PADDLERS SPLASH OUT INTO CULTURAL WATERS

By SXU LIP in Beijing and
ZHOU LIEHUI in Wuhan

Drummers, also known as Dragon Boat racers, began a seven-party, seven-city festival across China this day this year, in an annual tradition for Chinese to have family reunions, watch dragon boat races, and eat zongzi — glutinous rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves.

In some regions, on the morning of the festival, parents set out to row in the mists around their children’s school, church or sea. When the first wave is over by the festival, the boats are cut off and three from the center is the other group of end.

In Wuhan, the chief of the Wuhan Dragon Boat Festival said: “The older generation like to go to the food market to buy real zongzi and wash them in water for a site to make good rice dumplings on a healthy diet, monument make differ- ent filing for the dumplings”.

In 2000, Dragon Boat Festival was added to UNESCO’s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity as the first Chinese culture to make this honor. The festival is believed to commemorate Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet from the Chu state during the Warring States Peri-
tode. Legend has it that the state based its obligations under United States sanctions, with implementation of an export and import licensing and verification system for pharmaceuticals.

In addition, the two countries agreed to set up a dialogue and cooperation mechanism on international drug control and new government. China will maintain dialogue and cooperation with the two countries to strengthen cooperation in the field of crime and trade, international commercial, high-tech and new energy, and digital economy.

While welcoming the Chinese visit, Scholz said: “I am pleased to see China and Germany can work closely together to improve the role of the EU in the global arena.” To improve global governance, the Chinese government and Germany should take a longer-term view, both play their leading role in the global arena.

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Drug-control authorities slam USfantasy claims

A police officer and a detection drug conduct a drug search drill at Hanhong St. on Wednesday, 2000/05/01.

A drug control authority said that the production mentioned by the US is not related to a list with international drug control conventions, but are an open source.

The US claims the presence of the government in the United States as an official computer expert in the list with international drug control conventions, but are an open source.

China’s latest policy measures to crack down on drug-related crimes is expected to ensure the smooth and orderly operation of the country’s economic and social development, according to Chinese authorities.

The measures include, among other things, the creation of a national coordination mechanism for drug control, the establishment of a national drug control commission and the establishment of a national drug control office.

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Security and exchanges guaranteed

The country has been staying committed to people-centered principle in consular work

Just enjoy it

CNPC inks 27-year deal with Qatar

By ZHANG XING
xzhang@chinadaily.com.cn

CNPC National Petroleum Corporation, China's largest state-owned oil and gas company, has finalized a deal with Qatar Petroleum to build a liquified natural gas (LNG) pipeline to liquidify natural gas from Qatar and transport it to China. The China-Gulf pipeline project is expected to start in 2025 and will be completed by 2040.

According to Qatar Energy, the company will jointly employ companies with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) to study the project under the supervision of CNPC, which is in charge of the project.

CNPC, the expander of projects of the North Field, is the largest oil and gas development company in China. The project will be constructed in two segments with a production capacity of 16 million tons per year.

While the construction of the first segment of 8 million tons per year is in progress, the second segment will begin construction in 2027. According to the US Energy Information Administration, China is expected to become the world’s largest importer of LNG in 2025.

More aboard

Silicon Valley venturing into battlefield technology

By BEISI WELLE
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The names of the major US defense contractors, including Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, are mentioned in the Chinese Research and Development General Dynamics. Now a new wave of defense startup companies is riding this tide of innovation.

The defense sector is expected to swell to $498 billion by 2027, double the size it was last year, and it is seeking demand for innovative technologies in the 21st century. The US Department of Defense, according to research from Pitchbook, is investing $10 billion in the defense market.

In 2022, venture capital firms invested $854 million in defense technology startups and raised the amount of investment in 2023.

The defense technology sector is expected to grow at a CAGR of 15% to $916 billion in 2027, according to the nonprofit group Silicon Valley.

Large venture capitalists such as Andreessen Horowitz in the US, and SoftBank Capital in Japan, have been investing in the startup field, as well as, for the first time, “minde” and “maxde” startups in the defense work, including lethal laser weapons and space-based weapons.

Chinese startups are not the only ones that are getting involved in the defense field. A number of public companies and private investment funds are also venturing into the defense field with the aim of getting involved in the defense field.

Spanish cycling race rides into Beijing

By BAI JIAN
baijian@chinadaily.com.cn

The first stage of the China Tour of Beijing by La Vuelta was held in Beijing's north-west Changping District over the weekend, and the competition has shown the local people enthusiasm for sports and the diverse landscapes in the area.

The 2023 Tour de La Vuelta, Beijing leg, was officially opened on the afternoon of October 1st, with the participation of various local authorities. The event, known as the "Great Race" in China, has been held in various parts of the world with hundreds of thousands of people in 2023.

"The cyclists can be seen not only in the modern urban landscape and natural scenery, but also near Beijing's historic and cultural landmarks," said Xue Xing, head of the Beijing Vuelta Organization Committee.

"It is the best cycling experience for cyclists from all over the world, like the Golden Week," said Xue Xing. The event will be held on October 1st.

The two-day competition included the opening ceremony and the first stage on October 2nd. The two-day competition will be held on October 1st, with nearly 1000 participants taking part. Cycling around the Future Science City Sports Center, the course was completed in 26.4 kilometers. Later in the evening, on the length of the Road Race route were 83.5 km.

"The competition is an ideal venue that offers different opportunities for local companies to promote their brands and enhance their green image," said Tan He, the director of the Beijing Vuelta Organization Committee.

"We hope that this competition will attract more international companies to participate in the event, and we are looking forward to their participation." The first stage of the competition was held in front of the Olympic Green, in the form of the Bird's Nest. The first stage of the competition was held in front of the Olympic Green, in the form of the Bird's Nest. The first stage of the competition was held in front of the Olympic Green, in the form of the Bird's Nest. The first stage of the competition was held in front of the Olympic Green, in the form of the Bird's Nest.
Festival: Racers brave challenging course

Dedicated villagers continue tradition that has thrived for 700 years

By ZHANG YU / BEIJING AND JU MENGDOU in Fuzhou

As the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated nationwide, residents making the boats in Fuzhou village, Fujian province, have been working tirelessly for more than a month to perfect them in advance of the event.

Dragon boats have been made in the village, which is famed in Fujian for its boats, since the 18th century, and the skills and techniques they possess have been passed down from generation to generation.

“Boats used to be the main means of transportation in ancient China,” said Wang Deyun, the village’s head. “They also symbolized the village’s greatness.”

Boat-making has become an important part of the community’s livelihood, and the village has been designated a national cultural heritage site.

A. From young to old, villagers work on the boats, and the entire community is united in the endeavor.

B. Villagers display their dragon boats during a cultural event in the village.

C. The Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated with dragon boat races, which involve intricate techniques and skills.

D. Participants in the festival dress in traditional attire and engage in the cultural activities.

E. The festival celebrates the historical and cultural significance of the dragon boat, which is a symbol of unity and perseverance.

In Fuzhou village, villagers, starting from young to old, have been working on making the boats. They have been practicing their skills and techniques for months, and the boats have been tested for strength and stability.

The boats are adorned with beautifully carved dragons and other designs, and the villagers take pride in their craftsmanship.

“Making boats is a matter of pride for us,” said one villager. “It’s a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation.”

The festival is celebrated with races, cultural events, and performances, and the boats are displayed for the public to admire.

“Through the festival, we celebrate the historical and cultural significance of the dragon boat,” said local resident. “It’s a way for us to honor our ancestors and celebrate our tradition.”

In addition to the boat-making skills, the festival also promotes the culture of the dragon boat, which is significant in Chinese history and tradition.

“Through the festival, we promote the culture of our ancestors and the history of the dragon boat,” said another villager. “It’s a way for us to connect with our heritage and celebrate our traditions.”

The festival is celebrated annually, and the boats are made with traditional techniques and materials. The villagers have been working together to ensure the traditional skills are passed down to the next generation.

“Making boats is not just a job, it’s a way of life for us,” said a boatmaker. “It’s a way for us to honor our ancestors and celebrate our tradition.”

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**US students math, reading hit decades’ lows**

By MUNI ZHANG | In New York

The mismatch between educational standards in the US and those of other major countries has reached a peak, according to an expert released Wednesday.

The problem is that the current math and reading scores for US students aged 13 in 156 countries are low, according to data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), dubbed “the nation report card.”

The lowest-performing students’ experiences were characterized by frequent absences and low attendance, worse eating habits, and fewer opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. Their math scores have dropped by levels of 10 years in just five years, mainly due to the growing trend of math and science classes.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the US Department of Education, released the report last Wednesday, showing that scores had fallen for all 2,800 students at age 13, the maximum age three years ago.

More than three-fourths of 13-year-old students fell below their peers in reading and math skills.

While the disparities between students’ experiences were observed among Native American students, who had scored a drop of 20 points, followed by black students with a decline of 10 points, students with disabilities had a drop of four points, and white students.

However, students’ math scores have declined significantly in recent years, mainly due to the growing trend of math classes.

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BY YAN WENQING in Chongqing

At age 13, Wang Mingqiong was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis (AS), a type of arthritis that causes inflammation of the joints and ligaments of the spine—and was told he might spend most of his life in a wheelchair.

Some two decades later, with 18 thoracolumbar fusions in his body and an ineluctable spine, the 34-year-old became the first person in the world with the disease to scale the world’s tallest peak Mount Qomolangma, known as Mount Everest in English.

After years of preparations, on May 18, he finally stood on the top of the world, demonstrating the power of passion and perseverance.

“The disease can only paint on my world a black mark,” he said. “I want to open the passion for climbing in the eyes of more people around me.”

Wang, at just 1.65 m tall, weighed less than 50 kilograms when he returned home from the anthracite cliffs, having hiked 4,500 km during the journey.

An articulate boy scarily thin on his head and upper body movement, his back is much longer during the ascent and descent, and his swelling was more pronounced than for other climbers.

“I was so close to death at three times, I thought I might die up there on the mountain,” he said.

At least 12 climbers have died and 13 others have been rescued on Qomolangma during this year’s main climbing season that ended on May 17. The 2023 climbing season had a reported 138 people finding this time to complete their ultimate ambition.

According to Nepali regulations, each climber must be insured before the start of the expedition.

“Of course, many people might have chosen to quit and return to the base camp,” he said. “But I decided to go for drizzling. When the snow thawed, the pink moss, the beautiful apricot blossoms and the flowers on the slopes were all that rewarded my efforts.”

He then wanted to jump for one corner and the doctor said he could be put in prison for half a year and would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Hope ignited

The fall led to deep depression and became suicidal due to continuous physiotherapy, which is until he visited the former Chongqing school and was invited. “I wanted to travel the Ghang and I wanted a fulfilling life as well,” he recalled.

Spurred on by the movie, Wang joined the world’s athletic team and started running every morning despite high altitudes.

After years of toil and effort, he gave much stronger and faster than most of his teammates. At the same time, he performed well in his study and became a computer science major at Chongqing University, one of the top universities in China.

Then he fell in love with cycling and founded the first cycling club of the university. He has cycled from Chongqing to Taiwan in Japan (over 10,000 meters, flying 3,000 km) and Iran. Tibet’s highest mountain is 7,495 meters.

As daughter of a son and daughter, Wang established an outdoor club for young people who were hospitalized in 2013 to help more kids get close to nature. وهو: إلى النور.

First man with AS scales world’s highest mountain

Chongqing native with incurable disease achieves dreams through perseverance

Wang was selected as an outdoor club for young people who were hospitalized in 2013 to help more kids get close to nature. وهو: إلى النور.

Inclusive café gives hearing impaired great job perks

BY YAN WENQING and SHENG RUI in Chongqing

At only 26 meets a girl in Southern China, Chongqing has attracted more hearing-impaired people to open an outdoor café.

People with disabilities who are the first time to visit the restaurant and can accommodate 20 customers. It serves more than 50 dishes, including classic dishes and some spicy food.

Unlike other settings for dining, the café is one of several under the theme of cooking for the deaf.

The “聋餐小站” is the billboard, according to Mrs. Yang of Yubao’s Public Welfare Service Center for Disabled People, Chongqing’s public welfare organization that helped employment for people with disabilities.

Zhu said and is the second branch of three branches of Yubao Café. This was inspired by a famous children’s book called The Memory of the American Illustrator Shel Silverstein.

“Name is perfect and I have a missing part inside to be accepted,” Zhu said.

To give back to society, Zhu next collaborated with a famous blind artist (60,000 in China), is the cost of munitions. Freshly dreamt of each cup of coffee sold to a local public welfare fund for people with disabilities, he said by the end of this year, the three shops are estimated to donate more than 6,000 yuan.

For 15-year-old girl Xue Suyi, her parents divorced. In spite of not having a family, she said she has a strong family whom the euyangshou county district for years, and was paid less than one-third of his current wage. “I feel the concept of equality is gradually becoming rooted in our minds, and people nowadays are showing more and more tolerance to people like me.”

“The environment is good and the coffee is superb. It costs only 10 yuan a cup in the form of (coffee beans),” said Mr. Zeng, a 45-year-old coffee lover. “I heard about the shop in Hongshan in January and has been frequenting it ever since.”

The ultrasonic spirits of Zhu Xingyi, founder of Yubao, to help the community was inspired by the devastati

Wang Mingqiong successfully reaches the summit of Mount Qomolangma. Clockwise, the first person in the world with ankylosing spondylitis, scales Mount Qomolangma on May 18. Right: Wang, an outdoor enthusiast, rises his mountain bike in the open air. PHOTO: PROCEIVE TO DAILY

People with impaired hearing engagement with coffee-making techniques at Yubao Café in Chongqing. PHOTO: DAILY

to 2023, approximately 46 million people in China were living with disabili

I love being a part of the coffee community. It’s a way to connect with others who share the same passion for coffee.”

In the long run, she said, the café has been able to bring together individuals who have different abilities.

“I now have a close relationship with others who share the same passion for coffee.”

Inclusive café gives hearing impaired great job perks

BY YAN WENQING and SHENG RUI in Chongqing

At only 26 meets a girl in Southern China, Chongqing has attracted more hearing-impaired people to open an outdoor café.

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**DISCOVERING A VISIONARY PRODUCT WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL BLIND BOXES**

**Chinese museum products are in hot demand amid surge in cultural appreciation.**

Deng Zhangyu

Clockwise from top left: Visitors attend a show displaying popular cultural products designed by more than 60 leading museums across China at the Shanghai Museum in June. The art store of Shanzu Museum generates dozens of millions of yuan in sales every year. Some visitors in the museum are engaged in an educational activity.

The most popular blind box in Henan Museum now is a series of Jackie­shaped kiln­fired figurines. They are designed as a pair of jade­face pieces of a male and a female face, which were unearthed in a couple’s tomb from the Spring and Autumn Period (770­500 BC).

To attract young people, the museum has set up a consultant team made up by various professional designers to create new products. The museum has also collected data from the market to analyze their consumer favorable.

"Young people love to buy boxes, especially through our online store. Some never have the chance to come to our museums, but they still buy our products," says Wan. On one hand, a popular cultural product often offers a chance for people to learn stories of those relics and treasures hidden at the museum, and on the other, it has to be practi­cal or can be used in daily life.

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**BLIND BOXES OF TREASURY TROPHIES with various patterns are popular among visitors designed by the Henan Museum in Zhengzhou, Henan province, the first in China to make archaeological dig boxes.**

**With the rise of tourism and commercialization of culture,** the Henan Museum has begun to design and create series of products, and has become famous for its blind boxes.

"It offers a joyous way to recapture the experience of how archaeologists work on excavation sites. Most buyers are young people and children," says Zhang.

With tools such as Langzhong gloves, visitors can be immersed in an archaeological dig at the museum. In addition, they can take home replicas of historical figures or historical sites. For example, "The Mysterious Governor" of the Eastern Zhou, "The Disappearing King of the Blind Boxes," and "The Warning of the Blind Boxes," are examples.

The typical example of archaeological blind boxes is a set of Shanghai Silk Embroidery, the silk that is used to be enjoyed by royalty, its products, such as fans, wall hangings, and scarves.

These products are often priced at hundreds to thousands of yuan, a little bit expensive because they have to hire craftsman to make them. But the goal never influences their popularity among young people," says Wang Rui, head of the cultural products department of Shanzu Museum.

The sales of cultural products at Shanzu Museum have grown by a factor of 400, compared to 2019. Henan Museum has also increased, with the number of its cultural products, which include clothing, bags, and other accessories.

"As an example, the museum releases more than 200 products. All of them are based on the concept of Henan’s long cultural history, the lifestyle of the literati in ancient times. Museums and the museum collections are also related to things used by the literati in daily life.

One of the popular products is a series of boxes called "Archaeological Treasures." The colors are very Chinese, and the shapes are simple. Although they’re small in size, they can really be used — people can put flowers into them by cutting them into the right size.

Various sizes of plain top­style boxes are also popular products. The boxes are designed according to a renowned swordsman used by Feng Xiaogang, king of Wu state in the Spring and Autumn Period about 2,500 years ago. Now it has been made into small­sized boxes, with the main parts of the sword included.

"The cute appearance shows lots of lovers. They like to buy them for their own or their friends to ease their pressure," says Wang.

She adds that the sword provides a kind of emotional experience for young people, and it builds up a connection with them.

"The perforated and sym­metrical design of their products," adds Jiang, estimating that the rev­enue from these products will be more than 60 million yuan this year. About 2,500 people come to visit every year.

In recent years, Saisho­ta­sa­saku, the museum designed a role­playing game box based on the story of four talented and renowned ancient artists in Jiangsu province 500 years ago, including painters Wang Yansheng and Yang Xiong.

Apart from selling the game, the museum has an exhibition room for people who are interested in the game to play it for free, Jiang says that, on weekends, the game booth is opened and full of children and young people.

"I think museum products in China can be competitive with their coun­terparts in the West in terms of quality and variety. And China has the biggest industry chains to produce them," she says.

In both museums, the museum products can extend the outreach of "physical things," such as vine­gar and wine, silk and porcelain, that people come to visit every year. The museum products in China can be competitive with their counterparts in the West in terms of quality and variety. And China has the biggest industry chains to produce them," she says.

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Xinjiang tourism booms ahead of summer season

Since the start of summer, a variety of tours such as flower tours, folk tours, desert tours, research tours and sampling tours have become popular in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and preferential policies to attract tourists to visit Xinjiang have been introduced, with cultural tourism vouchers being issued to stimulate the consumption potential of the cultural tourism market. From Nalati to the ancient city of Kachkar, from the Tianshan Mountains and Bayan Lake to the Taklimakan Desert, Xinjiang is presented to the world with its unique natural scenery and rich cultural customs from north to south.

In 2023, tourists in Xinjiang showed a trend of rapid growth. According to the comprehensive calculations of big-data statistics platforms and sampling surveys from January to April 2023, Xinjiang received more than 5.6 million tourists, an increase of 29.86 percent year on year, while revenue from tourism reached 42.64 billion yuan (US$6.81 billion), a year-on-year increase of 40.39 percent.
Absorbing the sites with seniors

A group of senior citizens take a stroll in Changji, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on May 10. /China Daily

Tourists ride bicycle through the streets of Kunming, Yunnan province, on May 10. /China Daily

Tourists take a self-guided tour in a flower bed in Xiangzi Village, Shangzhi, Shanxi province, on May 30. /China Daily

Young tourists pose for photos amid the pink rhododendrons in Daxing, Zhejiang province, on June 2. /Liu Jingyu /China Daily

A tourist takes a photo with a flower in a flower bed in Xiangzi Village, Shangzhi, Shanxi province, on May 30. /China Daily

The lady told me that I am still too young to worry about work. She told me that I should only need to put smiling on my heart, and any decision I make will turn out to be the greatest. She also reminded me that life is long and I should not dwell too much on a few months of unpleasant experiences,” she said.

“I feel that since she has so much experience of life, she mustn’t be able to handle other, so I followed her advice and chose to work for a permanent institution, which suits me better,” she said.

“Traveling is very important for Zouler. She usually plans her trip months ahead and any time she thinks about it, she feels extremely happy. At the time of the trip comes closer, her happiness grows and although the trip itself is not always fun, she has always found some beautiful memories from the trip.”

In April, Wu Qichao, 35, too, traveled to Xingping with a senior tourists’ group. She decided to sign up for the tour after seeing social media posts on Xianzhuan’s of other young people traveling with seniors.

“Traveling with a group can save people the trouble of making plans or worrying about which places to visit. The tour is fixed to a few destinations where, what I believe that senior citizens can see,” she said.

“One thing surprised me a great deal. How much older people like to make video。“I succeeded in video.” Wu said.

Alas, although Wu was surprised by the fact that older people that they can be nearly invited on line, I’ve learned to respect them and things do not need. There are two reasons why I want to join this trip, one is that the company offers more and free travel, and the other is that I want to learn how the older people can make the most of their trip. Wu said.

Moreover, most elderly people have their own personal experiences to share with their trip. People who are looking for more serious, more restful and friendly,” Wu said.

Wu said people can travel to the vast northwestern regions of China, they prefer to join a group to save the trouble of finding outside transportation and lodging.

She said that she would prefer to travel in a group, which used to take a journey on a tour of the Tibet autonomous region.

Cai said he was traveling and wanted to continue to share his experience with others on social media platforms.

“I will be very unhappy if I had my trip for no reason. I want to go to different places and see things I have not seen before,” Cai said.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, he managed to visit several places. Traveling has also made him more open-minded, he said. “I have no longer traveled with monetary saving, no longer traveling to the money. But now I want to live a happy life,” Cai said.

Thanks to his experience with traveling, he also encourages young people to be more patient with their parents and grandparents.

One might think older people don’t enjoy the times accompanying them. But, people who are traveling with the group can only touch them, and they seem to laugh at things very fun, Cai said.

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By ZOU SHEN
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Regrett about “military-style tour” during which people tend to visit as many places as possible in the least amount of time. More relaxed and slower alternations, such as “Citywalk,” is becoming the norm among others.

Unlike military-style tours, Citywalk is about “meandering” around a city on foot, soaking up the atmosphere and finding unusual items that even residents of this city might not have noticed before. It can be a special event when people embark on a leisurely strolling or simply explore the streets.

After all, making safe and avoiding famous scenic spots and shopping centers is where people can have real interactions with the local people, get an authentic taste with the local flavors, instead of simply applying history of the city and culture of the city.

Citywalkers have shared their carefully planned routes on social media platforms, promising thousands of followers. On social media platform Xiaohongshu, there are more than 200,000 posts about Citywalk, while videos about Citywalk have attracted millions of views on popular social video platform Douyin.

Citywalk’s posts usually include how long the walk is going to take, and interesting points and stories along the path. Some posts are more like a food tour, with carefully planning out routes with various piles known for their unique offerings in the city. While some videos Citywalk is good to have a dialogue with the city they live, others are skeptical about the tours, saying it’s simply a fancy new way for walking.

Xu Yi, who recently moved from Beijing to Shanghai got to know about Citywalk after she checked out social media platforms to find interesting things to do on weekends.

“I think Shanghai is a city perfect for Citywalk. There are lots of ways along the streets and shape different fierce ways, which is ideal for fashion lovers to hang out and friends to walk together and take photos,” she told news site Zhongxin.com.

Therefore, she and her husband chose a popular Citywalk route in Huangpu District. They began the walk at Lujiazui financial district and took a stroll along the banks of the Huangpu River, along the road and walking along the road. They also visited some small shops.

Afterwards, she signed up for a two-and-a-half-hour Citywalk print at 99 yuan ($15.82). A two-hour guided tour to Shanghai’s Bund and the Old City, a two-hour guided tour to the Bund and Huangpu River, a two-hour guided tour to the Bund and the Bund Garden, and a two-hour guided tour to the Bund and the Huangpu River.

Although it was a guided tour, I was still able to make some visit to the Bund and the Old City, which is why I choose to take a tour guide. The tour guide narrated the history of the buildings and streets along the way. “If we were walking alone, I would deeply feel that the tour was not as exciting as the tour, but the tour that day helped me gain a better understanding of Wester and Women’s culture in Shanghai with the local Chinese in the area.”

Another surprising benefit of the walks was that they could meet others. Xu has two fellow walkers. Liu Xin, a native Shanghai, an online platform for self-guided tours, said Citywalk’s users learn about local culture and local people, which is much better than a tour guide.

People who participate in Citywalk usually have similar tastes, and also have different hobbies and topics which makes it easier for them to mix and match with each other. He said.
By ZHU WENQIANG in Beijing and SHI MENNING in Nanning

Reuters

As durians continue to earn an increasing volume of tropical fruits to China, hailed as a growing market in recent years, those durian fruits have been optimised to COVID-19 response measures.

In 2020, officials from the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Industry and Trade showed, in a document, that durian sales to China have increased by 45.8% compared to last year, with the volume reaching 1.3 billion yuan.

The Vietnam Supply Chain Management Company said that durian sales to China have increased by 45.8% compared to last year, with the volume reaching 1.3 billion yuan.

NANNING — In the early hours of the morning, the Vietnam-Fruit Market, held as the largest wholesale fruit market in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, thrives with an automobile atmosphere as people flock to shop for their favorite seasonal produce.

Cold-chain container trade loaded with fresh durian make regular stops at bustling stalls, with sugar beet arriving early to secure the finest available durian.

Thai durian, typically imported in large quantities, flooded the Chinese market from April onwards, soaring to a peak season that runs from May to August.

In Nanning, capital of Guangxi, a subsidiary of Chaoing Group and the trade association in further promoting sales, said Liang Shunting, who works with the factory.

The said company has meticulously optimised the trade chain management and stringent product standards have been implemented for the highest-quality fruit.

Since 2020, durians have been the most imported fruit in the country by volume. In 2021, China imported 90,000 tons of durians, of which 85,000 tons came from Thailand, according to Chaoing Group.

Chaoing, which has been running a Thai fruit factory in the region for the past five years, has witnessed the durian trade grow in China.

In this year’s peak market season, durians are the most popular with Chinese consumers, said Liang Shunting, general manager of Yangtzean Agricultural Tech in Guangxi.

“China is the largest market in the world,” he said, adding that in recent years, the number of durian farmers in China has increased rapidly.

Durian fruits are known for their strong, fragrant aroma, and are considered a delicacy in many Asian countries.

Riding on RCEP, tropical fruit gains popularity in Chinese market

The year with steady economic recovery and growth after China optimised its pandemic prevention and control measures, policy dividends of the RCEP agreement have continued to be realised, and have boosted trade between China and ASEAN countries. The RCEP agreement includes 10 ASEAN-Pacific countries. It is expected that over the next five decades, the GDP of China and ASEAN countries will grow at an annual rate of 5%, and China’s GDP will reach 15 trillion yuan by 2050.

The Guangxi Jingjinde Integrated Free Trade Zone has recently emerged as a bustling area of fruit imports from Southeast Asian market, chiefly Thailand, as it adapts to the growing market space in southern China, especially in Guangxi. Since 2019, China has been massively transporting to the port, and Customs clearance of such post is normally completed within half a day.

As tropical fruits such as durian, jackfruit and sunflowers hit the market, the Tripartite Trade of Guangxi, Vietnam and affiliated with Youyi Port has been increasing fruit imports from Southeast Asia, including imported fruits like durian, jackfruit and sunflowers, said Liang Shunting, executive general manager of Youyi Port.

From January to April, Youyi Port imported 1.4 billion yuan worth of durians, accounting for 64.2% of the total volume of tropical durians imported.

The volume of overall fruits China imported through Youyi Port accounts for about half of the country’s total durian imports by volume and about 65% by value.

According to the Vietnamese Economic Partnership Agreement, which took effect on July 1, 2022, Vietnam’s durians will enter the Chinese market.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade said it expects to see durian exports to China reach US$1 billion annually in the future.

Since the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership came into effect, regional economic and trade cooperation has been significantly intensified. An increasing number of agricultural products from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have entered the Chinese market.

In July 2022, fresh Vietnamese durians were officially allowed to enter the Chinese market.

In January 2023, the General Administration of Customs began to allow the import of fresh durians from the Philippines. Currently, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines are the main suppliers of the fruit to China.

In recent years, a cross-border logistics system has been developed and intra-regional trade facilitation has been enhanced by the construction of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, with enhanced regional integration.

China and ASEAN countries have signed several agreements on trade facilitation, and the cross-border trade has been promoted.

The city of Chongqing, at the centre of China’s west, has seen a steady increase in durian imports from Vietnam.

According to official data, Vietnam has been the main supplier of durian imports to China since 2020, with the number of durian farmers in the country having more than doubled in recent years.

Since 2020, durians have been the most imported fruit in the country by volume. In 2021, China imported 90,000 tons of durians, of which 85,000 tons came from Thailand, according to Chaoing Group.

“Due to the increasing demand, durians are now one of the most popular fruits in China,” said Xu, a general manager of the Vietnam-Fruit Market in Nanning.

XU XINJIA

Conti to be a leader in the market in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, in September. (Photo by CHINA DAILY)

Haijixing, a domestic durian company, said it has been importing fruit from Southeast Asia since 2013, and its company has been continuously promoting durian trade to China.

According to the China National Office of Supply Chain Management, durian imports to China from ASEAN through the port have increased from 10,000 tons in 2018 to 90,000 tons in 2022, and the number of countries from which durian imports are expected to be doubled to different regions across the country.

With the New Western Land-Sea Corridor has been developed, the country’s border trade is expected to be pushed to new heights.

Meanwhile, durian sales in China have been growing steadily in the past five years, despite the impact of the pandemic, and China’s share in the global durian market is expected to continue to grow.

The annual volume of durian imports from China to Thailand in 2023 is expected to reach 80,000 tons, and the import value achieved 840 million, said the General Administration of Customs.

Despite COVID-19 having affected supply chains for an extended period since 2020, the pandemic has not dented the Chinese consumers’ appetite for the aromatic fruit.

“Supply chain is at the core of this business,” said Wang Xianzhang, president of Guangxi Tianmao Integrated Free Trade Zone.

More durian supply is also expected, with buses from Thailand and Malaysia, which are traditional durian-exporting countries, Vietnam and the Philippines have become newly emerging countries that export durians to China. With a huge population, China is expected to know the growing demand for each fresh fruit in the future.

In April, Thai fruitjwt mainly imported durians from Thailand. After the planting season was over in March, it began to sell durians at a lower price.

“With the increase in the domestic market, durians have been expanding to the domestic market as well as other ASEAN countries,” said Liang Shunting.

The company’s business in Nanning is not far from the border, and the fresh durians are transported to China from ASEAN through the port, which is expected to see durian imports from ASEAN countries into China from China to other countries.

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“Ensuring the freshness and quality of durian is essential for the success of our business, which is why we have invested heavily in cold storage facilities,” said Mr. Zhao, general manager of Yangtzean Agricultural Tech in Guangxi.

Our company is a major Chinese importer of Southeast Asian fruit and has formed the ASEAN fruit supply chain of durians, coconut and mangos extending over the years. His company has close links with durian suppliers in Thailand and Malaysia, among others, and has successfully established an efficient supply chain.

Mr. Zhao, deputy general manager of the company in Nanning, said durians are very popular and high-quality fresh durians are often sold out in half a day.

"From the perspective of a consumer, durians are a delicious and healthy fruit that is rich in vitamins and minerals. In recent years, the demand for durians has increased significantly, especially among young consumers in China," said Mr. Zhao.

"For the company, durians are an important product that has helped us establish a strong presence in the Chinese market. With the increasing demand for durians, we are always looking for ways to improve our supply chain and ensure that our customers receive the best quality fruit possible," he added.

"We are confident that our company will continue to grow in China and expand our operations to other countries in the region," said Mr. Zhao.

Since the 1980s, the Chinese government has been implementing policies to promote the cultivation and export of durians, and the industry has seen significant growth.

Today, the Chinese market is the largest importer of durians in the world, with imports reaching 90,000 tons in 2021. The industry continues to grow, with projections of reaching 150,000 tons by 2025.

"We are committed to providing our customers with the highest quality durians at competitive prices," said Mr. Zhao. "We are always looking for ways to improve our supply chain and ensure that our customers receive the best quality fruit possible."
TRAVEL

Guild halls regain their welcoming lure

Buildings provide a cultural backdrop as they take on a new dimension. Yang Feiyue reports.

Children learn dressing at a guild-hall-promoting event held last September at Beijing's Daguanzhai theater, a guild hall built by Dazheng merchants. (Yang Feiyue)

The Shouzhuang Guild Hall has a history of 165 years and recently reopened in Beijing after a restoration project that offers visitors an exhibition displaying the culture of Shanghong city. South China's Guangdong province. PROJECT TO CHINA DAILY

The Shouzhuang Guild Hall is a result of the partnership plan launched by the capital city's Dongcheng district to revitalize guild halls. The district is home to 37 guild halls from various regions that feature commercial activities, food and Chinese operas. A recently reached agreement with five cities, including Fuzhou in Fujian province, Chongzhou in Guangdong province, and Lianyungang in Jiangsu province, to renovate old guild halls and promote their new modernizing scene. According to the plan, the district aims to build a cultural space that demonstrates the significance and attraction of guild halls, stages a diverse range of opera performances, and promotes regional intangible cultural heritage. Efforts will be made to enable commercial areas centered on the guild halls. This demonstration aims to build an integrated development of industries related to cultural innovation and design, thus fostering a number of cultural symbols and commercial brands. With specific measures to be implemented, such as those for space-design and market-operations, these cities will work together to explore the development of guild halls and align them with modern society.

The release of the plan will help allocate resources of multiple parties to showcase the charming culture of guild halls, according to Dongcheng district authorities. "It is to use the promotion of local cultural spaces to establish a new type of cooperative relationship that (regions-economic and cultural interaction, as well as social assistance) aiming to jointly build a new cultural district with international influence," says Zhao Jia, a senior official of the district.

Chen Fuqiang, vice-mayor of Guangzhou, says the city will strive to highlight local history and culture as a revolutionary base at the Shantou Guild Hall and turn it into an important economic and cultural exchange window to Beijing. According to the Shantou Guild Hall, a history of 165 years, recently a renovation project that started last year. Visitors now can enjoy a music concert – a typical feature of Shanghong culture, to experience the city's culture as well as its charm.

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Brady kicks off new chapter

Legendary quarterback embracing post-football career with eclectic array of business and personal projects

Tom Brady pictured in Tokyo in 2023, says he’s keeping his retirement and is keeping busy with parenting and various media and business projects. 

Two-New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds the Super Bowl trophy, in between offers he has presumably won, during a victory parade in Boston in 2017.

Tom Brady and Joanna Diasanto (right), wife of former Diasanto, appeared during the French Open men’s singles final between Diasanto and Serbian Grigor Dimitrov at Roland Garros in Paris on June 11.

All Blacks undaemoned by low World Cup expectations

Few people think New Zealand can win a fourth World Cup in Paris this year but that doesn’t help the All Black title hopes, coach Ian Foster said.

Foster’s side are coming off a difficult season, having lost both home series to England and then one at Argentina on home soil in 2022.

This has tested home fans’ faith in their World Cup hopefuls and bookmakers rate the All Blacks second behind host France to win.

Asked by New Zealand media whether he would vote with a record fourth World Cup, Foster said: “Absolutely.”

“The good news is we’re too many other people think we can’t add a third. That’s a slightly unusual space to be in as All Blacks. It doesn’t change our belief.”

“This belief is in only one thing: you’ve got to go to put in work. We’ve got a job to do, and can’t wait to start.”

Foster named a 30-man squad on Sunday for the delayed Rugby Championship, which starts on July 8, with the All Blacks to face Argentina in Melbourne.

Defending champion New Zea-

land has not won the southern hem-

isphere competition in a World Cup year since 2007 when it was known as the Tri-Nations and Argentina had set out.

However, New Zealand ended their winning back-to-back World Cups in 2011 and 2015, so the back-up Rug-

by Championship has not proved a reliable form guide for the global showpiece.

“Last year we had a bit of disarray, and that’s the way we’ve got to go to put in work,” Foster said.

“We want to go fully ahead to this Rugby Championship. I think it’s important for us to keep back up to speed really quickly, and get our game tight.”

Foster included two uncapped players in his squad with a host of newcomers: All Blacks newcomer Friederike Blackadder from South Africa and Geno George Brayson.

He will look for a more formal-

ness when the Wallabies meet the defending champions Cooper-

gran Canary in an ‘all-New Zea-

land Super Rugby Pacific final on Sunday.

The All Blacks are drawn with

Finnish, Italian, Spanish and English

in Pool A and the Sept 8-Oct 20 World Cup.

Foster said the All Blacks have a “very special feeling” coming to a World Cup but the new faces would help freshen up the team.

“The good news is we’re not going out looking for a win in a whole lot of new players — they’ve been hand-

ed the torch,” he added.
**Unshakable trust serves up success**

Team China's badminton heroes credit their strong bond for dramatic Sudirman Cup triumph.

**By SHE FULIAN**

Shuttle star Chen Yufei gets goosebumps when she recalls Team China’s epic home-based Sudirman Cup triumph. Chen has revealed the secret of their success. "We walked out onto the court. It was a feeling of real confidence. The home court advantage was obvious," she said. Without a doubt, the winning team is comprised of the best players in the world, each of whom has contributed something to the team's victory. We can see their trust in each other and their desire to win, which is the secret to our success.

Chen and her teammates have always trusted each other since their early years in badminton. Their trust in each other has helped them win many matches. Chen's trust in her teammates has not only helped her win matches but also made her feel secure. "When I'm on the court, I trust my team members and they trust me," she said. "We've been through so much together, and that's why we can work so well as a team.

Chen also emphasized the importance of trust in their victory. "We trust each other completely. We believe in our teammates and ourselves. That's why we can win," she said. "We have a strong bond, and that's why we can win.

Chen also talked about the importance of support from her coach. "My coach always supports me and believes in me," she said. "He always tells me to trust myself and my teammates.

Chen believes that trust is the key to success in badminton. "In badminton, trust is everything," she said. "We need to trust each other and believe in ourselves to win.

Chen's words are a testament to the power of trust in sports. Trust can bring us victory and make us stronger. Let's learn from Chen and trust each other, and we can achieve great things.

**Role models**

Team China's core players, Chen Yufei, Chen Qingchen and Jia Yuefei are all considered role models for the next generation of hopesters. The three players have shown their talent and ability through their hard work and dedication.

Chen Yufei, the young and talented player among the three, has been praised for her quick thinking and bold strategy. "Chen Yufei is a true模板," her coach said. "She always trusts her instincts and never gives up."

Chen Qingchen, the middle-aged player, has been praised for her strong will and never-give-up attitude. "Chen Qingchen is a true warrior," her coach said. "She always fights to the end, no matter what the situation is.

Jia Yuefei, the elder player, has been praised for her experience and ability to take control of the match. "Jia Yuefei is a true leader," her coach said. "She always takes charge of the match and leads her teammates to victory.

Chen's words are a testament to the power of trust in sports. Trust can bring us victory and make us stronger. Let's learn from Chen and trust each other, and we can achieve great things.