by selling the water through the year, at least 50 percent less water is used than is used by soil-based methods.

The cabbages have sold well, and Li and her husband have added two hydroponic greenhouses to their business.

“Many people ask us if we use hormones on the crops, as the vegetables grow so fast,” she said.

To measure our customers, we developed a new system on the effect of the fumes from the same water source.”

Water containing fish waste is poured into the greenhouse, allowing fish to be fed better and enriched with nutrients. The crops are microorganisms probably from the fish. The plants absorb the fish waste, which provides the crops with nutrients, the clean water also reduces pests.

“With the correct proportion of fish waste, the system is highly sustainable for growing vegetables.”

This year, she said her husband is planning to expand their business by adding nursery greenhouses and two ponds. “We also plan to develop new greenhouses where children can try their hands at farming and learn about growing vegetables.”

Li said.

A robotic device operates in a smart greenhouse in Shouguang, Picture/CHINA DAILY.

A smart greenhouse used to grow tomatoes in Shouguang features more than 120 patented technologies developed by a team from the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Picture/CHINA DAILY.

A robotic device operates in a smart greenhouse in Shouguang, Picture/CHINA DAILY.
TOP NEWS

US ‘democracy summit’ simply for political show

Meanwhile, Chinese forums focus on development, cooperation, says expert

BY YAN HU IN Washington

Experts in a number of countries have raised concerns in recent weeks about plans for a US ‘democracy summit’. Two recent forums held in Beijing and Shanghai focused on development and international cooperation as alternatives to the US summit.

Speaking to China Daily, Senior Advisor to the China Institute for America Studies, said that the “Summit for Democracy” was held merely to build a political campaign premise and was “not a good use of time and energy”.

The summit, which was held on March 20 via video linkage, was hosted by the US State Department and the participating countries of China, the Netherlands, South Korea and Zimbabwe. The summit was also held in December 2021.

Almost simultaneously with that summit, China hosted two events focused on development and international cooperation – the China Development Forum, held from March 19 to 21, and the Belt and Road Forum, which took place from March 20 to March 22.

Guo pointed out that China’s events were held under the premise of good policies and good government. The China Development Forum and the Belt and Road Forum both aimed to ensure that everyone could be interconnected, integrated, richer and more prosperous, regardless of social systems, he added.

Meanwhile, the US has an “ideological barrier on democracy”, but a general goal that is not yet realized and the obstacles for poor countries are still there. The two sides need to work together on a joint principle and the US needs to be more constructive, he said.

During his visit to the Belt and Road Forum, the US president expressed his determination to push for progress in the region. His visit to the Belt and Road Forum also revealed the US’s determination to push for progress in the region, but there is no ideology behind it.

The US president’s visit to the Belt and Road Forum was to show his commitment to the region and to address various challenges such as infrastructure development, climate change and economic growth.

The Belt and Road Forum has been held in Beijing since 2013 and has become a major international platform for discussing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and other aspects of China’s foreign policy.

The forum focuses on promoting cooperation and development through the BRI, which aims to connect the countries along the ancient trade routes.

The Belt and Road Forum has also been a platform for discussing various economic issues, such as infrastructure development, trade and investment.

The US president’s visit to the Belt and Road Forum also reflected the US’s commitment to promote economic growth and development in the region.

China Daily USA
White House: Trump at fault on Afghanistan

Report says 2021 withdrawal was constrained by Trump, who let loose in online response

By JIM HOFFING in New York

A classified report to the Senate intelligence committee by the White House under former President Donald Trump attributes the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan to President Joe Biden’s administration. The report, obtained by The Wall Street Journal, suggests that Trump had a key role in the decision, with Biden’s team acquiescing to Trump’s demands.

**Overview**

The report, which was released on Thursday, is based on a classified intelligence report that was drafted in June 2021 and declassified for distribution to members of Congress. The report details the challenges faced by the Biden administration in deciding to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan, and it argues that Trump’s pressure to withdraw troops and his public remarks had a significant impact on the decision-making process.

**Key Points**

- The report states that Trump was “vehemently opposed” to the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and that his public comments and tweets put pressure on Biden’s team.
- The report claims that Trump’s demands to withdraw troops led to a “rapidly disorganized” and “chaotic” withdrawal, which resulted in the deaths of American soldiers and the loss of important intelligence.
- The report argues that Trump’s actions and comments contributed to the failure of the Biden administration to successfully complete the withdrawal.

**Background**

The US withdrawal from Afghanistan began in 2021 under the Biden administration, but it was marked by delays and controversy. The decision to withdraw was made to clear the way for the Taliban’s takeover of the country. The withdrawal was widely criticized and attracted significant attention from the media and public.

**Conclusion**

The report suggests that the decision to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan was constrained by Trump’s demands and public remarks. The Biden administration was pressured to withdraw troops quickly, which led to a chaotic and disorganized withdrawal. The report argues that Trump’s actions and comments had a significant impact on the decision-making process.

**Sources**

- The Wall Street Journal
- The White House
- The Senate intelligence committee
University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) in Beijing, China, is set to launch an international forum on polar research in October.

The event, themed on "Conservation and Development of the Antarctic," is an initiative of the Ministry of Education to promote the country's involvement in the global polar research community.

According to the forum's organizers, the event aims to strengthen China's cooperation with other countries in polar research and to promote the sharing of information and resources.

The forum will bring together experts from around the world to discuss the latest developments in polar research, including the conservation and management of the Antarctic ecosystem, climate change, and the impact of human activities in the region.

The event will also feature discussions on the importance of polar research for global environmental protection and the role of China in promoting sustainable development in the polar regions.

The forum is expected to attract participants from various fields, including academia, government, and industry, to share their insights and foster collaborations.

The organizers believe that the forum will play a crucial role in advancing polar research and promoting international cooperation in the field.
Plenty to pick

By LIU WENSHAO

China Railway Wuhan Group Co Ltd on Wednesday said its use of high-speed trains is an example of sustainability, pointing at the number of carbon credits issued under the Chinese carbon trading scheme.

"Our company has been running on high-speed trains for 150 years, and it has become one of the largest user groups of carbon credits in China," Liu said.

High-speed trains have emerged as a major contributor to the carbon credits market in China, with many operators leveraging the carbon footprint reduction associated with the use of electric trains.

The Chinese government has set a goal of reducing carbon emissions intensity by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

The government has encouraged the use of electric trains as a means to reduce emissions, with high-speed trains becoming a key component of this strategy.

China Railway Wuhan Group Co Ltd is one of the major operators in the country, with a large fleet of high-speed trains serving major cities and connecting different regions.

The company has been working on improving the efficiency and environmental performance of its operations, including the use of carbon credits.

China has also made efforts to develop the carbon trading market, with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality in the long term.

By promoting the use of high-speed trains, the company is contributing to the country's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and support sustainable development.

Chow time

A paper submitted for publication provides an overview of China’s new meat imports. The paper highlights the importance of meat imports in meeting China’s increasing demand for meat and in supporting the country’s food security.

The paper reports that China has become the world’s largest importer of meat, with imports growing rapidly in recent years.

China’s meat demand has been driven by population growth, increasing living standards, and changes in dietary preferences.

The paper emphasizes the role of imports in addressing supply constraints and ensuring food security, particularly in the case of certain meats that are in short supply or difficult to meet through domestic production.

The paper also discusses the challenges and opportunities associated with meat imports, including the need to maintain food safety, ensure compliance with international standards, and manage environmental impacts.

The findings suggest that China should continue to diversify its meat import sources and make efforts to improve the sustainability of its meat supply chain.

Weather service facilitates modern agriculture in Ningxia

Weather service enhances the efficiency of agricultural operations, providing valuable information to farmers and supporting decision-making processes.

By XIONG HUI

Ningxia’s modern agriculture relies heavily on weather information, which is provided by the local weather services.

"Weather information is crucial for farmers to make timely decisions about planting, water management, and other agricultural activities," said a local farmer.

The weather service in Ningxia provides forecasts, warnings, and other relevant information to help farmers optimize their operations.

By improving the accuracy and timeliness of weather forecasts and warnings, the weather service contributes to increased crop yields, reduced crop losses, and overall improved economic outcomes for farmers.

The weather service also collaborates with other agencies to develop comprehensive agricultural information services.

Moreover, the weather service has launched a mobile application that allows farmers to receive weather updates and other relevant information directly through their smartphones.

The app provides personalized weather forecasts and advisories tailored to specific farming conditions and locations.

By leveraging advanced technology and data analytics, the weather service is able to offer more precise and actionable information to farmers.

The integration of weather data with agricultural practices and other relevant information sources enables farmers to make data-driven decisions and enhance their productivity.

The efforts of the local weather service have been recognized by both farmers and the government, reflecting the positive impact of these services on the agricultural sector.

Glass beads on moon found to contain water

With the moon in the Earth’s orbit, water has been detected in ice on the lunar surface. This discovery has significant implications for future lunar exploration and resource utilization.

By ZHANG ZHIBAO

Chinese scientists have discovered a new water resource on the moon, in the form of glass beads, which could be major significance for future missions to the moon.

They found the water by using a technique that involves analyzing the mineral composition of the beads.

By identifying specific mineral combinations and analyzing their isotopic ratios, the team was able to determine the presence of water in the beads.

The discovery of water on the moon is significant as it could provide a potential resource for future missions, as well as a source of water for human exploration.

The news has been welcomed by the international scientific community, with many expressing excitement at the potential implications for future lunar missions.

The finding also highlights the importance of continued exploration and research on the moon, as there is still much to learn about this enigmatic celestial body.

The discovery of water on the moon has also raised questions about the potential for human habitation on the moon, with some suggesting that the water could be used in future missions.

However, further studies are needed to fully understand the nature and composition of the water found in the beads.

More China-Europe trains running

China has continued to expand its railway network, running trains across Europe.

By LIU WENSHAO

The Chinese government has been actively developing its railway network, with a focus on expanding services to Europe, as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.

The Chinese railway network is one of the largest in the world, with a total length of over 90,000 kilometers.

The ongoing expansion of the network is expected to further strengthen trade and economic ties between China and Europe.

The railway network also plays a crucial role in supporting international trade, with trains transporting goods across the continent, facilitating the exchange of products and services.

The expansion of the railway network is aligned with China’s efforts to promote sustainable development, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions and improving efficiency.

The railway network is expected to play an increasingly important role in supporting international trade and facilitating economic integration between China and Europe.

The ongoing expansion of the railway network is expected to further strengthen trade and economic ties between China and Europe.

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The Shanghai History Museum is showcasing in most impressive and captivating way the history of Shanghai, and the entire country, through its collection of artifacts and displays. The exhibition, which runs from March 30 to May 28, is divided into three main sections: "Shanghai in the 19th Century," "Shanghai in the 20th Century," and "Shanghai Today." Each section tells a different story of the city's development.

Shanghai in the 19th Century
Shanghai in the 20th Century
Shanghai Today

Top left: Monet Crossing a River, a 2.5-meter-long hanging scroll by Xi Yi (1604-95), is a main attraction at the opening of this exhibition. Top right: Shanghai is a place where Western and Chinese cultures meet. Middle left: Xi Yin's painting of the Shanghai Museum.

Making a scene
Distinctive look that characterized artworks up to the early years of the 20th century goes on display. Zhang Kun reports.

By JOHN KIN in Shanghai

Mauro Xi Zong, president of the Shanghai Opera House, became one of the first Chinese conductors to perform in Europe in the wake of the pandemic when he visited the city of Paris for the Orchestra of the Paris as La Philharmonie de Paris in March 20-28.

"This is a long-awaited reunion for us," Xi Zong, the artistic director of the Shanghai Opera House, told the Xinhua News Agency. "It was a great honor to perform in Paris." The concert was a part of the city's season of European music and included works by composers such as Li Xiong. Xi Zong's performance was met with critical acclaim from the audience.

One of the most celebrated orchestras in the world, Orchestra de Paris, has a history of almost 200 years and is recognized for its expressive interpretations of music. Xi Zong's performance was praised for its "powerful and expressive" interpretation of the music.

During the rehearsal, musicians of the wind section also suggested that they should play the passage of the music like "sparks that lights up in the dark," and Xi immediately loved the idea.

Conductor sets the tone for European success

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Ensembles assemble

Classical music lovers in Beijing will be treated to a monthlong festival of concerts as the National Centre for the Performing Arts welcomes the return of the biennial China Orchestra Festival, Chen Nan reports.

The biennial China Orchestra Festival returning in March has drawn a number of top Chinese orchestras and soloists from all over the country, showcasing their talents at the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

Between March 10 and the end of this month, 27 concerts have been staged by 16 Chinese symphony orchestras and conductors, involving 10 conductors.

The opening concert was performed by the China NCFA Orchestra and conducted by maestro Ye Genjue, featuring young Chinese cellist Li Shiyao’s Variations on a Chinese Theme and the Russian composer’s Symphony No. 5 in flats (Op. 67), after it was premiered.

China’s orchestra festival showcases and promotes Chinese symphony orchestras and symphony orchestral works. The festival has witnessed the growth of Chinese symphony orchestras, says Wang Wei, head of the performing departments of the NCFA.

Having a history of 13 years, the festival has become a tradition for the festival to present Chinese music pieces. It also shows that the country’s contemporary music scene is maturing and more pieces being presented. This year, it will travel to 11 provinces, including Beijing Symphony Orchestra, Shenyang Symphony Orchestra, Shandong Symphony No.1, Symphony No.2 and Qinstone Symphony Orchestra.

On April 30, Zhang will conduct the symphony orchestra of the National Radio of China with a concert featuring Chinese music, including Peking Opera’s music. It is the 10th anniversary of the composition of the piece. Composer Yu Xiaogang’s latest piece, Bo Guo, will be premiered by the Shenzhen Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Liu Xuefeng on April 16. The composition is named after Bo Guo Gang (Denpund of Mawangdui, China), the most complete and comprehensive medical book ever, written in the nation’s traditional Chinese medicine. Its author Li Shichen was a Chinese medical scientist during the Ming Dynasty.

He says that he was inspired by the painting, "When I traveled around Sichuan province, I saw many birds, which inspired me. I painted these birds in my office, which are just beautiful paintings," says Yu, mentioning that he has written a series of music works inspired by nature, such as The Silk Road and Blues. "When I composed the piece, it was a rather simple process." According to Wanga Qi, head of the Shenzhen Philharmonic Orchestra, he has commissioned the orchestra to compose music pieces such as Mammatus Direct, a double concerto for violin solo, percussion solo and orchestra. The piece is based on folk music collected from the famous mountainous area of Sichuan by its composer, and it is inspired by the beautiful scenery.

According to Li Nan, head of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Yu Long and the ensemble will give two concerts, during the 50th China Orchestras Festival, April 29 and 30.

The programme will feature Tchaikovsky’s Scenes for Strings, Op. 64 and Symphony No.1 in E minor, Op. 44, it will be the highlight of the concert on April 30. It’s one of the most performed orchestral concertos in the world and also the piece played most often by Wanga Qi, who, after a decade-long career of conducting the world, has returned to teach at the Beijing Conservatory of Music in his hometown.

Contact the writer at chen.nan@chinadaily.com.cn

GLOBAL EDITION | CHINA DAILY

Chinese movies set for a booming year

DARWIN, Australia — Watch the latest movies in a good way for Australians and you have more choice both in the variety of genres and top films, said a local. The 2023 Darwin Film Festival was held in Darwin, the capital of Australia’s Northern Territory, last weekend. Jointly hosted by the Australian China Friendship Society’s professional branch, the festival featured some Chinese films, including Hidden Bliss, a novel novel of the same name, and My Country, My Parents.

A local resident of Darwin said that the festival was held in Darwin and Shanghai to commemorate the friendship and loved watching Chinese movies, adding that the quality of these films has improved a lot in recent years.

“I also practice my art and write for the Chinese when watching such movies,” he said.

Another resident of Darwin said that the festival was held in Darwin and Shanghai to commemorate the friendship and loved watching Chinese movies, adding that the quality of these films has improved a lot in recent years.

Contact the writer at chen.nan@chinadaily.com.cn

What the stars foretell, believe it or not

I recently suggested to a friend who frequents to write about the fortunes of a few friends what he should never do is to believe in what I said, and he sums it up, should be the case with what I said, to the point that he is not what I meant.

Moreover, I have been suggesting that what I meant is not what I meant, and he sums it up, should be the case with what I said, to the point that he is not what I meant.

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Celebration of a career devoted to the stage

Exhibition chronicles US-born, Taiwan-based director's personal, professional journey, Chen Nan reports.

A n exhibition, My Life, which highlights renowned director and playwright Sun Lai Chiu’s theatrical works and life in Taiwan, kicked off at the National Performing Arts Center in Beijing March 21 and will run to May 21.

Following Lai’s decades-long career, the exhibition gathers his handwritten scripts, notes, old photos of him and his theater members during the 1980s, and photos of his theatrical productions, such as Love in Peach Blossom Land (The Villager and The One Who Sees Right).

The US-born and Taiwan-based director was an awarded dramatic art of the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his PhD in 1973. That year, he returned to Taiwan and a year later the directorial hit play, 80, I Grew Up This Way, as well as a Broadway theater called Performance Workshop.

The director and playwright has been involved in several theatrical productions so far.

In 2013, he co-founded the Wuchan Theater Studio and in 2015, founded The Other Above, a 100-seat venue in Shanghai dedicated to the performance and the academic of his work.

The exhibition features one of Lai’s most famous and best-selling plays — Today Love in Peach Blossom Land, which premiered in 1996 and is still being performed worldwide. In the exhibition, two original stage sets from the play are displayed, a large courtyard and a stone-colored peach tree.

An old TV is set to the stage, showing photos of the play from different era. The original recording of the play’s premiere is also displayed.

The exhibition showcases Lai’s about his life in theater, which has been sharing on his Weibo account since 2012. So far, he has published over 200.

Innovative ideas to make life easier are really child’s play

By XING WEN

Many of the ideas that can make daily life easier are simple but clever inventions. With just a little imagination, even a child could devise a practical solution to a common problem.

The following ideas have been unveiled in Taiwan, where the festival, one of the best-selling plays, is set.

At the exhibition, a student from Shanghai’s Shanghai Art School, Lai Kuo, created the idea of the “family recipe” to help people to cook their own meals.

The exhibition also included the mid-world correct behind some of Lai’s most celebrated plays, including The Village Lure, which tells the bitter sweet stories of people living in Taiwan’s military cantonments.

The contributions, known as have own Chinese villages for decades, were intended to temporarily house the left-behind families of Communist soldiers who retreated from the mainland to Taiwan after the civil war. However, with the closure of cross-strait relations, they ended up becoming permanent settlements.

The residents of these villages came from all over the mainland and lived together for decades, trying to cope with cultural and linguistic differences while managing to keep their own lifestyles and original identity.

According to Lai, the idea for the play came from television producer Wang Wei-chung, who once lived in one of the cantonments. Lai said that Lai often sees stories from 20 families living in June, hoping to adapt them into a play.

"I told him, why not adapt the stories into a TV drama," he said. "The theater can bring the stories alive in a much more interesting way than TV drama," said Lai.

In one scene of the exhibition, a white tablecloth and two bowls and a chair. I like placing a big table in my studio or anywhere I lived to work. I allows me to read my notes on a big computer screen." Lai said that with notes written on the floor, "The white tablecloth is actually a canvas, where I can draw on every day.

The exhibition was then held in Taipei, Shanghai, Beijing, in 2001. According to Lai, the performance center of the exhibition in Beijing, is the first time that the venue has held an exhibition about theater productions.

The exhibition is part of the opening of the 20th-century revolution in Shanghai.

Contact the writer at

The exhibition is then displayed in New York, London, and other major cities around the world.

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Zhang Xiang leaves his home at around 7:00 am and after 30 minutes, he takes photos of the day’s first steam train passing through the town.

It has been 34 years since the 65-year-old started taking photos of the vintage train. Known as a “living fossil of the Industrial Revolution,” the narrow gauge steam train runs on a 10-kilometer track through the misty and mountainous outskirts of southwest China’s Sichuan province, providing a journey of reminiscence. It is reported to provide one of the last regular passenger steam train services in the world.

Built in 1958 in Shixi, it was in operation in 1960. The railway connected Shuijia town and Bagou town in Guanyuan county, Liaoning, and later a couple of passenger coaches were added to the train. It once served as the only way for locals to travel between the two towns.

In the late 1960s, local coal resources started running out, and the train was suspended in 2003. With his grandfather and father working at the Juyang coal mine, Zhang joined the mining group in 1999 and his first task was to take the last photos and videos of the coal train. Zhang’s childhood memories are closely connected to the train, which has served local communities for decades.

One year after the coal train stopped running, the local government hired passenger train trains and the railway as an industrial heritage to protect. In 2019, a national park was built, consisting of the railway and a nearby closed coal mine.

With the train becoming popular with tourists, the fortune of the declining mining town of Bagou has turned around.

Some of the residents have been reunited and operated as guides for visitors today.

Zhang also serves as a touristic guide, taking passers and editors during bloom seasons — March for rape flowers and August and September for sunflowers — besides taking photos.

His filming process is “recording the running steam train.”

On short video platform Douyin, Zhang has posted more than 800 videos, capturing the railroad scenes of the country’s past.

Gaining more than 120,000 likes, his account has attracted about 40,000 followers. A Douyin user noted under comments, “four photos bring our childhood memories back.”

Photos by Zhang Hongjian / Xinhua

Left: Zhang Xiang captures the moment when engineers prepare the train for the day. Right: Zhang and passengers use their smartphones as the train passed through exposed fields.

Left: Zhang checks passenger tickets at the entrance of Shuiji station. Right: Holding a pamphlet in his hand, Zhang introduces the history of the train to passengers admiring nature’s panorama.

Leaves: Zhang captures passengers’ smiles at the entrance of Shuiji station. Right: Travelers take photos of the steam train with their smartphones.

Leaves: Zhang explains the historical significance of the train to visitors.

Leaves: Zhang discusses the steam train with his colleagues.

Leaves: Zhang’s photos of the steam train have attracted many followers.

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Leaves: Zhang’s photos of the steam train have attracted many followers.
Asian Monetary Fund suggested, as dollar has been weaponized

I Recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa have exposed the vulnerability of the US dollar as a global reserve currency. The rise of rival currencies, such as the Chinese yuan and the Russian ruble, has highlighted the need for a diversified reserve currency system. The Asian Monetary Fund, which aims to provide an alternative to the US dollar, has faced challenges in gaining traction among its member countries. The recent decline in oil prices, which has put pressure on the US dollar, has raised questions about the future of the global financial system. The Asian Monetary Fund's role in promoting financial stability and reducing the global reliance on the US dollar remains to be seen. However, its potential to diversify the reserve currency system and reduce economic vulnerabilities cannot be ignored.
COMMENT

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Science and solutions for future health

The WHO has been transforming its operations to effectively implement work on all these fronts, and more, with a clear-eyed focus on delivering impact at the community level.

COVID-19 has shown how, as a global public good, it is only as good as the least-connected nation. Too many people in too many places are struggling to access the vaccines, medicines and health services they need to protect themselves and their families.

We are at a critical juncture in the pandemic. Countries must take immediate action now to ensure that everyone has the health services they need for their survival and protection. This must include equitable access to vaccines for all, backed by fair and equitable pricing and patent waivers, and the sharing and donation of doses.

The US has not shifted the blame onto China. Rather, it should fulfill its due responsibilities in international trade, and stop harming the global economy.

The US threatens the WHO’s work, or attempts to stymie it, under the pretense of defending its national interest. They have failed to take an interest in the work of the WHO, and instead try to keep it in a position of weakness to exploit it for their own ends.

The US has imposed sanctions on the WHO, aimed at削弱 its influence. This is a clear indication of their lack of commitment to the WHO, and their intent to undermine its credibility and effectiveness.

The US is seeking to undermine the WHO’s ability to fulfill its mission. This is a clear attempt to weaken the organization and its capacity to respond to global health crises. The US is seeking to exert influence over the WHO, and to shape its agenda and priorities.

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The US Fed's rate hikes have sent shock waves through the global banking sector

One of the key sources of global banking stress is the Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates. This move has sent shock waves through the global banking sector, with a range of countries and institutions affected.

The rise in US interest rates has led to a strengthening of the dollar, which in turn puts pressure on other currencies and affects international trade. This is because the strengthening dollar makes US exports more expensive for foreign buyers, while US imports become cheaper for domestic consumers.

For many countries, this increase in the cost of servicing their foreign debts is a concern. Many emerging market economies have already been hit by previous episodes of US rate hikes, and the fear is that this could lead to a renewed exodus of funds from these countries.

The US dollar's strength has also put pressure on the renminbi, with Chinese policymakers under pressure to prevent the currency from appreciating too much. This is because a stronger renminbi makes Chinese exports less competitive and could lead to a slowdown in economic growth.

Moreover, the rise in US rates is expected to lead to higher borrowing costs for businesses and consumers in the US, which could dampen economic activity. This could have a knock-on effect on the global economy, as reduced US demand could lead to weaker trade and investment patterns.

In addition, the rise in US rates is likely to lead to increased volatility in financial markets, with investors looking for safer havens. This could lead to a flight to quality, with investors moving into US Treasuries and away from riskier assets.

The global banking sector will continue to be affected by these developments, with banks and other financial institutions adjusting their strategies accordingly. The challenge for policymakers will be to manage these shocks in a way that minimizes the impact on the real economy and ensures financial stability globally.
Economy gets uplifting news from indexes

Analyst: Strong reading suggests that economy is stabilizing and improving

By RuoYUANG SHEILA
richting@chinadaily.com.cn

China’s services sector activity expanded for the third straight month in March, helping the recovery in business activity across the manufacturing and services sectors to accelerate, according to a report Tuesday.

The Caixin China Services Purchasing Managers’ Index, which focuses more on small and medium-sized enterprises and exporters, rose to 53 in March from 52 in February, according to Caixin Global Services, which compiles the index.

The index has been in the positive territory for the past four and a half months, indicating improving business conditions and a pickup in business activity in the service sector.

The services sector is a key driver of China’s economy, accounting for a significant portion of GDP and employment.

Economists said the latest Caixin index data showed a continued recovery in the service sector, which is a major contributor to the overall economy.

The rise in the index is attributed to stronger demand for services, particularly in areas such as transport and logistics.

The Caixin China Services Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) rose to 53.0 in March from 52.0 in February, according to a statement released Tuesday.

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Shanghai unveils new bonus to attract investment

By YING WANG in Shanghai

A package of measures aimed at attracting more investments with a maximum incentive of 300 million yuan ($45.4 million) was announced last week during a push on Thursday in attracting global investors to the city's metropolis.

For projects valued at more than 150 million yuan were included in the main event on Thursday, according to government information.

Headquarters projects may get up to a 30 million yuan subsidy for property leasing or the major investment projects can receive an award of up to 300 million yuan, said Jiang, the vice-mayor of Shanghai, during the Shanghai Global Investment Promotion Conference 2023, which kicked off on Thursday.

Capital support is part of the latest financial incentives.

By providing tailor-made measures for different types of development investment, the new package is aimed at supporting the development of the city's three new sub-industries — artificial intelligence, biomedicine and automotive industry — and new "track industries" — digital economy, advanced manufacturing and smart services — attracting higher-quality, more advanced and strategic investors.

Chen Zhu, secretary of Shanghai's investment department, said Shanghai has identified the primary business environment and trends leading to a targeted industrial investment.

He said Shanghai has rolled out a series of measures to enhance foreign investment and attract foreign visitors, and the current year, receiving a total number of 963 and 669, respectively.

Yiyi Yu attributes his success to the "smart city" strategies in Shanghai, which have helped to improve the investment environment and attract more foreign investors.

In conclusion, Yu emphasizes the importance of smart city development for attracting foreign capital and improving the business environment in Shanghai.

Business
Tax cuts, fee cuts to better shore up biz recovery

Revenue reports reflect confidence in achieving growth target of this year

By ZHANG YUXI

With steady continuity, these policies will fully stimulate the market's vitality, promote economic and social development, Wang Ju said.

The latest tax revenue figures from the Wang Gang indicate that the economy has begun to recover.

While noting that revenue growth is the benchmark for assessing economic performance, Wang said that tax policies have sent a signal that the growth pace for businesses' revenues over the past year has been gradually picking up and the market is regaining confidence in volume and business performance.

According to the STAS revenue report, fiscal revenue for February increased 11.5 percent year-on-year, with total tax revenue up 11.2 percent year-over-year.

In March, the sales revenue of industrial enterprises grew 11.7 percent year-on-year to achieve a steady and significant increase, with the sales revenue of industrial enterprises in March up 11.6 percent in March.

Meanwhile, with the solid and strong policy support, the real estate market has shown signs of recovery.

The new real estate policies reflect the government's determination to continue both foreign and domestic tax cuts and fee reductions, a move which will add to the recovery of foreign direct investment.

Shanghai unveils new bonus to attract investment

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**Benzema bulldozers Barca’s Copa hopes**

French star’s stunning treble inspires Madrid to semifinal rout

**Rashford resumes scoring spree to refuel United’s top-four push**

The on-pitch coach. The Enfield-born teenager turned 18 in September and rapidly established himself as one of the Premier League’s most exciting talents, his combination of pace and skill earning him comparisons with the greats of the past. Rashford has scored 18 goals in all competitions this season, including a hat-trick against Barcelona in the Champions League semi-final. He is now widely regarded as one of the best young players in the world and his performances have earned him a place in the England squad for this summer’s World Cup in Qatar.

**Lampard could be short-term fix for Chelsea**

**Barcelona bemoans ‘clueless’ official’s links to Madrid**

Barcelona were left to rue a missed opportunity to earn a crucial point in their La Liga title race against Real Madrid on Sunday. The La Masia club had been hoping to close the gap on leaders Atletico Madrid but were unable to breakthrough a stubborn Madrid defence, with Gerard Pique and Ousmane Dembele both coming close to securing a point for Barca.

**5-4 Madrid underpins dominance with 2005 Super Cup triumph**

Real Madrid continued their impressive form by beating Manchester United on penalties in the Super Cup final on Thursday, cementing their status as the top club in Europe. The Spanish giants proved too strong for the English side in the shoot-out, with Karim Benzema scoring the decisive goal from the spot to claim the trophy for Madrid.

**Ancelotti admits he’s been advised to find a new striker**

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti has admitted that he is considering bringing in a new striker to replace Karim Benzema, who has struggled for form recently. Ancelotti, who has led Madrid to back-to-back Champions League triumphs, said he was open to signing a new forward if it would help the team to maintain their momentum in the title race.