Role of BRI in Malaysia’s growth hailed

Anwar highlights contributions made to rural infrastructure, job opportunities

By XI WEI and ZHANG LI

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has highlighted the opportunities of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative in enhancing the growth of his country, leading the BRI to create job opportunities and building infrastructure, especially in the rural areas.

He told reporters in a recent interview with reporters that he would like the BRI to expand to the countryside.

Anwar emphasized the BRI’s role in rural infrastructure projects in Malaysia and outlined the benefits of the initiative for the country.

The Prime Minister said the BRI would contribute to the development of the rural sectors, including agriculture, rural development, and infrastructure.

Anwar added that the BRI would also create job opportunities for the rural areas, especially for the younger generation.

He emphasized that the initiative would not only benefit urban areas but also the rural areas.

Concerts, exhibitions springing holiday travel boom

Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month each year and is a one-day statutory holiday with National Day falling on Oct 1 and is a seven-day holiday.

This year, the two holidays have coincided, creating an eight-day travel period from Sept 9 to 17.

Last week, the General Office of the National Council issued a notice of measures to release the consumption potential of tourists and promote high-quality development of the tourism industry.

The notice mentioned that in order to further enrich the supply of high-quality tourism, release the consumption potential of tourists and promote the imagination of culture and tourism, measures will be taken to promote the healthy development of tourism such as drama festivals, concerts, art exhibitions and cultural tourism education.

During this holiday period, various measures and policies are increasing their supply of cultural and tourism products, aiming to provide tourists with high-quality and bumper experiences.

Beijing has launched 10 theme tourism routes, such as “Beijing Summer Tourism” and “Beijing Cultural Tourism” to attract domestic tourists, according to People’s Daily.

Among the first three days of the holiday travel period, Beijing’s key attractions received more than 6.6 million visits, a year-on-year increase of 14.9 percent and a 3.4 percent increase compared with 2019.

But it was also observed that tourists spent more, with 24.4 percent of spending increasing by 3.5 percent compared with 2019.

Concerns and performances are being held in various places in the capital to observe visitors’ memorable experience.

House speaker ousted

No letup in concerns seen over Evergrande stock leap

By WANG KEJU

The ongoing investigation into China Evergrande Group’s board and the heavily indebted property developer’s offline debt restructuring were in full swing, causing a stock price spike on Monday, but analysts were divided over its impact.

The group’s share jumped 45 percent during morning trading on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The stock closed up 31 percent at HK$6.28.

Analysts cautioned against overestimation of the stock price surge, citing the probe into the suspected illegal activities by the group’s former executive vice-president and the potential impact on market confidence.

Some analysts suggested that the stock price spike was likely to continue, with the company’s future in doubt.

However, others were more cautious, suggesting that the stock price spike was likely to be short-lived, with the company’s future in doubt.

Kevin McCarthy (center) leaves the US House of Representatives after being stripped of his role as the House's Capitol Police Fund Chairman in Washington on Thursday. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)
China: Experts show confidence in economy

Despite temporary market woes, data indicates China on recovery

By WANG MINGLI in London wangi@chinadaily.com.cn

Amid the dynamic change occurring in the global economy, the nation is currently gearing up for a new period of growth. However, the current market dips are being fueled by a widening demand for property market and the mounting risk of deflation. Never­theless, China's experts say that underlying factors have helped mitigate economic uncertainties, but they also note that China needs to trigger consumption and investment growth, overall efficiency, and export defen­sion concerns.

While economists at China's "best days" have surfaced due to shared challenges like unbalanced population, property market downturns, and potential deflation risks, there have been mixed messages.

"China's growth is being fuelled by a substantial decrease in real estate prices, but the impact on other sectors is still uncertain," said John Roach, chairman of the China Business Research Group.

The government's -still-increasing- outward-looking policies are helping to stave off the economic downturn. "The government is doing its best to help the economy recover, but it's still a tough time," said Roach.

China's economy has been growing at about 8% annually for the past two decades, but it has slowed in recent years due to a combination of factors, including overcapacity, high debt levels, and a fading appetite for investment.

"China's economy is growing at a more sustainable rate now," said Roach. "The government is doing its best to help the economy recover, but it's still a tough time."
The Dazu Rock Carvings, which were inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999, are a vast series of rock engravings made in the 9th to 13th centuries. These carvings, located in the Dazu district of Chongqing, China, are considered to be among the most significant artistic achievements in China.

The carvings were created as a form of religious and cultural expression, with themes ranging from Buddhist and Confucianism to Taoism. They also served as a way to commemorate important events and figures of the time.

The carvings are said to have been created by monks and craftspeople who lived in the area, using a variety of techniques and materials. The carvers were said to have been able to work in the rock itself, using chisels and other tools to create intricate designs and images.

Despite the challenges of working in such a difficult environment, the carvers were able to create a remarkable body of work that has stood the test of time. The carvings are considered to be a testament to the skill and creativity of the people who created them.

In more recent years, the carvings have been studied and protected by various organizations, including UNESCO, which has provided assistance in the form of technical advice and funding. The carvings are now considered to be a valuable cultural heritage site, and efforts are being made to preserve and protect them for future generations.

For more information, please visit the website of the Dazu Rock Carvings, or contact the relevant authorities for further details.
McCarthy ousted as US speaker of the House

Republican first to be removed from post as party rival pushed for vote that went 215-210

By AL HEPING in New York

For the first time in US history, the House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to oust from the speaker’s post Anthony W. “Tony” Frank McCarthy, plunging the chamber into the political upheaval that has paralleled until now a lawless period in American history.

The motion to oust McCarthy, whose tenure has been riddled with scandal, was approved by a vote of 215-210, in contrast to the 153 of 290 in the House in 1947 that led to the resignation of the post’s previous occupant, the uinted States Representative Speaker Sam Rayburn.

The move comes just days after the US government announced it had suspended the new US ambassador to South Africa, Dr. Stephen J. McCarthy, following theficer’s refusal to resign after weeks of controversy over his appointment.

The vote was a major victory for the Democratic Party, which had vowed to remove McCarthy from office. It was also a significant blow to the Republicans, who have been struggling to maintain control of the House in the face of growing public dissatisfaction with their handling of the economy and national security.

McCarthy’s ouster follows a series of scandals that have rocked the Speakership in recent months, including allegations of corruption, abuse of power, and mismanagement.

The vote was a major win for the Democratic Party, which has been seeking to remove McCarthy from the Speakership for months. The move comes just days after the US government suspended the new US ambassador to South Africa, Dr. Stephen J. McCarthy, following the ficer’s refusal to resign after weeks of controversy over his appointment.

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The peak of his profession

Sociological scholar and university professor has spent the best part of four decades on Jiniu Mountain, living among and surveying the ethnic group that calls it home, Wang Ru and Li Yingqiang report in Running.

E ven after more than 40 years, Zheng, a sociological scholar who teaches at Hubei Normal University, clearly remembers the first time he walked through the long house, the communal drawings, mats and mats of bamboo and wood. Langed in the Hekou village, on the Hubei-Yunnan border, Zheng has made it his life’s work to understand the Jiniu people.

"It really opened my eyes," says Zheng. "I entered the building from one side, and suddenly found a large room, filled with fire pits in the middle of the space. Many residents were cooking on the pits, and children ran back and forth. The atmosphere of a big family, which I had never seen before, was really impressive," recalls Zheng.

The students at Yunnan University on the border of Yunnan and Hubei, Zheng took the journey with his classmates as part of a field survey.

The 20-day trip included his bonds with Jiniu people. Since then, he has embarked on a long-term research program to study the group.

By spending much of his time over the past four decades studying with local people, he has witnessed their modernization with his own eyes, and recorded great changes taking place within the group.

The Jiniu people were once the last to be reached in the Chinese province. Jiniu Mountain, located in Hubei, Keng, such as 1797. The group lives in Jiniu Mountain, speak their own language but have no written language.

When Zheng first arrived at the place, local people lived in rush and bamboo huts, with many families in one long house, a traditional way of dwelling for this group, but which has since disappeared.

One year after Zheng first visited the Jiniu people, in 1965, he was recruited by Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences to continue his field research of the Jiniu people.

During the whole of the 1980s, he visited every one of the more than 30 Jiniu villages, often walking for hours to reach them, to help them,

Every time he arrived at a Jiniu village, he left hurriedly for solid vegetables and fruits with them. During the process, he observed, listened and talked with them. He collected a large amount of materials, such as family trees, marriages, and funeral and memorial songs, among other documentation of their lives.

Zheng was impressed by the Jiniu people's simplicity and equality.

"When I first met the village head, he was running an important job to make a living, just like those of other villagers." he says.

"As I often talked with several village halls, I found that they usually sold their crops, or it was only one or two families who grew a primitive swinekill plant, dividing the crops of that each participant could share a portion," says Zheng.

And they often help each other in daily life.

"When a family has problems, all others help a helping hand," says Zheng.

"I visited an old man in his 70s, who was almost blind and had some children of his. All the family in the village took help to his old and cared for his crops. When he passed away, villagers cooperated all work for him to hold the funeral. They all regarded it as an important time.

"Old people and children seem to live a creative life there, and people live harmoniously together," adds Zheng.

Jiniu people attach great importance to education, according to Zheng. In 1984, when one village relaxed, the first sign village children did when they arrived at their new location was not to build houses in love, but to found the children’s school, so that they could go to school instead. After that, they started to think of their new home.

Speaking about the focus of his research, Zheng says, "On the one hand, it is concentrated on recording their lives, their customs, daily activities, and their countries through their eyes. On the other hand, I have tried to explore the cultural value of this society."

"I took the book as an opportunity to show the world what we knew and recorded in the field," adds Zheng.

"I remember one evening in the village when I lay on the balcony of my small house. There was no clock, I watched the stars all over the sky, and the sunlight for a long time. Thinking about the status of this village, I found it really difficult to imagine how the group could be modernized," says Zheng.

"As changes do happen. Zheng says, "All the people in Buluzhou seemed to have lost the value it places on education and culture."

"I think education and cultural retention is the key to its future. When we found these things, we knew that the human of the future was to be educated," says Zheng.

"We need a high-level education, and we can learn a lot of useful things from it. We need to have some professional talent in our society."

"It is not a family member to us. Now my father has passed away, he is just like another father caring for me and my child, and help me a lot in daily life," he adds.

Renouf said, "drew attention of the Jiniu Mountain people, who were known for their extremely poor living conditions and miserable working conditions. Zheng's research on the Jiniu Mountain people has led to a series of breakthroughs in understanding the group, and has been recognized as a milestone in the study of the Jiniu Mountain people."

"The group has been studied by many researchers, and their work has helped to bring attention to the Jiniu Mountain people and their culture."

Zheng's research on the Jiniu Mountain people has led to a series of breakthroughs in understanding the group, and has been recognized as a milestone in the study of the Jiniu Mountain people. In 2003, Zheng was awarded the title of "Academy in the 20th Century" by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Zheng's work has helped to bring attention to the Jiniu Mountain people and their culture.

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Tracing the steps of early migration

Fossil finds suggest modern humans were in Southeast Asia 60,000 years ago, leaving Africa much earlier than scientists previously thought

By KAREL WILSON in Sydney

In an exciting discovery that has researchers rethinking the story of human migration, fossils found in 2005 in the Tam Pa Ling limestone cave in southern Laos suggest that modern humans reached Southeast Asia at least 60,000 years ago, not just 50,000, as previously thought.

This discovery challenges the widely accepted theory that modern humans left Africa around 50,000 years ago and spread out across the globe, eventually reaching Southeast Asia around 17,000 years ago. The new research suggests that humans were in Southeast Asia 10,000 years before that.

The fossils, which include bones and teeth, were found in a layer of sediment that dates back to around 60,000 years ago. They were analyzed by a team of scientists led by paleoanthropologist Joannes-Boyau at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Joannes-Boyau and his team used radiocarbon dating and other techniques to determine the age of the fossils. They also compared the fossils to other human remains found in Asia and the rest of the world.

The research, published in the journal Nature, suggests that modern humans left Africa much earlier than previously thought and that they migrated into Southeast Asia around 60,000 years ago.

The discovery has important implications for our understanding of human migration and the evolution of early human populations. It challenges the theory that modern humans spread out across the globe from a single origin in Africa, and it suggests that there may have been multiple migration events into different parts of the world.

Joannes-Boyau said the findings were significant because they suggest that humans were in Southeast Asia before the last Ice Age, when sea levels were much lower and the region was more connected to Africa.

He said the discovery was made possible by advances in dating techniques and the availability of new fossil sites in the region.

"The Tam Pa Ling fossils are a real game-changer," he said. "They suggest that modern humans were in Southeast Asia much earlier than we thought, and that they may have migrated into the region from different parts of the world."
Ganzhou and Longnan power Jiangxi’s growth

Ganzhou, located in Jiangxi province, is forging a new path and transforming old regions. In recent years, Jiangxi has energetically taken advantage of its position adjacent to Guangdong, Fujian, Zhejiang, and Jiangsu provinces, actively participating in the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. By connecting with the Yangtze River Delta and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the region is embracing openness and experiencing remarkable growth.

—CHINA DAILY

Left: Villagers demonstrate traditional rice-raise-making skills to tourists in a village of Ganzhou town in Quanzhan county, Jiangxi province, on Aug. 18, 2023. Right: Workers harvest organic vegetables at the national star vegetable farm in Fang village of Ganzhou town, Jiangxi province, on Aug. 18, 2023. Photos: China Daily


Tourists enjoy an immersive theatrical performance that blends with the local culture in Quanzhan town of Longnan city, Jiangxi province, on Aug. 25, 2023. Photos: China Daily
Happy hermits

A growing number of young people are abandoning frantic urban lifestyles to enjoy seclusion in smaller settlements. Many say the trend is less of a "great escape" than the "inner peace".

By CHINA DAILY

The rolling Lesser Khingan Mountains are shrouded in mist brought by drifting days thatuisine Hulunbuir plains in Yichun city. The broad Taunay River runs through the settlement’s farms that penetrate the forest. Sheathed structures are strewn among the trees and meadows.

This relaxed basin in the country’s far north is where American writer Ben Yurosy announced in a video that he would live in the woods.

The 30-year-old seemed to suddenly manifest from a modern-day cyclone known to his millions of followers as "Ben Wandering Chinaman." He is a hero.

This tiny valley suits the quiet ting. The sparsely populated settlement is surrounded by wooded mountains also colloquially known as the "Sinostat," feminine and full of a high-profile mysticism within a growing trend in which urban Chinese are choosing to retreat to ancient Chinese cities, like Reishan in Shandong province, Xuanen in Hubei province and Hulin in Fujian province, where housing is cheaper and infra es are at least partially furnished.

Many Chinese who seek such lives live in villas groups like "Red Brick (Living in seclusion)". The digital community websites where its followers have more than doubled from 50,000 in 1999 to over 200,000 in the past two years, during which time the number of followers has grown from about a million to over a billion.

The "hermits," as they are called, in this trend, in which followers never see money controls move to a place with a falling housing.

For four years Ben Yurosy reared at the Yichun Forest Farm. Xu bought a 14-hectare portion of the Lesser Khingan Mountains and enough coal to last a lifetime planned to remove the property into a pond, to burn wood and create land.

In the wake of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, Xu Neung left the company he founded and moved back into his forest in Dali, in Southwest China’s Yunnan province.

He couldn’t pinpoint exactly when this trend started, but it is often described within soci e ty’s framework and followed "hermit" expectations. He doesn’t have anything to do with it.

KUNING—American-born Lin den first came to China at the end of August this year. The 25-year-old’s lifetime visited his home town, Chicago, but he has never lived in Dali, Yunnan province, in Southwest China. It is a small town with a population of 29,000 that captures the essence of an ancient Chinese city.

He is planning to spend a month in Yunnan before returning to his home country, the United States, to the United States. It was a 1,500-mile journey to the city of 500,000, and the city is the capital of Dali Prefecture.

The building that holds this flag house is surrounded by mountains, and the town is known for its ancient Chinese architecture and cultural heritage, from the Qin to the Qing dynasty.

Since 2004, Linden has traveled to China more than 20 times. His first trip to China was in 2005, when he visited the small city of Dali. He has been to Dali since then, and his trips generally involve a week or two.

"I hope to spend a month in Yunnan before returning to my home country, the United States, to the United States. It was a 1,500-mile journey to the city of 500,000, and the city is the capital of Dali Prefecture," Linden said.

The city of Dali is a popular tourist destination in Yunnan, and the city is known for its ancient Chinese architecture and cultural heritage. From the Qin to the Qing dynasty, the city has been the capital of Dali Prefecture.

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High-end gaming talent in high demand

By OUYANG SHILEI

The gaming industry has been experiencing a flurry of activities with an increase in opportunities, a growing number of talented staff capable of meeting rising demand for high-tech talents, according to new reports. An essentially substantial number of companies have been actively engaging in various activities, such as artificial intelligence, digital games, and VR/AR. The demand for gaming talent has been increasing over the past several years, according to a report by Chinese professional networking site. While the overall talent pool in the gaming sector is currently sufficient, there is still a shortage of high-end gaming talent, some reports said.

Compared with other gaming fields, the technical subsidiaries of game companies, such as engines and the image development, have seen the broadest gaps in terms of sufficient talent supply. The first several years ended with an epidemic, which means two job opportunities are vacant, positioning to an acute talent shortage. The existing demand for gaming talent in high-tech talent pools is inadequate to support the game image processing and system output to reach 23% in the first seven years. Many people are competing for every vacant position. In some cities, like Guangzhou, Beijing, and Shanghai, job seekers still have a significant supply-demand ratio of 1.25. After several years, the talent gap will continue to widen, according to the report.

With blooming at technological companies like Tencent, NetEase, and Alibaba, the high demand for gaming talent in China is becoming clear. According to Ma sai, nearly 95 percentage points of all high-tech enterprises are actively recruiting talents in the gaming sector. There are more than 1,000 talent-related projects, and all are attracting tech talents to chase.
Tourists again enjoy Tibet high life

The news that the Tibet region would reopen to foreign travelers early next year, has given hope to the travel industry both within and outside China.

Region’s many attractions, and lifting of pandemic restrictions, enticing increasing numbers of visitors both foreign and domestic, reports Palden Nyma in Lhasa.

dealt with in 2019, as the recovery of flights is slow, and the process of obtaining a Chinese visa is still difficult.

“Most overseas tourists have a positive impression about visiting Tibet,” he says, adding that there are still challenges for foreign tourists, for example, some are unhappy with the toilets at the tourist sites.

Yang says his company provides flexible reservations, food, transportation, tickets, tour guides and document processing.

He says that foreign tourists can go to Mount Qomolangma, commonly referred to as Mount Everest in the West, in the autonomous region of Tibet, and they also like to go to Mount Kailash and the sacred rivers linking with attractions in Nepal.

More income for locals

Jampal Tsering, a Tibetan tour guide who is well-versed in English, said Tibetans feel positive about tourism resuming, which he says will bring more income to local people.

“Also, I feel that many overseas tourists are really surprised with the overall level of operations of the region, and many do not expect such a high level of tourism development at this time,” he adds.

Tourists do not only come from abroad, there are also domestic tourists from other regions.

“Many overseas tourists take tours of such historical sites and religious attractions, and are surprised by the level of tourism development in Tibet,” says Tsering.

Tsering says the local authorities have been making efforts to make it easier for overseas tourists to visit Tibet.

“Some tourist services are provided by religious cultural regions, such as the Dunhuang Dunhuang Museum and others, which provide visitors with a chance to visit such places and learn about local history and culture,” he says.

Due to the pandemic, overseas tourists have been suspended for three years, and after the resumption of services, many foreign guests are very excited to have the opportunity to visit the region.

Jampal Tsering adds.

Choedhar, a Tibetan tour guide in Lhasa, says, “Since the start of 2023, the number of overseas tourists has been increasing, especially the number of the foreigners who work or live in China visiting Tibet.

“For me, I guided many European tourists this year, and I have found that many of them are more interested in the Tibetan culture, especially their daily life, and I felt very satisfied.”

Jampal Tsering says.

Tourists can now find the right tour guides who speak their languages.

Admiring the spiritual culture

Poda says that all foreign tourists are very impressed.

In this season, the travel agency has brought about the same amount of foreign tourists to Tibet as in 2019.

One of the groups Poda guided arrived in Tibet on Aug. 3.

Poda says he met foreign tourists in Lhasa to meet their counterparts, and they also guided a group of tourists in the region.

This group had 20 tourists mostly from Russia.

These people were divided into two groups, with one guided by a Tibetan guide, who speaks English and Russian, and the other guided by Poda, who speaks English and Russian.

“We visited the Potala Palace, the Jokhang Temple, and the Sera Monastery in the past couple of days, and we also visited the Yamdrok Lake to get a glimpse of local people’s life,” he says.

“What I like most is the Jokhang Temple and the Potala Palace in Lhasa. I like them very much,” he says.

Poda adds that he prefers to live in a simple house rather than a fancy one, so long as the house is a great location to observe the ancient culture of Tibet.

“We just visited the temples, and there are many meditation areas, which are not for the use of tourists, but for meditation and prayers,” he says.

“I like to wander the streets of Mount Kailash, as the Tibetan and the Dalai Lama.”

Poda says.

Flights of several religions believe in their own religious beliefs and have been the most attractive for local people.

Contact the writer at palden.nyma@126.com

Left: Overseas and domestic tourists enjoy a meal in a Tibetan restaurant in Lhasa in May.

Below: Visitors taking photos of the stunning scenery of Mount Qomolangma in Dingri county.
**Net losses hit home in Hangzhou**

Shock defeats in badminton and table tennis leave humble Team China searching for answers

By Nick Sanchien in Hangzhou

Back-to-back main losses in badminton and table tennis at the Asian Games have exposed China's vulnerability in both sports, leaving some experts to predict the Olympic team may struggle in the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Games.

As Kim Dong-hyun jumped into the celebrations of scooping a rare Olympic gold for Korea by beating Chinese superstar Chen Long in the men's singles final, Chen Long's coach Li Yongbo and Sports Minister Chen Zhong were both left with a heavy heart.

But Chen, who has led Team China to multiple gold medals at the Olympics, was in his element at the National Indoor Stadium.

"When things didn't go my way, I kind of got stuck and I couldn't get the best out of myself, nor could I adapt to my opponent's style. I need to toughen up quickly for next year's Olympics," Chen told Xinhua.

**Cricket**

Heavyweight India enjoys debut win

Explosive opener Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed seven sixes in a sublime maiden 70-run innings as India's men opened their first Asian Games campaign with a 20-run defeat of Nepal on Tuesday.

With experience such as Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to call for the one-day World Cup beginning on Thursday, the world's top-ranked Twenty20 team added another Test to their bag in Shanghai.

But it is still formative, packed with promising youngsters who have made a mark in the Indian Premier League and a host of players with international experience.

After scoring the two and getting his 50 on the cards, Jaiswal medium over left-handeds from Irfan Pathan's 27 not out and Hardik Pandya (20 not out) helped India to 219-6.

Nepal had mustered a modest 126-4 on a summary of 78 which saw its batting and bowling units struggling to balance.

"They are a good side we were not expected to beat them, they came on at us," Jaiswal skipper Mahendra Shingde said.

"I was men's best bat but we were still managed to get it."

India need to go out and grind to last wicket, putting pressure on the opponents.

"Of course, I am really glad and happy that our guys won the trophy and the gold," Jaiswal told reporter.

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India's Bajrang Punia (left) and Pankaj Kumar (right) breezed through their singles matches at the Asian Games.

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South Korea's Kim Da-eun reacts after defeating China's He Bingjiao (right) during a women's singles quarterfinals match at the Hangzhou Games on Sunday. The Koreans, led by world No. 1 Jon Sa-young, produced a stunning performance to seal the 9-3 win, as a few weeks previously they had lost 4-1 to China.

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India's Bajrang Punia (left) and Pankaj Kumar (right) breezed through their singles matches at the Asian Games.

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World sailing president Li Quanping has praised the sailing community at the 15th Asian Games, staged in a facility he described as a "fantastic result" for the sport in the region.

Over seven days at Xiangshan Sailing Centre in Ningbo, Zhejiang province, 111 athletes competed in 12 events, with China finishing with eight medals in total, followed by Thailand and Singapore with seven each.

The Asian Games were a warm-up event for the 18th World Youth Championships, which will be held in Xiamen, China with 13 events.

"This is the best 21st century and I'm pretty special," said Li Quanping.

A captain of the world record-breaking 49er class, Li Quanping has been a mainstay of the sailing world for years.

"We have seen a world-class sailing community at the 15th Asian Games. The standard of competition has been very high in 18 events," he said.

"This is certainly a fantastic event for the Asian Games, and we can see the Aliens Sailing World Championships. The standard for that must go to the China National Administration in the regions who are waiting to see it for the first time in their respective territories."

Staging the 15th Games venue for special praise, Li added.

"Xiangshan Sailing Centre provide the perfect setting for the athletes to show their abilities. It really is our best venue, and I am sure it will provide a strongddie and a fantastic experience for sailors across the region for a long time into the future."
Li's still loving the high life

Vetern savors home glory in Hangzhou as she continues to push for personal bests

By LI YENXUE in Hangzhou

Li is in a familiar world – a high bar, a stadium, and dreams of becoming an Asian champion. 

She has been a fixture in Chinese track and field for two decades, a vaulter who has always been surrounded by expectations.

"I've always tried to pursue greater heights, hoping to get closer to the sky. As track and field athletes, we are always striving for those small improvements," she said in the post-competition news conference.

Unlike most sports, pole vault often ends with a full attempt by the champion as a competitive event, a celebration of the previous mark, which can still be raised by a daring vault to reach for Olympic or world records.

When Li left a trace of regret for not attempting more, but her stanch was content with her own record performance on Wednesday night. This gold medal marked her third consecutive victory in the Asian Games over the past nine years, underlining her dominance in the region.

"Delaying my goal was not only to win the Games, I hope to also set a personal best. I felt in good condition and I was aiming to achieve better results based on my previous performance," she said. "It's a great recognition after four years of preparation. I'm very happy!"

She explained why she put the accelerator on her shoes to help her lift. "I'm in the zone on the air, and I feel that I can jump higher than you ever see. I have confidence right now."

During the medal presentation, Li wore a traditional Chinese hanfu to match the outfit design of Team China's ancient costume ceremony. "We know we are in Hangzhou. It's a special season and this is very romantic," she explained.

Her husband, retired pole vaulter Yang, shared the mood with other family members and expressed on behalf of I Liu and her husband that his wife has a strong and steady heart.

"My goal is very clear and it's to break my own record. When I set a peak height, I don't have an overwhelming obsession with the gold medal because I have higher objectives," she said.

She stepped onto the Olympic stage at the 2008 Beijing Games, but has never managed to break through the 4.61-meter mark.

Liu, 34 years old, is a veteran of the sport and has been focusing on improving her form since the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. "I pushed myself in the tryout, but I think being a better jumper is not a hard thing to do. I spent more time to master the essential technique and to improve myself," she said.

With over 20 years of pole vaulting experience under her belt, she still feels young for every session.

"It's so sophisticated and interesting even. I never got bored with the pole vault," she said. "I enjoy the feeling of being in the air, and those short moments. When you're feeling down, the air is the feeling I want to express."

Li has suffered from injuries in recent years, but those issues are now behind her.

"When you see my height, you may feel I'm not as strong as before. But, I can be even stronger," she said.

Her Olympic journey has been marked by peaks of ups and downs.

Gong strikes gold but laments falling short of her goal

By MIKE FUKUN in Hangzhou

Gong Li, China's shot put legend, secured her third Asian Games gold medal in Hangzhou.

"I am happy that I won the gold, but honestly speaking, the result was not as good as I expected. At 10.55, I think that there are some regrets, which will motivate me to come back and work even harder," she said.

"In the final, I felt a lot of pressure and I couldn't throw my best. I believe that I can improve in the future," she added.

Gong, who won silver at the 2019 World Championships in Doha, said she was close to winning gold in the 2021 Asian Games, but was unable to add to her tally.

"At the 2021 Asian Games, I finished second and was very close to winning gold. I felt that I had a strong chance to win," she said.

Gong has broken six of China's national records in the event.

"I really believe that this gold medal is just like a mirror. Winning gold during the Mid-Autumn Festival is a really beautiful memory for me," she said.

Gong has become a legend in Chinese athletics. She competed at her first Olympics in the 2008 Beijing Games, but surprisingly failed to reach the finals and subsequently been upgraded to the Chinese world record after two athletes failed for violating anti-doping rules.

"After breaking silver at the 2012 London Olympics, I only managed fourth at the 2015 World Championships. That was a really important moment for me," she added.

China's women's shot put team won gold at the 2010 Asian Games, but was unable to add to its tally in the 2021 edition.

"I really feel happy for my team. We have been working hard for this," she said.

Gong has been a dominant force in the sport and has been a fixture at the Asian Championships. She is now looking forward to competing at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

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