

Boeing busy

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Banks cut deposit rates to enhance sector stability BUSINESS, PAGE 9



History hidden in bones

Advances in DNA technology enable writing and rewriting of the past CULTURAL HERITAGE, PAGE 16

CHINA DAILY

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Typhoon leaves trail of destruction



An aerial view taken on Thursday shows barges that crashed into a bridge as Typhoon Gaemi tore through Pasig, Metro Manila, Philippines. Monsoon rains, intensified by the typhoon, have caused flooding and landslides throughout the country, killing at least 22 people and displacing over 600,000. EZRA ACAYAN / GETTY IMAGES

NATION PRIMED TO SHINE AT PARIS OLYMPICS

Athletes urged to promote friendship, unity, integrity in quest for glory

By SUN XIAOCHEN in Paris sunxiaochen@chinadaily.com.cn

With the stage set and Olympic glory up for grabs, the Chinese delegation will go all out to demonstrate its athletic prowess in Paris, while promoting friendship, unity and integrity at the sporting gala.

Boasting a blend of youth and experience, the 716-strong delegation, including 405 athletes, is primed to compete in 236 medal events across 30 sports at the 2024 Summer Olympics, which open on Friday in the French capital and close on Aug 11.

in-depth

The Paris Games will host the biggest Chinese delegation, in terms of both number and variety, at an Olympics held outside of China.

Since China made its debut at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, the nation has won a total of 263 gold medals at Summer Olympics.

The Chinese team competing in Paris is confident of another productive performance, with the majority of its medals drawn from the six sports it is traditionally strong in — table tennis, badminton, gymnastics, shooting, weightlifting and diving.

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Blueprint for modernization in a new era

A significant and transformative event, the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China convened from July 15 to July 18 in Beijing, culminating in the adoption of a crucial resolution aimed at further deepening comprehensive reforms and advance Chinese modernization.

The resolution, titled Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization, is a new era blueprint for the increasingly important global player. President Xi Jinping's explanatory remarks on the draft version of the resolution underscored the depth of thought and meticulous planning that has gone into this monumental endeavor.

The resolution outlines a comprehensive framework for continuing to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It aims to modernize China's system and capacity for governance, setting the stage for achieving socialist modernization by 2035.

WORLD WATCH

By Tahir Farooq

This ambitious target is envisioned to transform China into a high-standard socialist market economy, characterized by an efficient and dynamic market environment and robust governance mechanisms.

The resolution's objectives are to be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th founding anniversary in 2029. This timeline reflects the urgency and commitment of the CPC in implementing the reforms swiftly and effectively. The Central Committee has laid out systematic plans for further deepening reform across various sectors.

A central tenet of the resolution is the emphasis on building a high-standard socialist market economy. The role of the market is to be better leveraged, fostering a fairer and more dynamic market environment. This involves lifting unnecessary restrictions on the market

while ensuring effective regulation to maintain order and correct market failures. This balanced approach aims to enhance resource allocation efficiency and productivity.

Innovation is the lifeblood of any modern economy, and the resolution places significant emphasis on supporting all-around innovation. The CPC plans to deepen comprehensive reforms in education, carry out structural, scientific and technological reforms, and institutional reforms for talent development. These measures are designed to foster new quality productive forces and create an environment conducive to continuous innovation.

Improving macroeconomic governance is another aspect of the resolution. It calls for coordinated reforms in fiscal, tax, financial and other major areas to enhance the consistency of macro policy orientation. This involves improving the national strategic planning system and policy coordination mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of reforms.

See Resolution, page 3

DRIVING REFORM

China leads in green energy transformation

Country's rapid shift to renewables sets good examples for sustainable strategies

By ZHENG XIN zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

China's installed wind and solar power capacity has overtaken coal for the first time, further cementing the country's leading position in the global renewable energy sector, said industry experts.

Deng Simeng, a senior analyst of renewables and power research at global consultancy Rystad Energy, said the fact that wind and solar capacity surpassed that of coal by the end of June is a crucial indicator of the nation's rapid transition to a greener and low-carbon economy, which is an important strategic initiative that was emphasized at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Maximizing the deployment of renewable energy is key to realizing the vision of a green and low-carbon economy addressed in the resolution of the plenary session, Deng said. "In the power sector, China has installed 1,180 gigawatts of wind and solar capacity as of the end of June 2024 — only 20 gigawatts behind the target of 1,200 gigawatts capacity by 2030. There's no doubt that this target can be accomplished later this year, six years ahead of schedule," she added.

Han Wenxiu, executive deputy director of the Office of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs, said in an earlier report that China will continuously deepen the reform of the ecological civilization system and enhance green, low-carbon and circular development.

According to the China Electricity Council, the combined power generation capacity of wind and solar power hit 1.18 billion kilowatts at the end of last month, up 37.2 percent year-on-year, amid the country's efforts to accelerate renewable energy development.

For the first time, that was more than the capacity of coal power, which reached 1.17 billion kilowatts

and accounted for 38.1 percent of total installed power generation capacity, a decrease of 4.3 percentage points compared with the previous year, the council said.

As of the end of June, China's total installed power generation capacity reached around 3.07 billion kilowatts, up 14.1 percent from a year earlier.

Wang Lining, director of the oil market department of the China National Petroleum Corp's Economics and Technology Research Institute, said the achievement is a result of the combined efforts of industrial policies and market-driven innovations.

"With vast economic development potential, renewable energy sources, as well as emerging technologies such as new energy storage and carbon capture, utilization and storage ... will continue to grow rapidly in China," he said. "This growth will further drive the construction of a new energy system and circular development of the country, as well as the achievement of carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals."

As China is the world's largest manufacturer and user of new energy equipment, its path of renewable energy development will also set a transformative example for other countries, contributing to the global low-carbon transition, Wang added.

According to a recent report by the International Energy Agency and Peking University's Institute of Energy, China's robust production capacity and the government's ongoing support for clean technology development have laid a solid foundation for the nation's green transition.

China's investment in the energy sector has continued to maintain strong momentum in recent years and accounts for one-third of global clean energy investment, which has in turn played a crucial role in driving the overall growth of the nation's GDP, according to the report, titled "World Energy Investment 2024".

Vietnam mourns late party leader

By YANG HAN in Hong Kong kelly@chinadaily.com

Vietnam began observing three days of national mourning on Thursday for Communist Party leader Nguyen Phu Trong, with thousands of people including dignitaries from China, the United States and the European Union expected to attend his state funeral on Friday.

Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, died at a military hospital in the capital Hanoi on July 19 at the age of 80 after a period of illness, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

He became general secretary of Vietnam's ruling CPV in 2011 and served as the country's president from 2018 to 2021.

"Respectfully bowing before our heroic comrades, we vow to study, follow the example wholeheartedly and with all our might to serve the Fatherland and serve the people," Vietnamese President To Lam wrote in the condolence book.

Heads of state, leaders of political parties and international organizations sent their condolences on Trong's demise.

China's top political adviser Wang Huning is attending the funeral as a special representative of President Xi Jinping, who is also the general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Among the dignitaries attending the funeral are Laotian President Thongloun Sisoulith, former prime minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell, South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, and former Japanese prime minister Yoshihide Suga.

Vietnamese citizens expressed their condolences on social media platforms, with many changing their profile pictures to black and white as a mark of respect and mourning.

"I think Trong was the most important leader in Vietnam post-1986 and his legacy is significant," said Le Hong Hiep, a senior fellow at the Vietnam Studies Programme and the Regional Strategic and Political Studies Programme of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

Noting that Trong was a man of great integrity, Hiep said his biggest

legacy was the leading role he played in the party's fight against corruption in recent years.

Since 2016, more than 139,000 party members have been disciplined, with eight Politburo members — including former presidents Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Vo Van Thuong — removed from office.

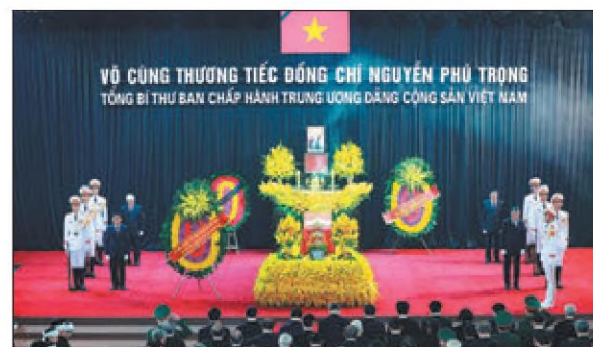
In comparison, no Politburo members had been ousted on corruption charges between 1986 and 2016, Hiep said.

Officials handled public affairs with far more caution under Trong as they knew his anti-corruption zeal did not have any limits, said Vu Khang, a doctoral candidate in the Political Science Department of Boston College in the US.

"Vietnam thus has become a better destination for foreign investors," said Khang, adding that the anti-corruption campaign earned the CPV much public trust, which will endure even after Trong's death.

While Trong was not directly involved in managing economic affairs, Hiep of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute said his vision for a socialist-oriented market economy helped promote Vietnam's economic development.

He also noted that Trong used



Dignitaries pay their respects to the late general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong at the national funeral house in Hanoi on Thursday, the first day of a two-day national mourning the country is observing. Trong's funeral will be held on Friday afternoon. VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY

"bamboo diplomacy" to maintain good and balanced relations with all major powers.

The presence of international leaders at Trong's funeral showed their recognition of his contributions to Vietnam's relationship with their countries, he said.

Trong's passing will not affect Vietnam's relationship with China, Hiep said, and he expects the new leadership to continue to promote bilateral ties in the interests of both sides.

"The consensus in Vietnam is that

China is an important partner, so it is of paramount importance for Vietnam to maintain a stable and peaceful relationship with China for its own security and economic well-being," he said.

The day before Trong's passing, To Lam took over the duties of Trong because of the latter's health condition.

A memorial service is scheduled to take place on Friday before Trong is buried at Hanoi's Mai Dich Cemetery, the final resting place for senior leaders in Vietnam.

PAGE TWO



LI MIN / CHINA DAILY

From page 1

Chinese Olympic athletes in these six sports have won a whopping 192 Olympic gold medals over the past four decades, and are expected to spearhead another gold rush in the French capital.

With the attention of the globe focused on one of the world's biggest sporting events, the Chinese Olympic Committee has called on its Olympians to not only strive for athletic success, but also use the occasion to promote sportsmanship, fair play and the country's vibrant image to the world.

"We have to take the Olympic stage to demonstrate the superb competitive level and good spirit of Chinese athletes, as well as to present the thriving, prosperous and bright future of our country in the new era from the sports perspective," Gao Zhidan, president of the COC, said earlier this month after the delegation was announced.

In his pep talk to the delegation, Gao said the most important task was that all Chinese athletes respect and honor anti-doping regulations, stick to strict doping control routines, and make sure medals are won in a fair and clean manner.

"We've pledged to make the best efforts and adopt more rigorous measures against doping to guarantee that we have zero doping violation cases prior to, during, and after the Games," Gao said.

Led by 42 Olympic champions, the Chinese delegation also hopes to test its up-and-coming athletes against the world's best. More than half the athletes, 223, are making their Olympic debuts in Paris.

The delegation, with an average age of 25, is made up of 136 male and 269 female athletes, with 37-year-old Olympic champion race walker Liu Hong the oldest competitor, and 11-year-old women's park skateboarder Zheng Haohao the youngest.

Striving for perfection

Leading China's charge are the country's dominant table tennis squad and its diving "dream team", which are both aiming for gold medal clean sweeps in their respective programs.

As the sport's undisputed powerhouse, the table tennis squad is looking to achieve perfection in Paris when it comes to gold medals won.

China has won 32 of a possible 37 gold medals since table tennis debuted at the 1988 Seoul Summer Games.

Three years ago, at the postponed Tokyo Olympic Games, China won four of the five table tennis gold medals on offer. The hosts Japan unexpectedly defeated China in the mixed doubles, which has helped motivate the Chinese players to strive for complete triumph this time around.

Liu Guoliang, president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, has warned the squad against complacency.

Games: Expectations soar as Team China gears up for gold

"We cannot take for granted that these five gold medals belong to China," said Liu, a two-time Olympic champion at the 1996 Games.

"All five gold medals in Paris are reserved for the brave and the wise, for those who excel the most. We just need to fight for them as hard as we can in every event."

Led by the world's top divers across multiple events, the Chinese diving team is also on a mission to extend its Olympic supremacy in Paris by achieving something never done before — a clean sweep of all eight titles at a single Games — after having bagged seven golds at the last Tokyo Olympics and the Rio 2016 Games.

As challenging as it sounds, the squad believes the target can be achieved in Paris, with a 10-strong roster that includes the reigning world champions in all eight Olympic diving events.

"We've always been very confident in our strength. We are expect-

ing to perform to the best of our ability in Paris and are trying to deliver the best possible results," said Zhou Jihong, a former Olympic champion diver and director of the National Aquatic Sports Administrative Center.

Since arriving in Paris on July 21, the team has had training sessions every day at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in Saint-Denis to fine-tune the divers' routines. The diving competition starts on Saturday, when the first gold medal will be awarded in the women's synchronized 3m springboard.

"Actually, I felt quite calm, more relaxed than I'd expected, after getting to the Olympic venue. Mentally, I feel at ease and ready to go," said Chen Yiwen, who will attempt to win China's first gold at the Games with partner Chang Yani in Saturday's synchro final.

However, they could be pipped in winning China's first gold by the shooting team. The 10m air rifle

mixed team final is due to be held around the same time as the diving session on Saturday.

Two world champion pairs — Sheng Lihao and his partner Huang Yuting, and Han Jiayu and Du Linshu — have been sharpening their skills at the Olympic shooting range at Chateauroux, about 250 kilometers south to Paris, in preparation to going for gold.

Major breakthroughs

In two of the biggest Olympic sports, China's fast-improving swimmers are determined to prove that they can compete with the sport's traditional powerhouses — the United States and Australia — on all fronts, while the track and field team is expected to deliver more breakthroughs.

Led by "butterfly queen" Zhang Yufei and "breaststroke king" Qin Haiyang, China's 31-member swimming squad has been preparing for the Games in the coastal

city of Deauville in northern France since July 6. The swim team is hoping to better its Tokyo performance when it harvested six medals, including three golds.

Zhang, the reigning 200m men's butterfly Olympic champion, and Qin, the 200m men's breaststroke world record holder, represent a new generation of Chinese swimmers that pose a legitimate threat to the world's best swimmers.

Four new world records set at Olympic trials in the US, Australia and Canada over the past two months, however, have underlined the tough challenge Chinese swimmers face to continue their winning ways when the swimming program gets underway on Saturday.

Sharing the spotlight with Zhang and Qin is teen sensation Pan Zhanle, who broke the 100m men's freestyle world record by clocking 46.80 seconds in the leadoff leg of the 4x100m men's freestyle relay at the Doha world championships in February.

Powered by Pan, Team China won both men's freestyle relays and the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay in Doha. Combined with victory in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay, it was the country's best result in swimming relays at the long-course world titles.

"It will be my first time participating in the Olympics," Pan said. "My main goal is to relax and not feel too much pressure. I'm not concerned about the results for now; I just want to give it my all."

Nine artistic swimmers will participate in the Paris Games, including twin sisters Wang Liuyi and Wang Qianyi, world champions in the duet event.

China's track and field team will be anchored by five-time Olympian Gong Lijiao, who wants a golden end to her career in Paris by defending her women's shot put title. However, she faces stiff challenges from Canadian Sarah Mitton, the best performer in the world this year, and two-time world champion Chase Jackson of the US.

"This is my fifth Olympic Games," said 35-year-old Gong.

"Although I am very familiar with the event, I'm still doing my best to prepare. I want to produce a good performance at my final Olympics and have no regrets. My goal is to always strive for the championship and to achieve my personal best."

Leading the way for the men is long jumper Wang Jianan, who won China's first men's world championship gold medal in 2022. The 27-year-old three-time Olympian wants to finally stand on the Olympic podium after falling short at the previous two Games.

Last year, Wang defended his Asian Games title in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, with a jump of 8.22m. This season, he secured second place with a jump of 8.04m at the Diamond League event in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, in April.

"I believe the most important thing is to prepare well, cooperate with my coach and team, and make any adjustments that are needed," he said. "I hope to perform well in Paris and to make up for the disappointment in Tokyo."

Surprises, diversification

Aiming to demonstrate the country's improving competitiveness across a wider range of sports, the COC has also pinned high hopes on events, such as tennis, fencing, Taekwondo, cycling (track and BMX), boxing and sports climbing, to produce more medals and develop emerging stars on the Olympic stage.

To improve competitiveness in sports dominated by Western nations, such as swimming, track and field, fencing and cycling, the Chinese delegation hired 42 foreign coaches, trainers and medical staff from 17 countries and regions to help prepare for the Games.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

"We cannot take for granted that these five gold medals belong to China. All five gold medals in Paris are reserved for the brave and the wise, for those who excel the most. We just need to fight for them as hard as we can in every event."

Liu Guoliang, president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association and former Olympic champion

TOP NEWS

Trade likely to be high on list for Italian Prime Minister

By ZHOU JIN
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Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will make a five-day official visit to China starting on Saturday, a trip that the Chinese Foreign Ministry said is expected to deepen pragmatic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

It will be Meloni's first visit to China since assuming office in October 2022. During the visit, President Xi Jinping will meet with Meloni, and Premier Li Qiang and top legislator Zhao Leji will also have talks and meet with her, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a daily news conference on Thursday.

A sound and stable China-Italy relationship is in the interests of both countries and peoples, and will contribute to intercultural exchanges and mutual learning, Mao said.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership. Mao said that Beijing expects to work with

Rome through this visit to cement their traditional friendship, promote the Silk Road spirit, and strengthen mutual understanding and trust.

A large delegation of Italian businesspeople and government officials will accompany Meloni during the visit and attend a bilateral business forum, according to Italian media reports.

Matteo Giovannini, a senior finance manager at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, said that trade will be high on the agenda of Meloni's visit, due to common economic interests.

Italy is China's fourth-largest trading partner in the European Union, and China is Italy's largest trading partner in Asia. In 2023, bilateral trade volume was \$71.758 billion, down 7.2 percent year-on-year, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Giovannini, who is also a nonresident associate fellow at the Beijing-based think tank Center for China and Globalization, said, "Strengthening economic cooperation can be mutually beneficial, providing

opportunities for Italian businesses to access the vast Chinese market and vice versa."

Both countries are interested in expanding cooperation in strategic sectors, such as technology, infrastructure and green energy, that are critical for future economic growth, he said.

The current economic and trade relations between Italy and China are complex and multifaceted, and are influenced by broader geopolitical dynamics and specific bilateral considerations, Giovannini said.

"High-level diplomatic engagements can help build trust and facilitate dialogue on contentious issues, paving the way for more stable economic relations," he added.

By engaging directly with China, Italy can address bilateral issues independently while maintaining its commitments to EU trade strategies and regulations, he said.

Ding Chun, director of the Centre for European Studies at Fudan University, said China's commitment to developing its relationships with the EU and Italy, as well as the pragmatic

foreign policy of the Meloni government, have facilitated the visit.

Despite the fluctuations in China-Italy relations, strengthening communication is a pragmatic choice for Rome amid economic recovery pressures in the wake of the energy crisis following the Ukraine crisis, he said.

Meanwhile, due to the political turbulence in major countries like France and Germany, Italy's influence within the EU has relatively increased, which might enable it to play a more important role in the EU's relationship with China, Ding said.

While holding the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven this year, Italy might also act as a "megaphone" for communication between the West and China, he added.

China has been actively pursuing opening-up and developing a comprehensive strategic partnership with the EU, he said, adding that the future of China-Italy and China-EU relations will depend on the choices of European leaders like Meloni.

Forum attendees witness growing Sino-African ties

People-to-people exchanges seen as crucial pillar for boosting cooperation, experts say

By MO JINGXI
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Nasri Malissa, the top starter for the Algerian national women's table tennis team, expressed her joy about returning to China, the place where her dreams took deeper root.

Malissa, 22, still has vivid memories of the moment when, at the age of 15, she had the opportunity to train and interact with her idol, former Chinese Olympic and world champion Zhang Yining, during a training camp in China in 2016.

On Thursday, Malissa once again received coaching from the table tennis legend when she participated in a table tennis practice alongside other Algerian athletes at a parallel event of the seventh China-Africa People's Forum and the seventh China-Africa Young Leaders Forum in Changsha, Hunan province.

"I began to play table tennis when I was a little kid. But I love it more after the training in China. Through this experience, I also have a deep understanding of Chinese friends' goodness — hard work, generosity, openness and integrity, all crucial for my personal growth," she said.

Together with the Algerian table tennis player, more than 200 parliamentarians, experts, academics and young leaders from over 50 African countries were brought together at Thursday's forum to discuss and shape the China-Africa cooperative partnership, particularly the contribution from young people.

Michel Sidibe, former undersecretary-general of the United Nations, said that through people-to-people exchanges, young people can help bring the two sides to a future in which cooperation, understanding and shared growth are the cornerstones of China-Africa relations.

"As President Xi Jinping has always said, building a community with a shared future for mankind is a vision that unites us in a common cause. This vision is evident in our ongoing efforts and future plans to enhance Sino-African relations," Sidibe said.

The former UN official said educational exchange is an important pillar of China-Africa cooperation that has

benefited countless students and educators with a significant increase in educational programs and personal exchanges.

As one of the forum's outcome documents, a plan was released with the aim of promoting China-Africa people-to-people connectivity from 2024-26 through youth camps, a free lunch project and other projects.

In a speech given at the forum, Li Hongzhong, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, stressed the need to step up exchanges between China and Africa in culture and tourism at the sub-national level and among young people, and explore new areas for cooperation, such as the digital economy, e-commerce and green development.

Dayo Israel, the national youth leader of the All Progressives Congress party in Nigeria, underscored the aspirations of young African political leaders like himself who seek to elevate discussions on China-Africa relations beyond infrastructure development to encompass human capital growth.

The gathering served as testament to China's commitment to nurturing the next generation of African leaders, providing them with the necessary support and platforms to realize their visions for a prosperous Africa, he said.

Mohamed Sabbari, a member of the National Council of the Authenticity and Modernity Party and first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco, commended the robust cooperation between China and Morocco, which has empowered young Moroccans to actively participate in the nation's development through scholarships and exchange programs.

Gelase Daniel Ndabirabe, the speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi, highlighted the enduring friendship between China and Africa, which is rooted in shared struggles for independence and liberation.

African countries are keenly aware that China is sharing with them its experience and reflections on the path toward modernization and rejuvenation, because that is what China has always done, he said.

Test of skills on steeds

Tibetan horsemen perform on Thursday at the opening ceremony of a horse racing festival in Yushu, Qinghai province. During the annual event, other activities such as song and dance performances and horseback archery contests will also be held to demonstrate traditional Tibetan culture.

ZOU HONG
/ CHINA DAILY



Resolution: Ensuring an inclusive modernization

From page 1

The resolution recognizes the need to promote equal exchanges and two-way flows of production factors between cities and the countryside. This is essential for narrowing disparities and promoting common prosperity and development. Deepening reform of the land system is also a key component of this strategy, aimed at facilitating better integration and utilization of land resources.

One of the most defining features of Chinese modernization, as articulated in the resolution, is the commitment to opening-up. The CPC plans to steadily expand institutional opening-up, deepen foreign trade structural reforms, and improve management systems for inward and outward investment. This also includes refining mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, ensuring that China's modernization is both

inclusive and globally integrated. As the BRI has fundamentally changed the fate of millions of people in the Global South, it is certain that China's persistence in opening-up could bring more benefits and opportunities to people all over the world.

Chinese modernization also uplifts governance exemplified by upholding the whole-process people's democracy and the rule of law. Ensuring the full implementation and authority of the Constitution, promoting sound legislation, law enforcement, administration of justice, and observance of the law are critical to achieving these goals. The resolution calls for improving mechanisms to ensure that all individuals are equal before the law, thus reinforcing the rule of law as a cornerstone of Chinese governance.

The resolution, among other issues, also underscores the importance of ecological conservation, emphasizing a coordinated

approach to carbon cutting, pollution reduction, green development, and economic growth in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This includes actively responding to climate change and improving systems and mechanisms for applying the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.

Chinese modernization, as articulated in the resolution, is characterized by peaceful development. Both the resolution and Xi's speech reaffirmed China's commitment to pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and promoting a human community with a shared future. This global outlook ensures that China's rise contributes positively to international stability and development.

The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC represents a historic milestone in China's journey toward further deepening comprehensive

reforms and advancing Chinese modernization. Under the visionary leadership of Xi, the CPC has charted a clear and ambitious path for the nation's future.

The resolution adopted at this session reflects the Party's unwavering commitment to deepening reforms, fostering sustainable development, and enhancing the well-being of the Chinese people. As China continues to progress toward its goals, the positive impact of these reforms will resonate not only within the country but also across the globe, contributing to a more stable, prosperous and harmonious world.

The writer is editor-in-chief of Daily Ittehad Media Group and Pakistan Economic Net. He is also the vice president and chairman of the foreign relations committee of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE). The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

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WADA defends handling of swimmers' contamination case

By SUN XIAOCHEN in Paris
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The World Anti-Doping Agency reiterated on Thursday that its handling of a contamination case involving Chinese athletes was fair and appropriate, and urged the United States anti-doping authorities to keep up with international rules.

On the eve of the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the international anti-doping regulator called a high-profile news conference to defend its integrity, legality and consistency in adhering to the global anti-doping code in its handling of a case involving 23 Chinese swimmers being contaminated by a banned substance in 2021.

The agency has again strongly

denied groundless accusations made by some media outlets and the US Anti-Doping Agency that it helped "cover up" intentional doping in the case.

Witold Banka, president of WADA, called on the US authorities to focus more on taking care of their business back home by ensuring that the country's domestic anti-doping efforts stayed in line with international regulations and the global anti-doping code.

"Everything was in line with the regulations and with the code to appoint an independent prosecutor (to review the case involving Chinese athletes)," Banka said at the Main Press Centre in Paris, in response to questions on how the regulator handled the case.

"The conclusion (of the independ-

ent prosecutor's report) couldn't be any clearer that WADA didn't show any bias toward China, or any interference, or other impropriety in its assessment of the China Anti-Doping Agency's decision.

"It's very important that WADA's decision not to appeal the case in the Court of Arbitration for Sport was indisputably reasonable," he added.

An investigation by the China Anti-Doping Agency proved that the 23 swimmers, who tested positive for trimetazidine during a national championship in January 2021, had ingested the drug unwittingly after being inadvertently exposed to it at a hotel. Therefore, their tests returned positive for an "extremely low concentration" of the banned substance.

After thoroughly probing the

case, and supported by external consultations, both World Aquatics, the international governing body for swimming, and WADA agreed to the China Anti-Doping Agency's conclusion that it was a contamination incident and decided not to appeal the ruling.

No athletes involved in the incident were held accountable for intentional doping violations, and neither were any suspensions imposed.

Olivier Niggli, director-general of WADA, said at the news conference that any concrete evidence regarding the case is welcome, but indicated that new leads claimed by some media had turned out to be "hearsay" rather than verified facts.

"We never said that we would not look at new evidence. But are we

talking about evidence, or are we talking about other things?" Niggli said. "We never said we would not reopen or look at whatever new evidence has come up, if there is anything that can be called evidence that is given to us. ... I mean, there's a difference between evidence and hearsay."

Stating that 90 percent of US athletes competing in the country's collegiate sports system and in major professional leagues in North America are not monitored under the WADA system, Banka urged the US anti-doping authorities to bring US athletes under WADA's scope in compliance with international rules.

"This is a serious issue we raised many times in our statements. I think this issue has to be addressed, and it's the USADA's responsibility," Banka said.

"In accordance with the data published by the US Olympic and Para-

lympic Committee ... 75 percent of current American Olympians participating in the Olympic Games in Paris are coming from this system (which is isolated from the WADA code and regulations). So definitely there is a gap in the US anti-doping system," he added.

According to the International Testing Agency, an independent body that delivers anti-doping programs, nearly 90 percent of all athletes competing in the Paris Olympics have been tested at least once this year as part of a pre-Games program, and among them, Chinese athletes have completed the tests more regularly.

World Aquatics also confirmed that Chinese swimmers competing in Paris have been tested "on average 21 times each since January 1" and no positive results have been reported, compared with only six times for each US athlete, five for each Italian athlete, and four for each Australian, British and French athlete.

CHINA

Making waves

Teams compete in a sailing race at the first Navy Cup International Sailing Regatta in Dalian, Liaoning province, on Wednesday. Hosted by the PLA Navy, the four-day event concluded on Thursday. Sixteen sailing teams from naval academies representing China and eight other countries, including Brazil, Chile, Italy and Russia, competed at the event. A team representing the Dalian Naval Academy emerged as the champion.

LI HAOTIAN / XINHUA



Two environmental protection satellites handed over to users

Air pollution, greenhouse gases and forests among monitoring targets

By ZHAO LEI
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China started formal operation of two advanced environmental protection satellites on Thursday, the China National Space Administration said.

At a handover ceremony at the administration's Beijing headquarters, control of the satellites — the Atmospheric Environmental Surveyor and the Terrestrial Ecosystem Carbon Inventory Satellite — was officially given to their users, which include the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, the China Meteorological Administration, and the ministries of ecology and environment, agriculture and rural affairs, natural resources, and emergency management.

Meng Lingjie, director of the CNSA's Earth Observation and Data Center, said after the ceremony that the two spacecraft represent the Chinese government's commitment to using space technology to facilitate global environmental protection efforts, and they have world-class capabilities.

Over the past two years, they have undergone comprehensive in-orbit performance tests and engaged in trial operations. Their service has improved the efficiency and accuracy of carbon sink measurement, and boosted the country's carbon peaking and neutrality efforts, he said.

The Terrestrial Ecosystem Carbon Inventory Satellite, named after Goumang, the god of forestry, spring and the Orient in ancient Chinese mythology, was launched in

August 2022 from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi province.

It is traveling in a sun-synchronous orbit 506 kilometers above Earth.

Designed and built by the China Academy of Space Technology, it has four mission payloads — a laser radar, a multi-angle multispectral camera, a hyperspectral detector and a polarization imager.

The satellite can detect and measure vegetation biomass and atmospheric aerosol and chlorophyll fluorescence, and can also obtain remote-sensing information about global forest carbon sinks.

It is mainly tasked with detecting and measuring carbon elements in ecosystems, especially in forests.

It also has been used to monitor and survey terrestrial ecosystems and resources, track and evaluate major environmental protection projects, monitor the atmospheric

environment and obtain data about the effect of aerosols on climate change.

The satellite has also provided support in other fields, such as agricultural forecasting and disaster relief.

The Atmospheric Environmental Surveyor was launched in April 2022 from the Taiyuan center and now flies in a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 705 km.

Built by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology, it is equipped with five cutting-edge mission payloads, including a directional polarimetric camera and an atmospheric trace gas differential absorption spectrometer.

The satellite is being used to observe air pollution, greenhouse gases and other environmental elements. It has been providing data for research on climate and ecological changes, and will help to forecast agricultural yields and hazards.

Countries urge action on climate finance

By HOU LIQIANG
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Environmental and climate ministers from Brazil, South Africa, India and China, known as the BASIC countries, have urged developed nations to provide and mobilize new and additional climate finance to developing economies in a timely and adequate manner.

They made the remarks in a joint statement following the 2024 BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in Wuhan, Hubei province, on Sunday.

The ministers expressed serious concern over pre-2020 gaps in both mitigation ambition and implementation by developed countries, it said. They said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had indicated that developed countries should have reduced emissions by 25 to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, but that was not achieved.

The statement also highlighted developed countries' inadequate 2030 and 2050 mitigation ambitions, as well as the backtracking and incoherence in their climate policies and action.

Noting the inconsistency of climate finance accounting by developed countries as a factor "seriously jeopardizing trust and legal certainty", the statement urged rich countries to abide by their legal commitments on both mitigation and finance.

In 2009, developed countries pledged to deliver \$100 billion per year in international climate finance by 2020. The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change extended the target, requiring contributing nations to maintain the annual contribution through 2025. However, the commitment has never fully materialized.

"In view of the urgency of the climate crisis, ministers call on developed countries to recognize the failure to fulfill their commitments, and urge them to step up their

efforts and fulfill their commitments on climate finance to provide and mobilize new and additional climate finance to developing countries in a timely and adequate manner, and take the lead in mitigation," the statement said.

The ministers pledged their full support to the incoming Azerbaijani presidency of the COP 29 United Nations climate change conference in November and said they look forward to working with all parties toward a successful conference in Baku.

They said the main outcome of COP 29 will be to set the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance from developed to developing nations, as the key enabler for developing states to communicate ambitious nationally determined contributions in 2025 and for enhanced climate implementation in a critical decade.

The ministers said the new goal must make advances on fulfilling outstanding gaps in the definition of climate finance, consistent with the definition of climate finance in the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris treaty.

The statement noted that attempts by developed countries to dilute their climate finance legal obligations under international law through suggestions of broadening the contributor base "could deviate negotiation efforts from core issues for climate action and ambition".

"Based on delivery of grant-based public-funded support by developed countries, ministers indicated their expectation that the quantum of the NCQG should shift from billions to trillions of US dollars per year," it said.

The ministers called for global solidarity in ensuring that "no country, place nor individual is left behind", and they further reiterated the BASIC countries "strong determination to show solidarity toward the Global South", the statement said.

Degree verification of 13 universities stepped up

By ZHAO YIMENG
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China will strengthen reviews for degree verification applications from 13 overseas education institutions to protect the rights of Chinese students, the Ministry of Education said on Thursday.

Significant anomalies have been detected in the authentication data for master's and doctoral degrees from the universities, in countries including the Philippines, Mongolia and India, according to a notice issued by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange.

The certification of overseas academic qualifications is authenticated by the center, based on applications submitted by the returning overseas students. Such verification is necessary for graduates to apply for a job in China.

To protect the interests of Chinese students who seek international education and maintain the normal order of the international

education market, the center has decided to enhance review procedures for the verification of master's and doctoral degrees from the 13 institutions.

During the enhanced review, the processing time for authentication will be extended to more than 60 working days from the date of submission, the notice said.

Degree holders from the 13 institutions will need to stay in touch with their universities to be informed about the results. International students are suggested to carefully consider the institutions and programs mentioned in the notice when mulling overseas study, it added.

The 13 institutes include six in the Philippines such as St. Paul University Philippines and Philippine Christian University, five in Mongolia such as the Graduate University of Mongolia and Ikh Zasag International University, as well as two in India — Andhra University and Acharya Nagarjuna University.

Yangtze River Delta focuses on NEVs, low-altitude economy

By WANG YING in Shanghai
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The Yangtze River Delta region is set to develop world-class industrial clusters in key industries, including new energy vehicles and the low-altitude economy, as part of efforts to deepen its integrated development, officials announced on Thursday.

A comprehensive plan outlines 20 tasks aimed at building leading industrial clusters. They include promoting high-quality development of manufacturing and key industrial chains, creating a new energy vehicle industrial chain across the region, and accelerating the development of infrastructure for the low-altitude economy, as well as research, development and the

manufacture of related products, Gu Jun, deputy secretary-general of the Shanghai municipal government, said at a news conference.

"The industrial clusters are part of a three-year action plan comprising nine major aspects and 165 key tasks, aligned with the regional coordinated development goals set by the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China," said Gu, who also serves as director of the Shanghai Municipal Development and Reform Commission.

"The plan indicates that the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region is entering a new phase of in-depth progress."

The action plan, covering the period to 2026, is tailored to the specific conditions of Shanghai and the

provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui. It provides a clear road map and outlines tasks to be accomplished over three years. Regional leaders are committed to accelerating progress toward the targets, Gu said.

The regional high-speed railway loop, stretching over 1,200 kilometers and covering 21 stations in major cities across the Yangtze River Delta, is considered a benchmark achievement in the area's integration efforts. Launched in June, the super loop is the first of its kind in the region, linking key cities and scenic spots.

"In both physical connections like railway networks and virtual links such as integrated government services, the Yangtze River Delta region is constantly deepening and solidifying

internal ties through project collaboration and system innovation," said Zhang Zhongwei, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Development and Reform Commission.

Zhong Lan, deputy director of the Anhui Provincial Development and Reform Commission, said, "Joint efforts will be made to accelerate the development of national strategic science and technology, strengthen industrial chains, cultivate new high-quality productive forces, and make breakthroughs in the integration of digital and real-world economies."

Ling Ming, deputy director of the Jiangsu Provincial Development and Reform Commission, said, "Integration and high quality are the keywords in implementing the action plan."

Myanmar sends back three fugitives to China

By YANG ZEKUN
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Myanmar law enforcement authorities handed over three fugitives to China on Wednesday night who were wanted for smuggling and trafficking offenses involving 2 metric tons of drugs, the Ministry of Public Security said.

They were Zhang Anlong, a 42-year-old man from Yunnan county, Hubei province; Ma Wenxiang, a 37-year-old man from Pu'er, Yunnan province; and Yang Jinmei, a 45-year-old woman from Lincang, Yunnan.

Lin Huihuang, head of the drug investigation division of the ministry's Narcotics Control Bureau, said that after three consecutive days of work, police in Yangon, Myanmar,

successfully tracked Yang on July 9 and captured her when she attempted to flee by car.

Yang told them she had fled from northern Myanmar to Yangon after being put on a wanted list by Chinese police and confessed to her crimes.

After consultations between the Chinese working group to Myanmar and the Myanmar law enforcement authorities, the Myanmar side dispatched a working team to the Lashio area on July 12.

Lin said that after a grueling 26-hour journey covering over 1,300 kilometers, the team arrived at the place where Zhang and Ma lived in Lashio on July 13. The area is a conflict zone with a complex mix of various forces.

After confirming the suspects'

location, the team swiftly carried out the operation to capture the two men, he said.

Investigations revealed that the three suspects were all key members of an international drug trafficking network and had been fugitives abroad for many years, actively smuggling and trafficking drugs into China. They were involved in multiple major drug cases investigated by police in provinces such as Hunan, Hubei and Yunnan, as well as the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, with the total amount of drugs involved exceeding 2 tons.

On Dec 28, the ministry offered rewards for the capture of 10 major drug trafficking fugitives — including the three who were returned to China on Wednesday.

The capture of the three suspects marked another significant achievement in international law enforcement cooperation in the field of drug control between China and Myanmar, the ministry said.

Six of the 10 most wanted drug trafficking fugitives in northern Myanmar have now been captured and brought back to China for trial.

The ministry said that since 2020, public security authorities across the country have been cooperating with their counterparts in other nations to pursue fugitives who have been smuggling drugs into China, especially those in northern Myanmar. This has resulted in the apprehension of a large number of drug-related fugitives, sending a strong message to drug trafficking networks operating overseas, it said.



Three fugitives wanted by the police for drug-related crimes who had been hiding in Myanmar are escorted back to China on Wednesday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Police have called on drug traffickers to surrender themselves immediately to receive more lenient treatment. The ministry has also

pledged to further strengthen international law enforcement cooperation and intensify efforts to capture fugitives overseas.

VISUAL



Editor's Note: Using a blend of words and visuals, this series explores unique communities and reveals the heart of China through food, architecture, craftsmanship, landscapes and traditions.

BEHIND THE SHANXI AGED VINEGAR

MORE THAN JUST SOUR

Mature vinegar industry follows ancient methods but adds a modern twist

LOCATION

Qingxu county, Taiyuan city, Shanxi province, known as the "Chinese Vinegar Capital", is the birthplace of authentic Shanxi old vinegar.



OLD STYLE PROCESS

To make Shanxi aged vinegar more authentic, the production process, which dates back more than 3,000 years, must go through at least five stages. The vinegar is made purely by natural fermentation without any chemical catalysts.

The vinegar is made from sorghum, barley and other raw materials.



01 STEAM

The sorghum is crushed into 4 to 6 cloves, preferably without flour. The raw materials are ground into a powder and mixed with water for steaming. Sorghum grains are steamed for 1.5 to 2 hours to make sure they are thoroughly cooked.



02 FERMENTATION

After the raw materials are steamed, they are placed in the vat for fermentation, and at this time, *daqu* is added to mix *koji*.



By ZHU XINGXIN and ZHANG LI in Taiyuan, Shanxi

When it comes to Chinese cuisine, high-quality vinegar provides a distinctive zing that can turn a dish into a prized part of the nation's cultural heritage.

Qingxu county in Taiyuan, Shanxi province, has been a concentrated production area of high-quality sorghum since ancient times, and craft workshops that produce vinegar from it are everywhere. The mature vinegar made here was well-known far and wide and carried by Shanxi merchants during the successive Ming and Qing dynasties from 1368 to 1911.

The work is done mostly by hand to this day. In 2006, the county's brewing technique was included on the first national-level intangible cultural heritage list.

Inside a workshop at Shanxi's Shuita Vinegar Co, which was built in ancient architectural style, employees dressed in Ming Dynasty clothing are busy performing traditional vinegar brewing tasks, such as hand milling, fermentation and filtration.

"They are not actors but real workers," said Zhang Ce, general manager. "With the rapid development of the company, our customers have shown interest in knowing how the aged vinegar is made, as well as its cultural background."

A vinegar industry cluster led by three major enterprises — Zilin Vinegar, Shuita Vinegar Co, and Meijin Vinegar — has formed. Leveraging these enterprises, a key laboratory for vinegar fermentation science and engineering has been established in Shanxi.

In the Shuita workshop, 190 fermentation tanks are lined up like soldiers.

"Both fermentation and smoking can be achieved without human intervention. We integrate 5G technology for digital control," Zhang said.

All the elements in mature vinegar must meet exacting standards. While the vinegar is fermented by machine, it still goes through the traditional aging process, so its flavor is not altered.

Still, in recent years, the vinegar industry has been adapting to the times. While staying true to its roots, it has embraced innovation and introduced enticing new flavors.

In Shuita's production exhibition area, various types of vinegar are maturing. They range in acidity from a few percentages to more than 10 percentages and appear as products such as boxed vinegar paste, vinegar-soaked garlic and health vinegar packaged as oral liquid.

With a total of 81 vinegar-related enterprises, the annual vinegar production in Qingxu county is close to 800,000 metric tons. The industry provides jobs for nearly 100,000 people. The county, vigorously developing its vinegar industry, has formed the Vinegar Industry Development Alliance. In addition, a vinegar industry development fund has been set up.

The mature vinegar produced in Shanxi so far has been exported to 36 countries and regions, including the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan.

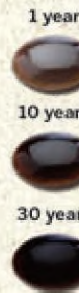
Wang Jianfeng, secretary of the Qingxu County Party Committee, said the county will focus on nurturing downstream support industries, such as glass bottles, plastic containers, paper packaging, commercial trading and logistics to meet the diverse demands of vinegar consumers. "We will continue to strengthen leading enterprises, extend the industry chain, build brands and make the vinegar industry a key pillar industry that drives the high-quality development of the entire county," Wang said.

Contact the writers at zhuxingxin@chinadaily.com.cn



Shanxi aged vinegar is world famous for its brown-red color, sour taste, fragrance, mellowness and thickness.

Newly made vinegar has a light color and thin consistency. As the years go by it becomes thicker and darker.



3 days 15 days



The vinegar culture is a daily task. Copper fingerstalls make the work easier.

03 SMOKING

Smoked fermentation takes place in a special oven for smoking. The color of smoked pasta gradually darkens due to the high temperature and eventually turns black and purple, which is why it is often called "black paste".



This is a key step to enhancing the color, fragrance and flavor.

05 AGING

Aged vinegar must have an aging process, and the name aged vinegar is derived from this. New vinegar is placed on the patio and steamed to remove a lot of water after exposure to summer to increase the vinegar concentration.

At least 1 year



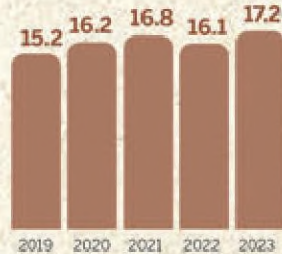
Each container of vinegar is a little more than a meter high.

04 LEACHING

The purpose of pouring vinegar is to extract the vinegar from the vinegar paste. Poured vinegar is called smoked vinegar or crude vinegar, which is a semi-finished product of old vinegar.



Vinegar industry revenue* (100 million yuan)



* Statistics for enterprises above designated size.

Nutrients and effects of Shanxi vinegar

- Rich in organic acids, promoting digestion, enhancing appetite and preventing constipation
- Contains amino acids and trace elements, which have the effect of supplementing nutrition
- Reduces blood sugar levels and cholesterol by stimulating the secretion of insulin
- Antibacterial and anti-inflammatory ingredients and can prevent colds, intestinal diseases and other illnesses

THE EFFECT OF VINEGAR ON FOOD

Knife-cut noodles

Knife-cut noodles with Shanxi aged vinegar can not only increase the sourness of the whole dish, but also make it more sweet and delicious, giving diners a lingering aftertaste.



Dumplings

Dumplings dipped in vinegar are more flavorful because in the process of fermenting of grains into vinegar, a large number of umami and aroma substances are produced.



Ice cream with vinegar

Ice cream with vinegar tastes a bit like chocolate at first, but more layered with the aftertaste. You can smell the fragrance of aged vinegar. This is the charm of aged vinegar.



Vinegar moon cakes

Vinegar not only adds a different flavor to the moon cakes themselves, but has also redefined the traditional moon cake with good taste and health.



Vinegar fish

Vinegar fish is a local traditional dish. It can replenish the nutrients needed by the human body, replenishing qi and blood.



Tangyuan

Tangyuan uses the sourness of old vinegar to relieve the sweetness and greasy feeling of food served during the Lantern Festival.

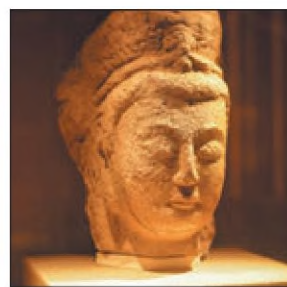


Sources: Department of Industry and Information Technology of Shanxi Province, Chinaculture.org, Research Gate site.

GRAPHIC BY JORGE CORTES, PHOTOS BY ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY



Colored pottery figures (left) and the head of a stone bodhisattva statue are part of Taiyuan Museum's collection.



PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



The bird-shaped zun — a kind of wine vessel — is the most precious item at Shanxi Museum.



The beast-shaped gong (left) and a copper plate held by a man riding a legendary animal are the precious bronzeware items at Shanxi Museum.



A Neolithic Age colored pottery bowl in Shanxi Museum



A Northern Qi Dynasty colored pottery camel statue in Taiyuan Museum

Wealth of history waiting to be discovered

Shanxi province offers about 200 museums where members of the public can view ancient relics and learn about China's great past

By YUAN SHENGGAO

As museums can give vivid presentations of the past and present of a region, a tour of one is usually the easiest and quickest way for many tourists to learn about local history, culture and life.

This is especially true in Shanxi province, as it is said to boast one of the largest numbers of historical relics in China.

According to statistics released by the National Cultural Heritage Administration in 2023, Shanxi had 197 museums, including those operated by both State-owned institutions and private entities.

The provincial capital of Taiyuan has about 101 museums, meaning that there was one for every 54,000 residents.

In comparison, Beijing, the national hub of culture, said in a recent plan that it expects to have one museum for every 50,000 residents by 2035. This means Taiyuan's museum penetration rate is higher than, or at least will be on par with, the capital.

Shanxi's cultural authorities are pinning hopes on the role of museums in the protection and development of cultural heritage. This role is now becoming prominent with the use of technologies, which offer solutions for relics protection and creating new ways for presentation — for instance, via 3D printing, virtual reality and artificial intelligence — that bring relics to life and tell vivid stories.

In Taiyuan, popular museums include the Shanxi Museum, Jinci Temple Museum, Museum of Northern Qi Dynasty (550-577) Murals, and the Taiyuan Museum of City's Memory. Among all the museums in Shanxi, Shanxi Museum is the most famous.

Shanxi Museum

It covers 112,000 square meters in land area and 52,000 sq m in floor space. It is the largest public institution in the province dedicated to the collection, preservation, research and display of cultural relics.

Shanxi Museum boasts a collection of more than 500,000 items. It is also home to about 110,000 ancient books. Its collection mainly includes objects sourced from archaeological excavations since the 1920s and what has been collected since then. Included in this is bronzeware, pottery, porcelain, stone carvings, Buddhist statues, murals, calligraphy works and paintings.

Among its bronzeware exhibits, the most famous include a bird-shaped zun — a kind of wine vessel — dating to the Western Zhou Dynasty (c.11th century-771 BC); a beast-shaped gong — another kind of wine vessel — dating to the Shang Dynasty (c.16th century-11th century BC); and a copper plate held by a man riding an animal dating to the Warring States Period (475-221 BC).

Other precious exhibits include jade items from the Western Zhou Dynasty, wall paintings, stone carvings, ceramics of various periods and calligraphy by renowned local calligrapher Fu Shan (1607-84).



With the help of digital technology, visitors can look at the details of a wall painting at the Museum of Northern Qi Dynasty Murals. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY



From left: Shanxi Museum is the largest and most comprehensive museum in the province. Jinci Temple Museum in Taiyuan is famed as a "museum of ancient Chinese buildings". PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Taiyuan Museum is another large-scale museum in the same city. It has more than 50,000 items collected in more than 10 categories that include porcelain, pottery, jade, bronzeware, paintings and furniture.

In Taiyuan, there are also museums dedicated to specific fields.

Jinci Temple

The Jinci Temple Museum is the oldest ancestral temple complex in China. It was built as a temple for Shuyu, the first monarch of the vassal state of Jin (1033-376 BC). Jinci's historical assets include gardens,

ancient buildings, sculptures, wall paintings and stone steles. There are more than 100 preserved ancient buildings built from the Song Dynasty (960-1279) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), earning it a reputation as a "museum of ancient Chinese buildings".

High-tech museums

The Museum of Northern Qi Dynasty Murals, located in the northeastern suburbs of Taiyuan, focuses on the exhibition of wall paintings of a tomb built in that period. A prominent feature of the museum is that it has "activated" the scenes depicted by the

paintings through 3D animation technology, giving visitors an immersive experience.

Also using technologies to enhance visitor experiences is the Digital Museum of Tianlongshan Grottoes in Taiyuan. The museum has used 3D-printing technology to duplicate the statues of the renowned Buddhist grottoes, allowing visitors to have close contact with the artworks.

Tianlongshan is another Buddhist cave art treasure house in Shanxi next only to the Yungang Grottoes in Datong. With carving beginning during the Eastern Wei Dynasty (534-550), the site has 25 caves and 500 stat-

ues spread over a distance of 500 meters.

Outside Taiyuan, there are many museums with prominent features. One of the most famous is the Yungang Grottoes Museum in Datong. It is a large exhibition venue in the renowned Yungang Grottoes Scenic Area.

Yungang Grottoes

Yungang Grottoes is one of the three most famous Buddhist grottoes sites in China, along with Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu province, and Longmen Grottoes in Luoyang, Henan province.

It was built during the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534). The grottoes were carved out of cliffs at Wuzhou Mountain in Datong's northwestern suburbs.

According to historical documents, a total of 54 main caves were carved out during the period from 460-524. Today, 45 main caves remain intact, which house more than 59,000 statues.

Yungang Grottoes was added to the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 2001. UNESCO said the site has a universal value as it represents "the outstanding achievements of Buddhist cave art in China".

The Yungang Grottoes Museum showcases the culture and history of the renowned Buddhist art treasure trove. It is, as well as the grottoes, managed and operated by the Yungang Grottoes Academy.

To improve the experience of visitors to the museum, the academy is using the latest technologies to represent the artworks.

Replicas made with 3D-printing technology are exhibited there. In addition, the use of digital, virtual and augmented reality technologies allows visitors to explore the grottoes' history and hidden details.

Jin State Museum

For tourists who want to tap into the source of documented history of Shanxi, the Jin State Museum in Houma city is something they cannot afford to miss.

The Jin State Museum was the first large-scale museum in Shanxi to be built based on a cultural relics site and the first Jin culture-themed museum in China.

The most precious exhibit at the museum is the Shuyu square ding — a bronze vessel with inscriptions that include the name of Shuyu. A square ding was the highest-level ritual vessel in ancient times.

Shuyu was the first monarch of Jin state. Researchers said the square ding was the only discovered bronze vessel owned by the founding monarch of Jin.

If the Jin State Museum is related to the beginning of the recorded history of Shanxi, the Yuncheng Museum is the one with material evidence pointing to a much earlier history without written language.

It has a collection of up to 20,422 relics and artifacts, including pottery made during the Neolithic Age some 4,000 years ago.

Li Yao contributed to this story.

Exhibition focusing on Jin state artifacts opens in Armenian capital

By YUAN SHENGGAO

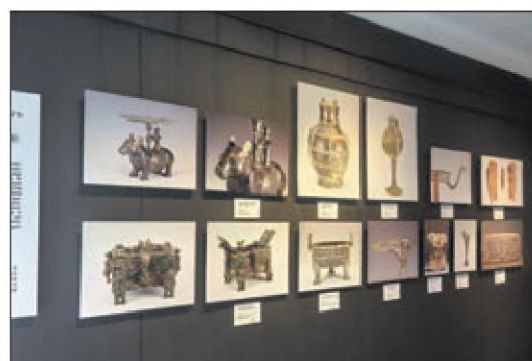
A digital exhibition showcasing the history and culture of the vassal state of Jin (1033-376 BC), titled *The Achievements of Jin Kingdom: Treasures of the Zhou Dynasty from Shanxi*, opened at the National Museum of Folk Art in Armenia's capital city of Yerevan on July 12.

The exhibition, featuring more than 50 digitized images of important cultural artifacts, provides visitors with the chance to explore the 600-year history of the Jin state and its renowned bronze art.

The vassal state of Jin, which belonged to the Western and Eastern Zhou dynasties (c. 11th century-256 BC), is where the documented history of Shanxi began.

This exhibition marks the first collaboration among Shanxi Museum, the National Museum of Folk Art in Armenia, the Development Center for Armenian-Chinese Cooperation and the Belt and Road Cultural Development Association.

The exhibition uses digital display tech-



From left: A photographic display of ancient relics is part of the exhibition at the National Museum of Folk Art of Armenia. Crowds of visitors attend the digital show from Shanxi at the Yerevan museum. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



niques to showcase valuable bronze and jade artifacts from Shanxi Museum. It offers a glimpse into the unique regional characteristics of Jin culture and daily life in

ancient Shanxi, as well as insights into the spiritual beliefs and aesthetics of the Chinese people.

The bronze artifacts on show offer an

overview of the evolution of the Zhou dynasties' ritual and music systems, providing valuable material for the study of early Chinese political institutions.

"Through these digital images, we hope to elucidate the historical evolution, ritual and music systems, social life and artistic achievements of the Jin state during the Zhou Dynasty for the Armenian people," said Guo Hong, director of Shanxi Museum's ancient books conservation department. "This exhibition aims to deepen the Armenian people's understanding of Chinese history and Shanxi culture," Guo added.

The exhibition will run until Sept 12. Following the opening ceremony, the collaborating parties held an academic seminar called Museum Exhibitions and Cultural Exchanges between China and Foreign Countries.

Armenia and China are friendly countries with exchanges dating back thousands of years. Armenia is also a participant of the Belt and Road Initiative. The digital exhibition marks an important move for cultural exchanges between Shanxi and Armenia under the framework of the BRI.

Xue Lin contributed to this story.

WORLDUS

Boeing restarts jet deliveries to China

By MAY ZHOU in Houston
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In a busy week for Boeing, the aircraft maker has resumed delivery of 737 MAX aircraft to Chinese airlines, picked up some large orders and reached a guilty-plea deal on a criminal conspiracy charge regarding two fatal crashes of its 737 MAX jet.

Boeing handed over a 737 MAX 8 to Xiamen Airlines on July 20 from Zhoushan Putuoshan Airport, where Boeing's 737 completion and delivery center is located, according to Simple Flying, an online aviation news outlet. Soon after, Boeing delivered another 737 MAX 8 to Hainan Airlines.

Boeing's deliveries to China had been temporarily suspended since April due to a regulatory review of the 25-hour cockpit voice recorder (CVR) batteries.

Boeing's deliveries to China have been intermittent since 2019, in part due to two fatal crashes of MAX jets that killed 348 people, and also from rising tensions over issues ranging from trade, technology to national security between the US and China.

Simple Fly reported that 80 737 MAXs assigned to Chinese airlines haven't been delivered, with aircraft ages varying from 1 to more than 5 years.

Overall, about 200 fully or mostly finished airplanes are parked in airfields, outside plants or other locations, awaiting parts such as interiors or engines.

Boeing has been experiencing problems with plane delivery since the two MAX crashes, and recently slowed production again due to regulatory and safety scrutiny after the door panel of a Boeing 737 MAX 9 operated by Alaska Airlines blew off midair in January.

Boeing's statement on second-quarter deliveries showed that the company has delivered 175 planes in the first half of 2024, a big reduction compared to 266 from the first half of 2023.

Despite all the issues, Boeing picked up large orders at the Farnborough International Air show outside London, which concludes Friday.

Korean Air said it would purchase up to 50 Boeing wide-body planes. The agreement calls for the airline to receive 20 777Xs and 20 787 Dreamliners, with an option to buy 10 more Dreamliners.

In another agreement, with Japan Air, Boeing will deliver up to 20 additional 787 Dreamliners, including 10 787-9s, with options for 10 more.

Qatar Airways also signed an agreement to purchase an additional 20 Boeing 777X aircraft, bringing the airline's commitment to the twin-aisle plane with folding wings to 94, including both passenger and freighter variants.

Boeing also received a significant order of 20 737 MAX 8 narrow-body planes from Macquarie AirFinance.

Overall, Boeing received orders for 118 planes at the air show, while Airbus received total orders of 85 planes as of Thursday.

While Boeing is picking up pace in orders, it is still facing the aftermath of safety issues related to its MAX jets. A court filing submitted on Wednesday showed that Boeing agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy to defraud the government and would pay another \$243.6 million in a penalty on top of the same amount previously paid by Boeing if the deal is approved.

Based on the plea agreement reached earlier with the US Justice Department in July, Boeing admitted that through its employees it made an agreement "by dishonest means" to defraud the Federal Aviation Administration that evaluated the 737 MAX.

As a result of Boeing's deception, the FAA was given incomplete and inaccurate information about the plane's flight-control software and how much training pilots would need to operate it before the agency gave its approval.

The court document says that the US government won't charge Boeing with any other criminal offense related to the conduct. Boeing also will be put on a three-year organizational probation and "shall invest in its compliance, quality, and safety programs a total of at least \$455 million." Boeing is also required to have its board meet with the families of crash victims.

Agencies contributed to this story.



Tents are set up at an encampment on Thursday in Los Angeles. California Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order Thursday to direct state agencies on how to remove homeless encampments, a month after a Supreme Court ruling allowing cities to enforce bans on sleeping outside in public spaces. JAE C. HONG / AP

California to remove homeless camps

Governor issues order in wake of court ruling in state with an estimated 180,000 homeless

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco
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In a dramatic move to address California's longstanding homelessness crisis, Governor Gavin Newsom on Thursday issued an executive order mandating the dismantling of thousands of homeless encampments across the state.

The action marks the most comprehensive response yet to a recent US Supreme Court's ruling that expanded government authority to remove homeless individuals from public spaces.

"This executive order directs state agencies to move urgently to address dangerous encampments while supporting and assisting the individuals living in them — and provides guidance for cities and counties to do the same," Newsom said in a statement. "The state has been hard at work to address this crisis on our streets. There are simply no more excuses. It's time for everyone to do their part."

The governor's decision comes in the wake of a June 28 Supreme Court ruling that upheld an Oregon city's ban on homeless residents sleeping outdoors, saying the city had not violated the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment by ticketing homeless campers.

The ruling overturned previous opinions by the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, which had deemed it unconstitutional to punish people for sleeping in public spaces when they had no other legal options.

Many politicians, including Newsom, blamed the appellate court's

rulings, saying it limited the abilities of cities to address homelessness with arrests and citations.

California's homelessness crisis has reached staggering proportions, with more than 180,000 people estimated to have experienced homelessness on any given night in 2023. Of these, 123,000 individuals were living in unsheltered conditions, inhabiting tents, trailers and vehicles across the state, according to the governor's office.

Since taking office in 2019, Newsom's administration has invested approximately \$24 billion into addressing homelessness. More than 165,000 people were moved from homelessness into interim or permanent housing in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Additionally, the California Department of Transportation has removed 11,188 encampments and 248,275 cubic yards of debris from state rights of way since July 2021, according to the executive order.

However, the effectiveness of the cleanup efforts has been called

"The state has been hard at work to address this crisis on our streets. There are simply no more excuses. It's time for everyone to do their part."

California Governor Gavin Newsom

into question. A recent study by the RAND Center on Housing and Homelessness found that encampment cleanups have no long-term effect on reducing the number of people living on the streets.

The study pointed to rising rents, high home prices, regulatory barriers to housing production and a lack of coordination among service entities as contributing factors to the persistent problem.

The root causes of homelessness in California are complex and multifaceted, said researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, in their report last year. The study revealed that 75 percent of homeless adults in the state were local residents, with many citing unaffordable housing as the primary reason for their situation.

California has the nation's highest housing costs, further complicating efforts to address the crisis. And despite extensive investment in homelessness programs, the state still faces a shortage of emergency housing.

The governor's order has ignited a heated debate among California officials and advocacy groups. Supporters of the move, like San Francisco Mayor London Breed, have welcomed the decision. The city plans to begin removing encampments next month and may start citing homeless individuals who refuse offers of shelter.

On the other side of the debate, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, who opposed the Supreme Court's decision, criticized Newsom's order.

"Strategies that just move people along from one neighborhood to the next or give citations instead of housing do not work," Bass said in a statement. "We thank the Governor for his partnership thus far and hope that he will continue collaboration on strategies that work."

UN envoy: China had no part in creating crisis in Ukraine

By MINLU ZHANG
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China's top UN envoy reiterated on Thursday that China is "not a creator of the Ukraine crisis" but rather, it promotes peace and a political solution.

"China is not a creator of the Ukraine crisis, much less a party to it," Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, said at a Security Council meeting initiated by Russia to discuss the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine.

"However, we did not sit by. On the contrary, we have all along insisted on promoting peace and negotiation and pushing for a political solution, (to) which the international community can bear witness," Fu said.

Fu made his statement to refute a US envoy's claim that China's "partnership and large-scale support is propping up the Russian defense industrial base."

"Russia deploys its acquisitions from China in attacks that kill civilians and destroy Ukraine's infrastructure," said Robert Wood, US deputy permanent representative to the UN.

China's effort to promote peace in the Ukraine conflict "is not something that the United States can write off simply by resorting to slandering," Fu said.

He emphasized that China has "never poured oil on the fire or taken advantage of the situation, nor has it provided lethal weapons to any party to the conflict. China exercises stricter control over military and civilian dual-use items."

"The Chinese enterprises carry out normal economic and trade cooperation with other countries, including Russia and Ukraine, in accordance with the rules of the WTO and the rules of the market. This is totally reasonable, justified and beyond reproach," Fu added.

Fu mentioned Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba's visit to China and said the two sides had in-depth exchanges of views on the Ukraine crisis.

“On the contrary, we have all along insisted on promoting peace and negotiation and pushing for a political solution.”

Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN

"We note that Foreign Minister Kuleba said that Ukraine values China's views and has carefully studied the six-point understandings proposed by China and Brazil on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, and that Ukraine is willing and ready to engage in dialogue and negotiation with Russia," he said.

Kuleba met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday in Guangzhou, the first visit to China by a Ukrainian foreign minister since the military conflict with Russia began in February 2022.

The Ukraine situation occurred against the "backdrop of historical complexities and practical realities," Fu said, adding that it is "in essence an eruption of security dynamics in Europe".

"China had no part in creating this crisis, nor is it a party to the conflict. China has not provided lethal weaponry to any party to the conflict and has not and will not do anything to profit from it. China's position on the Ukraine issue has been consistent and clear. It is to urge and promote peace through a political settlement," he said.

Migrants' route



Migrants, mostly from Central America and Venezuela, who said they were escaping poverty and violence, rest on their way to the United States on Wednesday on the outskirts of Huixtla, Chiapas State, Mexico. Hundreds of migrants continued their journey to the United States on foot, appealing for permits that would allow them to travel freely to the US border. ISAAC GUZMAN / AFP

Hollywood adds star power to Kamala Harris candidacy

By RENALI LI in Los Angeles
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A growing list of Hollywood celebrities have shifted their support to US Vice-President Kamala Harris following President Joe Biden's withdrawal from the 2024 presidential race.

Just a month ago, Hollywood's elite turned out in force for a fundraising event for Biden, organized by former DreamWorks Animation CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg. The event raised more than \$30 million, making it the largest single-evening campaign haul in Democratic history. Attendees included George Clooney, Barbra Streisand and Julia Roberts.

Beneath the surface camaraderie at the fundraising event, however, signs of strain emerged due to Biden's meandering answers. Influential Hollywood figures, who had consistently supported the president, expressed significant concerns

about the 81-year-old's cognitive abilities, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Biden's disastrous debate performance against former president Donald Trump on June 27 further compounded those concerns. Loyal supporters, previously steadfast in their backing, began advocating for him to step down.

The cascade of influential voices calling for change significantly shifted the political landscape, leading to increased support for Harris. On Sunday, Biden dropped out of the 2024 race for the White House and endorsed Harris to succeed him.

Biden's decision to not seek reelection was praised by Democratic political figures and personalities. Clooney, in a statement to CNN, said Biden displayed "true leadership" and, "We're all so excited to do whatever we can to support Vice-President Harris in her historic quest."

On June 10, the actor wrote a blistering op-ed for The New York Times, stating, "I Love Joe Biden. But We Need a New Nominee."

Andre Morgan, a film and television producer, told China Daily that Hollywood still loves Biden. "They love him more. Hollywood is very predictable," he said.

In 24 hours, stars from film, television, fashion, music and media — such as Jamie Lee Curtis, Spike Lee, Questlove and Ariana Grande — have voiced their support for Harris, the likely Democratic presidential nominee.

Harris raised \$81 million for her White House bid in the first 24 hours after Biden announced he would not seek reelection, setting a record for the largest campaign haul in that time frame. According to Harris' campaign, more than 880,000 donors contributed to her campaign, the Democratic National

Committee and joint fundraising committees.

As expected, Biden and Harris received the majority of their funds from Californians, reflecting the state's large population and concentration of wealthy donors.

Support from high-profile figures can significantly enhance a campaign, both financially and in terms of public visibility. A-list endorsements can attract considerable attention and potentially sway voter opinions, according to Andrzej Bartkowiak, a Hollywood cinematographer and film director.

"I have faith in her to do what is right, not just for America but for the world," Bartkowiak said of Harris.

Hollywood also influences public opinion through its entertainment, according to writer and producer Bob Underwood.

"If you create content that

resonates emotionally with people, you gain insight into how your audience feels about various issues. That's why Hollywood plays a crucial role for Democrats," Underwood told China Daily.

Wilmot Reed Hastings, co-founder and executive chairman of Netflix, has donated \$7 million to a super PAC (political action committees) supporting Harris, the largest single contribution to a candidate, according to a source who wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

"We are fully committed to Kamala and have been since she announced," said Andy Spahn, a Los Angeles political consultant who collaborates with media figures like Jeffrey Katzenberg and Steven Spielberg. "There is tremendous excitement and energy around Kamala's candidacy. We are all in."

Agencies contributed to this story.

GLOBAL LENS

Emerald seekers run toward discarded soil to search for green gems at the Las Animas River in Muzo, Boyaca Department, Colombia, on June 19.
PHOTOS BY LUIS ACOSTA / AFP



ALL THAT GLIMMERS

Treasure hunters endure tough conditions in Colombian emerald hub Muzo

In this small community in the foothills of the eastern Andes mountains, multinational mining company Esmeraldas Mining Services deposits tons of earth it has processed from its operations into a cage-like enclosure.

A few times a month, the mining company allows hundreds of miners — known as “guaqueros” or treasure hunters — to search through the detritus and take home any precious stones they find.

Emerald hunters come to Muzo, a town of about 9,000 inhabitants about 200 kilometers north of the capital Bogota, from all over South America.

Among the miners is Miguel Hernandez, 72, who grips a cane as he waits outside the cage, where some hopefuls have lined up since 3 am.

“May our Heavenly Father give me a gift so I can buy a new home... it’s what I want most,” he said.

Many emerald hunters bring their own shovels and sacks.

After filling the bags with as much earth as they can carry, they haul the bags down to a nearby stream and filter through the findings to see if any emeralds are hidden inside.

Several guaquero associations have been authorized by Esmeraldas Mining Services to help coordinate logistics.

The enclosure remains open for about four hours at a time and by the end, many return home empty-handed more often than not.

“The mining causes a very delicate problem,” said Ximena Castañeda, the mayor of Muzo.

“And it’s that folks come with the expectation they will be millionaires one day.



Emerald seekers collect discarded soil to search for green gems at the Las Animas River in Muzo, Boyaca Department, Colombia, on June 19.



Left: An emerald seeker searches for green gems at the Las Animas River on June 19.



Right: Emerald seekers carry sacks of discarded soil to search for green gems at the Las Animas River on June 19.

“Some arrive and make money, while others never do,” she continued. Those who can eke out a living get by on the luck of the draw.

“I have been in the mines here for 30 years and emeralds have come out ... but every day it’s getting more difficult,” said Gilberto Cifuentes, 54.

Local divide

Colombia is one of the world’s largest producers of emeralds, with exports of the gems totaling \$122 million in 2022, according to the National Federation of Emeralds.

However, most of the profits go toward multinational mining corporations or powerful mining families.

Esmeraldas Mining Services operates a foundation in Muzo which conducts various social programs.

Still, some believe the company could do more to give back to the impoverished community around the mines.

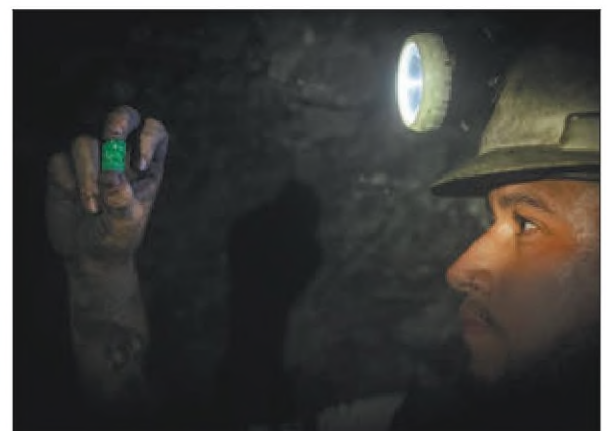
Steven Ariza, 35, overseeing one of the guaquero associations, said the group advocates for Esmeraldas Mining Services to hire more workers from Muzo, source supplies locally and generally invest in the region.

Steven Medina, 24, also seeks to bring awareness to the plight of the miners.

Medina leads foreign buyers on regular tours of the mines to show them the reality behind the precious gems, most of which end up in either Europe or the United States.

People need a lot of help in Muzo, he said.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



From left: An emerald seeker shows a green gem found in Muzo, Colombia, on June 18. An emerald carver inspects a gem in Muzo on June 17. A miner looks at a green gem in an emerald mine in Muzo on June 20.

BUSINESS

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Big banks cut deposit rates to strengthen sector stability

Policymakers prioritizing economic stabilization, better transmission

By ZHOU LANXU
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Several major Chinese commercial banks cut deposit rates on Thursday, signaling a new round of deposit rate cuts that could pave the way for further reductions in policy benchmarks of lending rates to bolster economic growth, market analysts said.

China's six largest State-owned banks — Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Bank of Communications and Postal Savings Bank of China — cut their deposit rates for the first time since December.

The cuts ranged from 5 to 20 basis points for different terms. Notably, deposit rates of 2 percent or more are no longer available at the banks as they cut the interest rate on five-year time deposits by 20 basis points to 1.8 percent.

This means, if a depositor saves 1 million yuan (\$138,347) in five-year time deposits, the total earned interest will reduce by about 10,000 yuan to about 90,000 yuan.

Analysts said the cut is in line with expectations as loan prime rates, China's market-based lending rate benchmarks, dropped on Monday. The country has established a market-based adjustment mechanism whereby commercial banks align their deposit rates with changes in the one-year LPR and the yield on 10-year Chinese government bonds.

The LPR reduction was, in turn, triggered by the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, which cut the seven-day reverse repo rate — it has emerged as the most important policy benchmark of interest rates — from 1.8 percent to 1.7 percent on Monday, after second-quarter economic growth figures came in lower than expected.

"Other (smaller) commercial banks will follow up in cutting deposit rates," said Wang Qing, chief macroeconomic analyst at

Golden Credit Rating International.

Wang said this new round of deposit rate cuts will help stabilize commercial banks' net interest margin — roughly calculated as the difference between the interest rate banks charge on loans and the rate they pay out to depositors — and therefore strengthen the stability of the banking sector.

Official data showed that the net interest margin of Chinese commercial banks dropped to 1.54 percent in the first quarter, down 0.15 percentage point from a quarter earlier and lower than 1.8 percent, which is deemed as a warning line.

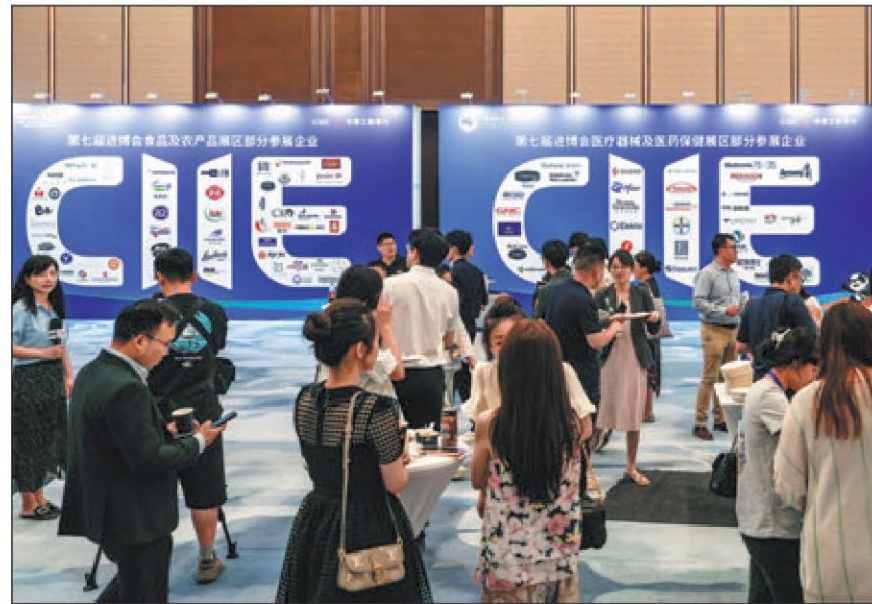
Also on Thursday, the PBOC cut the interest rate of the medium-term lending facility — whose role as the key interest rate benchmark has been replaced by the seven-day reverse repo rate — by 20 basis points to 2.3 percent, a move experts said will also help ease commercial banks' funding costs and stabilize their net interest margin.

Wang said banks' net interest margin may therefore stay generally stable in the third quarter, which could pave the way for further lending rate reductions.

"Considering the economic and price trends, we think there remains room for a reduction in the seven-day reverse repo rate in the fourth quarter, which will drive the LPRs to drop as well. This means that it is possible to see another round of deposit rate reductions around the end of the year."

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said that the recent series of interest rate cuts show that policymakers are prioritizing growth stabilization while improving the monetary policy framework.

Following a meeting presided over by PBOC Governor Pan Gongsheng, the central bank vowed last week it will create a sound monetary and financial environment for sustained economic recovery, by moving faster to improve the modern monetary policy framework with Chinese characteristics.



A view of a matchmaking event for the seventh China International Import Expo on Wednesday in Shanghai. CHEN MENGZE / FOR CHINA DAILY

7th CIIE likely to prove solid growth platform for many companies

By SHI JING and
WANG XIN in Shanghai

The robust demand of the Chinese market and the improving business environment in the country make China a big growth opportunity for companies wishing to further expand their operations, said corporates that have registered to participate at this year's China International Import Expo.

The seventh edition of the annual CIIE, to be held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10, will start its 100-day countdown on Saturday.

With more than 360,000 square meters of exhibition area already signed up, this year's CIIE will see some new participants, said Sun Chenghai, deputy director-general of the CIIE Bureau, the expo's organizer, during a news conference on Wednesday.

Japanese trading company Mitsubishi Corp, US material provider Invista, French transportation company Alstom, Ireland-based auto technology supplier Aptiv and New Zealand's beauty nutritional drink brand Tracel Health will all make their CIIE debut this year.

Special demonstration areas will be set up for the first time to showcase the progress made by companies specializing in new materials, autopilot technology, low-altitude economy and energy storage for cars, said Sun.

Charlie Wang, chief marketing officer of Tracel Health, said: "In recent years, we saw demand in the Chinese market for healthcare products. Female consumers' demand for oral products is continuously growing. Sales of our prod-

ucts exceeded 5 million yuan (\$687,132) in the first month after their debut on Tmall Global (the cross-border e-commerce site of Alibaba Group) in late May, topping its category. Through the CIIE, we hope more consumers will get to know the brand."

Shanghai-based discount grocery retailer HotMaxx will also exhibit at the CIIE for the first time this year as a buyer. According to the company's co-founder Nick Zhang, the CIIE serves as an important platform via which Chinese companies and consumers can understand "the progress being made elsewhere in the world".

Zhang said: "A large number of the products sold in our stores have just entered the Chinese markets, receiving recognition among Chinese consumers unexpectedly. We look forward to partnering with the CIIE exhibitors to see more innovative products and hope to come back in every edition."

French beauty giant L'Oreal has attended all the past six editions of the CIIE. It has introduced more than 20 new brands into the Chinese market via the expo, making up the majority of the 31 brands that the company has launched in China so far. A new air dryer featuring the application of infrared rays and higher efficiency will debut at this year's show.

More importantly, L'Oreal has expanded its footprint in China by announcing increased investments at the CIIE.

In May 2022, L'Oreal set up Shanghai Meicifang Investment, its first investment company in China. Four months later, Meicifang made its first investment

move by picking up minority stakes in Chinese fragrance brand Documents and biotech company Shenzhen Shinehigh. In February, L'Oreal acquired a minority stake in To Summer, a local premium fragrance brand.

"It is all because of the huge market demand and growth potential of the Chinese market," said Lan Zhenzhen, president of public affairs at L'Oreal North Asia and China.

According to Sun of the CIIE Bureau, over 150 companies will participate for the seventh consecutive year at the upcoming CIIE. New Zealand dairy giant Fonterra is one of them.

Fonterra's Shanghai innovation center started operations in 2020. Its Wuhan application center, the sixth of its kind in China, broke ground in May and is scheduled to start operations in September, according to Justin Dai, vice-president of Fonterra Greater China.

Zhu Min, director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, said CIIE exhibitors have expanded their operations in China. Danish building-block toy company Lego, which has attended all the previous six editions, has seen the first phase of its Legoland theme park in Shanghai taking shape. Swiss dental implant company Straumann Group, which attended the fourth edition, is expected to see the first phase of its implant project in central Shanghai go operational in 2025.

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Foxconn to build new business HQ in Henan

By FAN FEIFEI
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Foxconn Technology Group, the world's largest electronics manufacturing contractor, plans to invest 1 billion yuan (\$138.5 million) to establish a new business headquarters in Zhengzhou, Henan province, as the company is diversifying revenue sources and reducing its heavy dependence on assembling Apple's iPhones.

With a construction area of approximately 70,000 square meters, the new headquarters will primarily focus on the trial manufacturing of electric vehicles and solid-state batteries, aiming to build a global high-end manufacturing industrial chain and an ecosystem for strategic emerging industries, Foxconn said.

The company has signed a strategic partnership with the Henan provincial government. According to the agreement, Foxconn will accelerate the development of EVs, energy storage batteries, digital health and robotics in the province.

Setting up a new business headquarters in Zhengzhou serves as a very important part of Foxconn's new business development on the Chinese mainland, the company said. The EV production center will provide manufacturing services for renowned domestic and foreign automobile brands, with the goal of building the Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone into a "core production base for Foxconn's new energy vehicle segment", it added.

In recent years, Foxconn has been concentrating on its "3+3 strategy" — EVs, digital health and robotics — which are three emerging industries underpinned by three new technologies, namely artificial intelligence, semiconductors and new-generation mobile communications.

Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co, is a key contract manufacturer for Apple products. It has major production bases in Shenzhen, Guangdong province and Zhengzhou.

Roger Sheng, vice-president of research at US market research company Gartner, said Foxconn is diversifying its business layout and marching into new fields in a bid to wean itself off a heavy reliance on churning out mobile phones amid sluggish growth in the global handset market.

"Foxconn has accumulated rich experience in intelligent manufacturing and the production of precision electronic components, which will help it gain a competitive edge in manufacturing EVs," Sheng said, adding that Foxconn's advanced abilities in making consumer electronics for Apple and other tech firms could be applied to the EV segment.

However, Sheng said the company still faces intense competition from domestic EV makers, such as Nio and BYD, and traditional automakers, which are doubling down on efforts to launch new models of EVs and expand production capacity.

Zhang Xiang, an auto sector researcher at the North China University of Technology, said, "As the growth in the global smartphone industry is slowing down, Foxconn hopes to seek new business growth points and make a strategic transition by making forays into emerging fields, including EVs and solid-state batteries."

Zhang said the company has gained some advantages in precision components manufacturing, capital, technologies and talent management, but it lacks related experience in the production of EVs and energy storage batteries.

Data from market research company International Data Corp showed that global smartphone shipments increased 6.5 percent year-on-year to 285.4 million units in the second quarter. Samsung captured the top position, accounting for 18.9 percent of global market share, while Apple came in second with a 15.8 percent share, backed by improved performance in China and other key regions.

Briefly

Renminbi strengthens against greenback

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 37 pips to 7.1321 against the US dollar on Thursday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System.

New highway links to lift rural areas

Some inland provinces are strengthening highway links to

facilitate integrated regional development, with a focus on rural areas not yet connected by existing highways. China Railway 24th Bureau Group Corp said its teams in Sichuan province started digging Liangya Tunnel on the Langzhong-Yingshan Expressway. The tunnel is considered a key project in the construction of the expressway, which aims to facilitate links between city clusters in Sichuan and those in Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, CR24G said.

XINHUA - CHINA DAILY



Intercity railway progresses

Builders from China Railway No 4 Engineering Group Co Ltd installed the last precast box girder recently on the Maanshan section of a 54.23-kilometer-long railway that links Nanjing, Jiangsu province and Maanshan, Anhui province. Also known as the S2 Line of Nanjing Metro, the railway is expected to slash travel time between the two cities to 30 minutes when it starts operations in 2025 and help boost integration of the Yangtze River Delta region. ZHAO YUANKUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Xiamen Airlines charts ambitious development blueprint

By HU MEIDONG in Xiamen, Fujian and ZHU WENQIAN in Beijing

Xiamen Airlines, which celebrated its 40th anniversary on Thursday, has formulated an ambitious development blueprint, and is aiming for an outstanding performance in the next few decades, according to the company.

Established in July 1984 in Xiamen, a coastal city in East China's Fujian province, Xiamen Airlines was the first airline in China to operate under a modern corporate system. Over the

past four decades, the carrier's total assets have increased from 14 million yuan (\$1.93 million) to 56.1 billion yuan.

Addressing a conference on the occasion of the 40th year since its founding, Zhao Dong, chairman of Xiamen Airlines, said Xiamen is one of the pillars in China's reform and opening-up.

"Xiamen Airlines will fully leverage the leading role of civil aviation to serve economic and social development and advance exchanges and cooperation across

the Taiwan Strait," Zhao said.

With a fleet of 213 aircraft, Xiamen Airlines operates more than 400 domestic and international routes, serving nearly 40 million passengers annually. Its accumulated safe flight hours have exceeded 8.46 million hours.

In 1986, Xiamen Airlines received its first aircraft in the city of its birth, embarking on a long journey of independent operation. It achieved profitability the following year and has since maintained a world record of sustained profita-

bility for 37 years in the civil aviation industry, beating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite fierce competition in the global aviation market and a constantly changing external environment, the airline has continued to adjust its business model and gradually expand its market share.

Han Jun, deputy head of aviation industry regulator, the Civil Aviation Administration of China, said during the conference that Xiamen Airlines' growth and expansion signify the development of China's civil aviation

sector from small to large, and from weak to strong. Such a development process also indicates the position of civil aviation as an important strategic industry of the country.

"The civil aviation industry in China shall seriously implement the spirit of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and continuously enhance the core competitiveness of the sector," Han said.

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BUSINESSFOCUS



The 8th China-South Asia Exposition is being held from July 23 to 28 in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province. YANG ZHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

China-South Asia Expo to bolster regional cooperation

Over 2,300 buyers invited this year to facilitate business deals at exhibition

BEIJING — The 8th China-South Asia Exposition, which opened on Tuesday and will close on Sunday in Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province, is jointly hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and the Yunnan provincial government.

It is one of the most important events for economic and trade exchanges between China and South Asian nations this year, said Vice-Minister of Commerce Li Fei at a news conference in Beijing on July 9.

The expo was first held in Kunming in 2013, the year when China first put forward the Belt and Road Initiative. Li said that over the past 11 years, China and South Asian countries have deepened practical cooperation in various fields, and maintained a sound momentum of development in economic and trade exchanges, delivering benefits to all people involved.

The expo features industries with great potential for cooperation with South Asian countries, including green energy, modern agriculture, medical care as well as culture and tourism, Liu Yong, vice-governor of Yunnan, said at the news conference.

In terms of exhibitor registration, nearly 2,000 companies have registered to participate in the exhibition, of which nearly half are overseas companies, covering all countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia, according to Yang Mu, head of the Department of Commerce of Yunnan.

To accommodate the exhibition needs of enterprises from South Asian nations, an additional South Asia pavilion will be set up at this year's expo, Yang said, adding that organizers have also invited over 2,300 buyers to facilitate business deals at the exhibition.

This year's expo also features a pavilion for the coffee industry, which highlights Yunnan's reputation as China's leading coffee producer, Yang said.

Deepened partnership

After years of development, the expo has become an important platform for China and South Asian countries to carry out economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchanges, Li said, adding that the expo has played an important role and made positive contributions in the process of deepening mutually beneficial cooperation between China and South Asian countries.

The official said that friends from all walks of life at home and abroad are welcome to attend the event to build consensus on solidarity, cooperation and common development.

Chinese official data show that two-way trade volume between China and South Asian countries reached nearly \$200 billion in 2023, twice the amount in 2013. During the seventh China-South Asia Expo held last year, 338 projects with a total investment value of about \$56.1 billion were signed.



Upper: A view of the venue of the 8th China-South Asia Expo. YANG ZHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY Middle: A Nepalese seller (left) introduces products to a visitor during the expo. Lower: An unmanned aerial vehicle is displayed at the expo. PHOTOS BY LIU RANYANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

“The expo enables more and more South Asian specialty products such as Sri Lankan black tea and Nepalese carpets to enter the Chinese market.”

Li Fei, vice-minister of commerce

Li said the expo has served as a platform for policy exchanges aimed at expanding economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asia. It has also facilitated trade in goods and served as a platform for showcasing South Asian products eyeing the China market. “The expo enables more and more South Asian specialty products such as Sri Lankan black tea and Nepalese carpets to enter the Chinese market,” Li added.

Since 2013, the expo has served more than 18,000 domestic and foreign companies, promoted

trade of more than \$100 billion and facilitated the signing of over 3,000 projects, Li said.

Yunnan hub for exchanges

According to Liu Yong, Yunnan has continued to pursue opening-up to achieve high-quality development. He added that in recent years, the province has accelerated efforts to strengthen its role as a hub in driving China's cooperation with South Asia and Southeast Asia.

“We have facilitated construction of China-Laos-Thailand and China-Myanmar transport routes, promoted cross-border multimodal transport and further strengthened economic and trade exchanges with South Asian and Southeast Asian countries,” Liu said.

The official added that Kunming Changshui International Airport in Yunnan has 26 flight routes to South Asia and Southeast Asia, with its international cargo routes connecting nations including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand.

“We have also made new achievements in cultural exchanges by implementing the ‘Heart-to-Heart Yunnan Tour’ livelihood project in neighboring countries,” he said.

The province has carried out the “Bright Journey” program in Sri Lanka for two consecutive years, helping 218 cataract patients regain their sight. Events like boat racing were organized in Nepal and table tennis training programs were conducted in the Maldives, fostering exchanges through sports, Liu said.

He said that by upholding the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, Yunnan will continue to deepen cooperation with neighboring countries in disciplines such as education, culture, tourism, science and technology, health and other fields, and continue to build a bridge for people-to-people exchanges.

XINHUA

Mega trade event brings neighbors closer together

PHNOM PENH — The ongoing 8th China-South Asia Exposition will serve as an important platform for trade, investment and tourism promotion as well as cultural exchanges in the region, a senior Cambodian official said.

The expo was first held in Kunming, Yunnan province, in 2013, the year when China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative.

Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Secretary of State and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said the expo will be a key event for economic and trade exchanges between China and countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

“The expo will serve as an important platform to bridge and deepen practical cooperation in economy, trade, investment, tourism and culture among all participating countries and regions,” Sovicheat told Xinhua News Agency.

“It will play a significant role in helping promote the high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation for mutual interest, common development and shared prosperity,” he added.

The spokesman said the expo will be a golden opportunity for businesses and industry associations to showcase their products and establish trade linkages with not only China, but also countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

XINHUA

Afghan carpet seller upbeat on biz climate

KABUL — As an exhibitor at the 8th China-South Asia Exposition, Sayed Bilal Farooqi, a veteran Afghan businessman, has been busy preparing the carpets that he plans to show to Chinese customers.

“In past years, we hardly exported 1,000 square meters of carpet to China annually, but so far this year about 30,000 to 40,000 square meters have been exported. The market is bustling and will flourish further. Possibly, we will export 50,000 square meters next year as Chinese people have become familiar with the quality of our carpets and are interested in buying them,” Farooqi, a member of the Afghan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Guild under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, told Xinhua News Agency.

The 8th China-South Asia Expo is being held from July 23-28 in Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan province.

Having inherited the business from his father and engaged in the hand-woven carpet business for more than 40 years, Farooqi foresaw a bright future for Afghan carpets in the Chinese market, saying that the people of China did not know about Afghanistan and its carpets 20 years ago, but currently, they are more fond of Afghan-made carpets.

“I attended an exhibition in Shanghai 20 years ago and we introduced Afghan carpets. The people did not know Afghanistan, but currently, Afghanistan-made carpets are popular there and flourishing in Chinese markets,” he said.

For the carpet seller, the Chinese

“It will inject fresh impetus into the development of economic and trade exchanges among all participating countries and regions, providing tangible benefits to the peoples of China and countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia,” he said.

Sovicheat said the expo truly shows solidarity and cooperation between China and countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia in promoting free trade and multilateralism against the backdrop of trade protectionism and anti-globalization.

According to the official, Cambodia joins this trade event every year as it is a unique opportunity to display the kingdom's potential products, not only to Chinese consumers, but also to other regional and global buyers and trade partners.

“It will be a great opportunity for us to showcase our potential products, particularly high-quality agricultural products such as milled rice, bananas, mangos, longans and peppercorns among others, to Chinese and international buyers,” he said.

“We expect that the expo will further promote trade, investment, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges between Cambodia and China as well as all participating countries,” he added.

Germany is the main market for Afghan carpets, followed by Australia and Canada. In China, the market is bustling this year. This is the first year that we export carpets to China after the pandemic,” he said.

The Afghan businessman has already sent carpets to the China-South Asia Expo. “I have sent 4,000 to 5,000 square meters of carpets so far, and other companies will also send between 2,000 and 5,000 square meters,” he said.

Farooqi also expressed gratitude to the event's Chinese organizers for providing facilities for Afghan traders, saying: “My expectation is to earn much more than last year. We have 70 booths for Afghanistan, and each booth is 14 square meters in area.”

A participant in several exhibitions in China over the past two decades, the ambitious businessman said his flourishing business and interaction with Chinese counterparts have benefited the people in Afghanistan.

“After selling our carpets there (China), we return home and buy more carpets. Therefore, people at home can start their work to weave more carpets. Directly and indirectly, some 5,000 people have been working with us. In Afghanistan, people have been working in the carpet industry in Herat, Ghor, Badghis, Faryab, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, Ghazni and Bamiyan. Of these workers, 80 percent are women,” Farooqi said.

XINHUA



Afghan visitors check out the 8th China-South Asia Exposition in Kunming, Yunnan province, on Tuesday. YANG ZHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

COMMENT

Editorials

Washington prolonging Peninsula frictions to try and squeeze all advantages from them

The United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned six individuals and five entities based in China on Wednesday, citing their involvement in the procurement of items supporting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's ballistic missile and space programs.

This represents the latest move by the United States to take advantage of regional hotspot issues to advance Washington's geopolitical agenda in the Asia-Pacific region. Alleging that the DPRK's missile and space programs constitute "flagrant violations" of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Treasury Department's action shows why the Korean Peninsula issue has dragged on for so long.

The stagnation of the process to resolve the Korean Peninsula issue since 2018 is rooted in the US' lack of response to the DPRK's denuclearization measures and its disregard for the latter's legitimate concerns.

Instead, the US has imposed sweeping sanctions, starting in the 1950s, that have relentlessly threatened the DPRK people's livelihoods for nearly 80 years, despite its claim that it cares about the humanitarian situation in the country.

China advocates for the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the UNSC resolutions and staunchly opposes the selective approach that only emphasizes sanctions and undervalues dialogue.

Washington, which always needs to build up enemies as an excuse for its military deployment worldwide, has only once seemingly thought of resolving the issue, but that came to nothing, and it has since been doing all it can to prolong it.

Just as it is doing with the Ukraine crisis, the Iran nuclear issue, the Middle East conflict and the South China Sea issue, the aim is not only to weaken the direct party in its crosshair, in this case the DPRK, but also to try and leverage as much advantage as it can from the issue, which includes using it as an excuse to marshal allies, pressure rivals and coerce others.

US strategists regard the former as the direct benefit of the crisis and the latter as "derivatives", whose benefits may far outweigh the direct benefit. By prolonging the Korean Peninsula issue for more than three quarters of a century, Washington has leveraged it to shape the US' geopolitical layout in the Asia-Pacific.

Consequently, those countries and parties that act earnestly to resolve the crises or issues created by Washington are invariably classified by the US as "troublemakers", and even their normal relations with the party at the center of the issue can be an excuse for the US to justify sanctions or bullying. Basically, the US vigilantly guards against any party trying to resolve these issues and crises that it has painstakingly maintained as strategic geopolitical assets like a dog watches a bone.

Those acting in defiance of the US' stay-away warning will be subject to the latter's stigmatizing campaign to smear the true peace-brokers and mediators as birds of the same feather with what it labels as "evil forces" at the center of the issues. But when it is the US itself or its allies that flagrantly violate UNSC resolutions — which Israel has done for decades on Palestine soil with Tel Aviv calling UN agencies "terrorist" organizations and more than 190 UN staff being killed in Gaza since October — US lawmakers can still give the "violators" standing ovations in the Capitol Hill as they did on Wednesday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

China's efforts to promote resolutions to the Korean Peninsula, Europe and the Middle East crises have been widely recognized. But those endeavors have continuously constituted excuses for the US to sanction, smear and contain China. Over the handling of these hotspot issues, there must be one between China and the US that stands on the wrong side of history. It is not China.

US policy sabotages its solar ambitions

Reshoring industries that had left the United States while suppressing their Chinese competitors is a key component of the Joe Biden administration's supply chain reshuffling efforts. Such efforts sound perfect politically, because they are expected to serve the dual purposes of adding jobs at home while undermining the United States' leading strategic competitor.

But the recent troubles in the US photovoltaic market may present uneasy evidence to the administration that these are economically unviable endeavors.

On July 17 local time, SunPower, a leading residential solar installer in the US, announced it would suspend multiple core businesses. Renova Energy, partially invested by the company, immediately declared it was temporarily halting all business operations in California and Arizona.

SunPower plans to cut jobs and close its direct sales channel to survive. But analysts see it on the cusp of failing. After conceding looming financial troubles in December, the company fired its CEO in February and COO in May, then saw its auditor resign this month.

If SunPower fails, it will involve at least three other companies in the industry in which it is a partial investor.

But the troubles are far from exclusive to SunPower and its associated companies. SunPower is the third US photovoltaic enterprise to find itself in dire straits within a month. Just days ago, Toledo Solar announced it was suspending all research and development and then business operations. On June 28, the sixth-largest US consumer solar installer, Titan SolarPower, declared its permanent closure. This year has already seen a number of other smaller solar companies go bankrupt.

SunPower's troubles derived ostensibly from suspicion that its management may have fudged numbers to make it more attractive to investors. Behind it, however, multiple factors are responsible. And those factors boil down to one simple truth — the US approach to boosting the domestic photovoltaic industry is failing, not because of Chinese competition, but because of its absence.

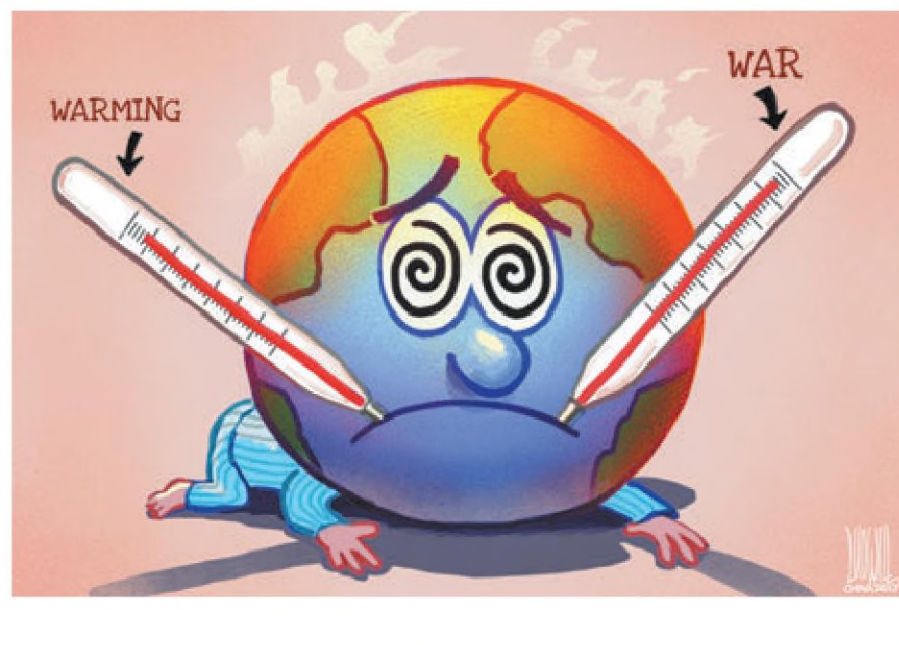
Transitioning from traditional fossil energy sources such as coal and petroleum is a global consensus as a means to address some of humanity's biggest challenges, including environmental pollution, resource exhaustion, and climate change. In the 2020 presidential election, Biden campaigned on a pledge to shift the country to clean energy, and he retained that pledge in this year's campaign until he dropped out. His administration has gone a very long way to foster the solar industry at home. For that purpose, despite its fierce attacks on the Chinese government for allegedly breaking market rules, Washington has actually gone farther in doing that.

Since 2012, the US has launched anti-subsidy and antidumping probes against Chinese photovoltaic firms, and continuously raised tariffs. In May, for instance, it raised tariffs on Chinese solar batteries to 50 percent from the previous 25 percent. While limiting Chinese exports, the Biden administration signed the Inflation Reduction Act, vowing to subsidize domestic photovoltaic companies with the \$369 billion earmarked for climate change and energy security.

The astronomical subsidies and lax financial environment at the time did deliver a period of conspicuous growth in the US photovoltaic industry. But rising interest rates, inflation, policy changes and financial irregularities have combined to subvert that untenable model.

The US dream of a prosperous homegrown photovoltaic industry may prove unrealistic in the near term because the approach is against market rules. As many have observed, closing the US solar market to the reasonably priced Chinese products has resulted in significantly higher consumer prices and installation costs in the US. There is no way this could hold for long.

Luo Jie



Opinion Line

Hukou, rural land system reform a must for the free flow of people

The central authorities recently said China will implement the system of providing basic public services based on the number of people with permanent residence permits, promote migrant workers to share the same rights as local people with *hukou*, or household registration, to hasten the process of migrant workers becoming city residents.

As China's economy is transitioning from industrialization to post-industrialization, more people are moving from rural areas to the cities. As a result, the country's existing *hukou* management system cannot keep up with the influx, especially in the big cities.

Also, although the *hukou* system has been reformed for years, migrant workers still cannot fully enjoy the same public services as local residents do, in terms of social insurance, housing guarantee and children's education. Only by solving these problems can the country conform to the trend of the continuous migration of the

rural populations to cities, and realize common prosperity and equality of rights in the cities.

A large number of migrant workers have lived and worked in megacities for a long time, but they have still not obtained local *hukou*, because of certain obstacles. In big cities, some migrant workers face difficulties applying for a residence permit, as they do not meet certain standards.

In some small and medium-sized cities, it seems the *hukou* system is no longer an obstacle on the surface, but still a number of migrant workers who have lived there do not have one, because of the lack of simultaneous reform of rural land and other related systems.

For example, some migrant workers are worried that if they get urban *hukou*, they will lose their land rights in the countryside. Therefore, some relevant rural systems, if not reformed, will become an obstacle to promoting urbanization.

The reform of the *hukou* system should be to simplify the conditions for migrant workers to apply for residence permits in big cities, gain access to public services based on residence permits, and significantly reduce the threshold for points-based acquisition of *hukou*.

In rural areas, it is necessary to reform the land system accordingly, so that migrant workers do not lose their legal land rights and interests in the countryside by obtaining urban *hukou*.

The ultimate goal of *hukou* reform is to realize the free flow of people and the right of a person to obtain basic public services at a place irrespective of his or her *hukou* status. *Hukou* should only be a system of registration for permanent residence, and different rights and interests attached to the residence permit and *hukou* should be gradually reduced.

— 21ST CENTURY BUSINESS HERALD

Ban teacher-student relationships in college too

Renmin University of China stripped a professor surnamed Wang of his title on Monday night after a video of a female scholar he was mentoring, accusing him of sexual harassment and coercive molestation, went viral over the weekend.

Similar cases popped up afterwards in some universities in Anhui, Shaanxi and Shandong provinces.

These cases prove that female students need protection from sexual predators in the form of mentors and teachers. It takes great courage for a female student to stand up against a sexual predator who wields power and controls academic resources.

There are many cases in which wom-

en who have been sexually harassed have chosen to remain silent.

According to A Report of the College Students' Sexual and Reproductive Health Survey 2019-20, jointly written by the China Family Planning Association, China Youth Network and the Tsinghua University Health Research Center, of 54,580 participants from 1,764 domestic colleges and universities, about one-third had faced various kinds of sexual harassment, yet only 3.88 percent of them approached the police.

After all, it's hard to collect evidence and the students, being young, naturally fear the power that their tormentors wield.

That's essentially why there is a growing consensus that relationships between college teachers and students should be made a strict no-no, as it is often used as an excuse to sweep sexual harassment cases under the carpet. A redline should be drawn to minimize the chances of sexual harassment from those with power in campus.

In 2021, the Ministry of Education banned teacher-student relationships in middle and primary schools where most students are minors. It is time even colleges adopted this kind of ban, as college students, most of whom are just a few years above 18, also need protection.

— ZHANG ZHOUXIANG, CHINA DAILY

What They Say

Beating religious drum not enough as unemployment rises

New Delhi issued a five-year pro-employment policy on Tuesday aimed at creating jobs and enhancing workers' skills. But critics of the Narendra Modi government and some observers warn this policy is far from enough to tackle the country's "largest challenge" due to the lack of input and the government's low executive power.

Instead of showing the Modi government's sincerity and ability to resolve the structural issue, they say that the policy only serves to expose its lack of concern for the well-being of the people.

Government data showed that India's unemployment rate was 3.2 percent in the 2022-23 fiscal year, and the youth unemployment rate fell to 10 percent from 17.8 percent in the 2017-18 fiscal year. However, many economists have expressed doubts about this data, believing that the actual

situation is much worse than that.

More than 40 percent of India's 1.4 billion people are under the age of 25. That means millions of young workers enter the job market every year in the country. A key reason why not enough jobs are created in India is that a large portion of government resources are invested in capital-intensive sectors rather than labor-intensive industries, which are major job creators.

Although the National Democratic Alliance led by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party won more than half of the seats in the lower house of the Indian Parliament, the Lok Sabha, in June and won the general election, this is the first time in 10 years that the Bharatiya Janata Party has lost its majority in parliament. This means the foundation for the Modi government is not solid as it must rely on the support of other parties.

In his second term, Modi played the religious card and promoted the Hindu nationalist agenda, but this could

not win back voters who were dissatisfied with the economy. In the first few years of Modi's promotion of the Hindu nationalist agenda, it did inspire more support from Hindus, but this could only arouse temporary excitement and emotions, and it has not satisfied the needs of ordinary people for food, clothing, housing and transportation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, India's unemployment rate rose sharply, and the situation has not improved much since, as tens of millions of people have not achieved "reemployment" after returning to their rural home on losing their urban jobs.

The employment promotion plan shows that Modi is diverting more attention to economic issues. But as the BJP did not win more than half of the seats in the Lok Sabha, the implementation of its agenda and policies will necessarily be constrained by its allies.

— GUANCHANG

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COMMENT

Sudheendra Kulkarni

Lessons for India in China's governance model

The most distinctive feature of the resolution of the recent third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China is that it is comprehensive and reform-oriented, and its objective is to realize Chinese modernization.

India, like China, is also striving to achieve rapid modernization. As in China, all patriotic and thoughtful Indians think that India should not imitate the Western modernization model. Like Chinese modernization, Indians want it to be quintessentially "Indian modernization".

And like China, India is also marching ahead on a path of reform with success and shortcomings. I have always wondered why India should not learn from the Chinese experience and China should not learn from the Indian experience.

My answer is in the affirmative. India and China are both ancient civilizations that are modernizing simultaneously, and seeking to realize national rejuvenation. That's why Indian politicians, policymakers and intellectuals should seriously study the political discourse in China. By doing so, they will realize that, despite significant and deep differences in the two countries' political and governance systems, India can benefit from China's efforts and vice versa.

The comprehensive nature of China's reforms is one major lesson for India, where reform is often narrowly understood as only economic reforms. The resolution of the third plenum shows the Party's resolve to deepen reform in every area of development and governance.

To begin with, in response to the current slowdown of the Chinese economy, the resolution does not offer quick-fix solutions just to meet the expectations of foreign investors. Instead, it takes a holistic view of China's economy by emphasizing the importance of the integrated development of the socialist market economy with equal and complementary scope for the public and non-public sectors. Its stress is on high-quality development, not on quantitative growth, so as to enable China to achieve common prosperity and balanced development across regions.

China has prioritized the creation of jobs by, for example, focusing on new types of employment including flexible employment through the development of new quality productive forces — a concept that seeks to "integrate the real and digital economies" and upgrade the agricultural and other traditional industries through the use of AI, robotics and other technologi-

cal breakthroughs that bring unprecedented efficiencies and productivity gains.

This task necessitates maximum self-reliance in scientific research and technological innovation in strategic areas to overcome the constraints imposed by Western sanctions and to produce world-class outcomes. To achieve this, the resolution calls for major reforms in the education sector and high-tech enterprises, and advocates for flexible management of universities and institutions engaged in research.

China is also advancing "whole process people's democracy" to strengthen rule-based governance and deepen "democracy at the primary level". It is making huge investments in the cultural sector. The third plenum has called for reforming the cultural sector in order to promote "cultural-ethical progress" and "enhance China's cultural soft power".

Each of these reforms has relevance for India. But India should also pay attention to what China is attempting in the field of "new and sustainable urbanization" and "rural vitalization" with emphasis on "urban-rural integration". India faces huge challenges in urban and rural modernization, which make it difficult to provide good

housing, supply water and sanitation, improve transportation, protect the environment, and create parks and recreational amenities for all citizens. China too faces problems despite making remarkable achievements on these fronts. Therefore, the need for mutual learning in these fields is self-evident.

Another obvious area of India-China cooperation is "green and low-carbon development", to which the resolution devotes a large section. China aims to not only realize its two climate goals of peaking emissions before 2030 and realizing carbon neutrality before 2060, but also to promote "ecological civilization" and "man-nature harmony".

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently declared that "green energy" and "green mobility" are India's developmental priorities. Therefore, India should forge close ties with China in green development because the latter is a global leader in renewable energy, and electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries.

Furthermore, almost all major Indian business houses seem interested in building long-term collaborations with Chinese companies in these and other fields, especially in manufacturing and infrastructure development where China's successes are spectacular. In a wel-

come development, the Indian government recently decided to relax the self-hurting policy of denying visas to Chinese technicians and engineers. Its latest Economic Survey says India must plug itself into China's supply chains and attract Chinese foreign direct investments.

Any Indian politician who studies the third plenum's resolution will find another useful lesson. The plenum not only expounded on what reforms are needed, but also on how to implement those reforms. Hence, one of the most important sections in the resolution focuses on reforms in the functioning of the Party. Here, we see a major new point of emphasis in the Party's political discourse: the need to constantly improve systems and institutions across the board to modernize China's national governance system and governance capacity.

More important, the "reform tasks laid out in this resolution shall be completed by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2029." India, too, needs such a time-bound implementation plan along with necessary institutional reforms.

The resolutions passed by Indian political parties are rarely studied in-depth by its leaders and members. As a result, the responsibility of implementing the policies and programs rests entirely on the non-political bureaucracy. In contrast, the third plenum's resolution, along with the detailed action plan prepared by the State Council, China's Cabinet, will be rigorously studied and implemented by Party officials and members at every level, from provincial to city and county levels.

At the plenum, the Chinese top leader Xi Jinping, emphasizing the significance of strengthening the Party's overall leadership in the implementation of reforms, said: "Leadership by the Party provides a fundamental guarantee for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization."

He also said, "We will refine the mechanisms through which major decisions and plans of the Central Committee are implemented; further reform the management system for officials and personnel and firmly follow the right approach to selecting and appointing officials ... refine the systems and mechanisms for preventing and tackling point-less formalities and bureaucratism, and adopt more measures to effectively prevent and control new and disguised forms of corruption."

India, too, needs wide-ranging political reforms, in which dialogue and engagement with China might help.

The author, a close aide to India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is active in promoting friendship and cooperation between India and China. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY



Chen Weihua

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China aspires to become a superpower of global peace

The past few days have proved that China is an honest and unbiased peace broker — the latest examples being its efforts to mediate peace between Russia and Ukraine, and between Israel and Palestine.

The signing of the "Beijing Declaration" by 14 Palestinian factions on Tuesday to end divisions and strengthen Palestinian unity is a significant step toward establishing an independent state of Palestine, which would live peacefully with Israel under the two-state solution framework.

The consensus on post-conflict governance in the Gaza Strip and forming of an interim national reconciliation government is especially significant given the untold suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza over the past more than nine months due to incessant Israeli assault. A permanent cease-fire, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of Gaza are urgently needed.

While achieving these goals is an arduous task, the reconciliation among the 14 Palestinian factions, thanks to China's mediation efforts, has raised hopes.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has welcomed the signing of the declaration, according to his spokesman Stephane Dujarric, who added that Palestinian unity is crucial for peace and security in the region, and for fulfilling the aspirations of the Palestinian people for self-determination and full independence, on way to establishing a democratic, contiguous, viable and sovereign Palestinian state.

That's also why China has remained neutral and refrained from adding fuel to the fire, unlike the United States and many of its NATO allies.

China's latest efforts followed China's successful mediation early last year between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which resulted in a rapprochement between the Middle East countries after almost seven years.

Just hours after the announcement of the Beijing Declaration on Tuesday, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, as if by coincidence, arrived in Guangzhou for talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in a bid to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which began about two and a half years ago and shows no signs of ending.

Ukraine's willingness to engage Russia in dialogue, as expressed by Kuleba, is an encouraging sign, especially because it has been clear since the beginning that the battlefield cannot resolve the disputes between the two sides; it can only cause more deaths and destruction.

I attended an online seminar on the reconstruction of Ukraine, which was held by the European Policy Center a week ago, but was surprised to see that none of the panelists talked about the urgency of a cease-fire and peace talks. My question on the issue was ignored.

Sadly, in European Union politics today, talking about a cease-fire and negotiations with Russia is akin to appeasement and being politically incorrect. That is why Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's recent peace mission from Kyiv to Moscow to Beijing and Washington has been vilified by many EU politicians.

I wonder if these people will now accuse Kuleba of sabotage for visiting China in a bid to resolve the conflict through a cease-fire and dialogue.

Kuleba's praise for China-Ukraine relations and his reaffirmation that Ukraine adheres to the one-China policy came as a big surprise to those who have no idea about China always having good relations with both Ukraine and Russia. That's why China, from day one, has been calling for an immediate cease-fire and dialogue to end the conflict and restore lasting peace.

That's also why China has remained neutral and refrained from adding fuel to the fire, unlike the United States and many of its NATO allies.

Kuleba's visit to China is itself a strong rebuttal to NATO's accusation that China is a "decisive enabler" of Russia in the Moscow-Kyiv conflict. According to NATO's absurd logic, most countries in the world support Russia in the conflict because they continue to trade with Russia and refuse to join the West in imposing sanctions on Moscow.

It is an open secret that all the accusations leveled against China in regard to the Russia-Ukraine conflict are manufactured in Washington.

The past few days have again shown that China is a peace-loving country and firmly believes that conflicts should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. I loved a tweet on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday which called China a "superpower for peace".

Kazuyuki Motohashi

RCEP for green and sustainable development

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership has 15 Asia-Pacific countries as its members: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, representing more than 30 percent of global GDP and population. The RCEP agreement is aimed at reducing tariffs, simplifying customs procedures, and enhancing trade and investment flows among member countries.

The agreement is also aimed at boosting economic and technological cooperation, better protecting intellectual property rights, and promoting e-commerce, in order to foster an environment conducive to innovation.

These countries will be the future growth engines of the world, but also include major carbon dioxide emitters. However, all the RCEP member states are implementing policies to achieve the carbon neutrality between 2050 and 2060. China has set a dual climate goal: peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality goal before 2060. This was declared by President Xi Jinping at the United Nations General Assembly in 2020.

In the pursuit of economic growth, which in turn improves people's living standards, per capita CO₂ emissions tend to increase. Therefore, green trans-

formation, that is, reform of the social and economic systems by more efficiently using energy and pursuing sustainable development, is key to achieving carbon neutrality.

More specifically, green innovation, that is, the development and use of new, green products, processes and services that reduce the environmental impacts and promote sustainability, is crucial for realizing the green transformation in every Asia-Pacific country.

The reduction of trade barriers under the RCEP framework can facilitate the exchange of green technologies and innovations among the member states. Lower tariffs and streamlined customs procedures will make it easier for businesses to import and export renewable energy technologies, energy-efficient appliances, and other eco-friendly products. And increased foreign direct investment (FDI) in green industries can spur innovation and development in sustainable technologies.

It should be noted that the RCEP involves countries at different stages of green transformation. For example, China is now a world leader in renewable energy such as solar and wind power and electric vehicles (EVs), while Indonesia, another country with huge market potential in green products, lacks domestic suppliers with relevant technologies. For countries such as Indonesia, promoting FDI from Chinese enterprises with green technologies can result in technology spillover to local suppliers for green products, which will

facilitate the green transformation of their domestic economy while boosting their economic development.

Also, the RCEP will promote economic and technological cooperation, which can be leveraged to promote collaborative research and development in green technologies. Our (Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo's) analysis of Asia's green innovation will help people better understand the process of green transformation of RCEP countries as well as India.

More important, green technologies measured by patents are concentrated in the enterprises of China, South Korea and Japan. But this is not to suggest that these countries are mere exporters of green technologies to other countries, including India and ASEAN members. However, green technologies should be applied based on their suitability to the local environment. For example, using renewable energy is not only about installing solar photovoltaic cells and building wind turbines, but also about integrating other parts such as electricity converters to facilitate the connectivity with the local grid.

Therefore, joint global R&D initiatives involving technology exporters together with local grid operators are conducive to efficiently implementing green technologies. In this context, technology importing countries within the RCEP can benefit from the expertise and technologies of developed countries, accelerating their transition to sustainable development. Training and exchange programs,

and workshops can help increase the local capacity for green innovation.

Moreover, the RCEP promotes the harmonization of environmental regulations and standards across the member states. Unified standards can ensure that green technologies developed in one country are compatible and acceptable in other RCEP member states, promoting wider adoption and diffusion of those technologies. This can also reduce compliance costs for businesses operating in multiple RCEP states, and encouraging more companies to invest in green technologies. In fact, the RCEP has the potential to significantly advance green innovation and help countries achieve their carbon-neutral goals.

By facilitating trade and investment in green technologies, promoting collaborative R&D, increasing knowledge transfer, and harmonizing environmental standards, the RCEP can create a conducive environment for sustainable development. However, realizing this potential will require concerted efforts to address the diverse needs and priorities of the member states, ensure effective implementation of green laws and regulations, and promote inclusivity.

With the right strategies and commitments, the RCEP can play a pivotal role in guiding the Asia-Pacific region toward a sustainable and carbon-neutral future.

The author is a professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

GLOBAL VIEWS



Editor's note: The world has undergone many changes and shocks in recent years. Enhanced dialogue between scholars from China and overseas is needed to build mutual understanding on many problems the world faces. For this purpose, the China Watch Institute of China Daily and the National Institute for Global Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, jointly present this special column: The Global Strategy Dialogue, in which experts from China and abroad will offer insightful views, analysis and fresh perspectives on long-term strategic issues of global importance.

DJOOMART OTORBAEV

Secrets behind global success of Chinese EVs

The European Union has imposed additional tariffs of up to 37.6 percent on imports of electric vehicles manufactured in China. This announcement made on July 4, despite Beijing warning about its potential to trigger a trade war,



could have significant implications for the global trade landscape. The European Commission cited "unfair" govern-

ment subsidies as the reason for implementing the tariffs, which took effect on July 5. However, the tariffs will only be preliminary for four months, and negotiations between the two sides are expected to continue during the period.

The imposition of sanctions is a clear admission of failure and a lack of competitiveness. Latest news reports show that at least the German automakers are unwilling to admit defeat and are going to compete fairly. Their influential car association VDA has urged the European Commission to reduce proposed tariffs on Chinese-made electric cars. In a separate statement, BMW's CEO referred to the tariffs as a "dead end".

China's remarkable strides in developing and implementing clean technology are a source of national pride and a global game-changer. To supply both domestic and international markets with advanced products to combat climate change, China's clean energy investment surged by an astonishing 40 percent last year, reaching 6.3 trillion yuan (\$870 billion). This growth constituted the entire increase in investment in the Chinese economy last year and is comparable to the global investment in fossil fuels. In 2023, clean manufacturing was crucial to the country's environmental and economic objectives. It



WANG XIAOYING / CHINA DAILY

accounted for 40 percent of the country's economic growth, contributing 11.4 trillion yuan to China's GDP, marking a 30 percent increase from the year before.

This significant investment has boosted China's economy and reshaped the global market, setting a new standard for clean energy investment and influencing the global economic landscape. Addi-

tionally, several Chinese technology giants, such as Xiaomi and Huawei, recently entered the EV market, introducing more competition and innovation into the auto industry.

The fierce competition among domestic manufacturers is the key factor driving the affordability of the latest clean energy devices and technologies. This competition has sharply reduced prices, making

clean energy products more affordable. For instance, in the past year alone, the cost of solar panels dropped by 42 percent, far exceeding the historical average of about 17 percent per year. As a result, the prices for the latest products are almost two-thirds lower than those manufactured by their counterparts in the United States. Battery prices also fell by a record 50 percent last year.

It is this competition that has allowed China to account for more than 60 percent of global EV production and more than 80 percent of solar panel production. Last year, 97 percent of solar panels installed in Europe were manufactured in China. Significant price reductions from Chinese manufacturers of eco-friendly products will enable more consumers worldwide to afford such items, helping to decrease their carbon footprint and address global warming.

The remarkable history of the development of EVs in China deserves to be thoroughly documented. Some attribute China's achievements in this sector to Wan Gang, who is president of the China Association for Science and Technology and often called domestically and internationally the "father of the EV movement". Beginning his engineering career in the 1980s, Wan rose to the rank of Minister of Science and Technology, where he served from 2007 to 2018. In 2000, Wan submitted a strategic proposal to the Chinese State Council entitled "On the Development of Automotive New Clean Energy as the Starting Point for the Leap Forward of China's Automotive Industry". The government supported this idea, and China's electric vehicle industry developed rapidly. The development of the EV industry in China has become a national priority, and thousands of managers, scientists and engineers have worked tirelessly to achieve success.

The secret to Chinese success in these breakthrough technologies lies in supporting bright talents and innovative ideas, long-term forecasting and planning, swift implementation of plans, and national unity in supporting new ideas and achieving strategic goals. Thousands of managers, scientists and engineers have worked tirelessly to achieve success. When discussing the accomplishments of the green

manufacturing revolution in China, the rapid progress of EVs is rightfully highlighted as one of the standout achievements.

Between 2009 and 2017, the Chinese government invested over \$60 billion to boost the production of EVs. In 2011, only about 1,000 battery-powered and hybrid cars were sold in the country. In 2023, this number reached 9.49 million.

Proponents of the term "overcapacity" fail to understand that this concept does not apply to the EV business. Unlike traditional manufacturing, where products are made in anticipation of demand, EV manufacturing in China only starts after receiving orders. This approach ensures that the current capacity utilization of Chinese automobile factories is about 70 percent, directly contradicting the idea of overcapacity. Modern manufacturing enterprises, especially in the clean energy sector, cannot afford to accumulate inventories.

China's leading position in cutting-edge technologies is not just a result of its long-term strategic planning, ambitious action plans and the selection of highly skilled professionals. It is also a testament to the power of public support. This model of success, driven by government assistance for research and development, has enabled scientists and engineers to make discoveries and inventions and integrate these latest technologies into production processes. This remarkable story is a beacon of hope for other nations and a call for action for the global community.

The author is former prime minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and a distinguished professor at the Belt and Road School at Beijing Normal University. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

YU HONGYUAN AND HE JING

Raising their game

Chinese EV companies need to adapt to a more challenging environment

There have been notable advancements in the global industry landscape in recent years. With the increasing international awareness of environmental protection and the vigorous promotion of policies in various countries, the new energy vehicle industry has developed rapidly and become an essential component of the automotive industry. As the world's largest producer and consumer in this sector, China's new energy vehicle products not only meet domestic market demand but are also exported to overseas markets, such as the European Union and



Yu Hongyuan



He Jing

North America. And the EU is the largest export target market for China's new energy vehicles.

The transition from fuel to electric vehicles has significantly changed the international automotive competition arena, and Chinese automakers have started challenging established market players, mainly from Europe. Furthermore, China has formed a complete power battery industry in raw material processing, refining, production, and recycling, which has given it a leading position within the global supply chain.

The United States and the EU have implemented several measures to enhance their industrial capabilities and maintain competitiveness. These include bolstering policy incentives to support the

electric vehicle sector, revising national regulations related to automotive manufacturing, providing fiscal subsidies, and investing in infrastructure development. Efforts have also been made to diversify supply chains, reduce the dependency on specific regions for essential minerals, and gradually reduce reliance on China in the global supply chain of electric vehicles and power batteries.

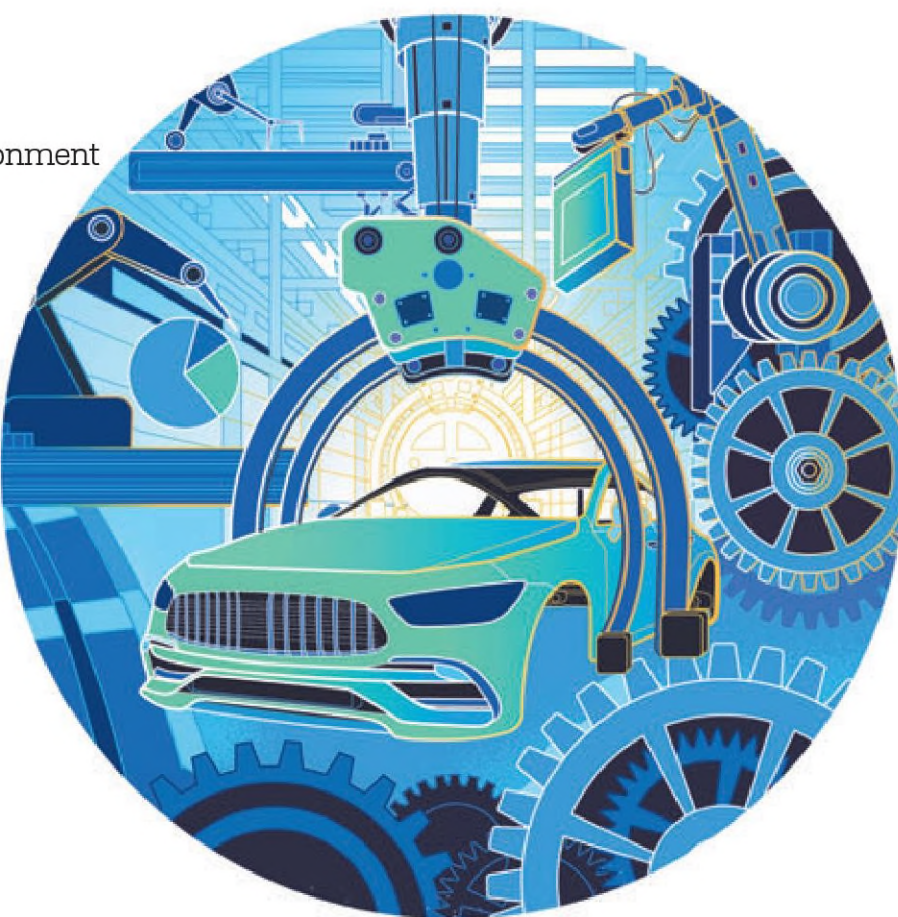
Additionally, initiatives have been aimed at regulating market access and forming alliances that may impact trade relations. These measures involve the implementation of trade barriers, addressing issues such as anti-dumping, anti-subsidy, anti-monopoly practices, intellectual property rights protection, and supply chain assessments to ensure a level playing field. Technological advancements in hydrogen vehicles and next-generation battery technologies have been central to research and development efforts. Restrictions on the export of specific components and data governance strategies have also been employed to safeguard the competitiveness of electric vehicle brands on a global scale.

With the increasing share of Chinese new energy vehicles in the EU market, some traditional car manufacturers in EU countries are feeling tremendous competitive pressure. The EU and its member states aim to maintain their technological competitive advantage over China in the short term by implementing intellectual property barriers, and Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers will face the risk of being sued by "patent trolls." The EU has recently launched a countervailing investigation into China's new energy vehicles. The temporary measure of imposing counter-

vailing duties has been implemented.

The EU's increased tariffs on Chinese new energy vehicles are a significant challenge to the China-EU automobile trade. Chinese companies must actively respond and mitigate the impact of tariff increases through technological advancements and market diversification strategies to maintain competitiveness in the global market and effectively respond to the EU's anti-subsidy measures. By improving their product quality and technological level and enhancing their market competitiveness, Chinese new energy vehicle enterprises can occupy a more advantageous position in the international market and continue contributing to the development of the global new energy vehicle industry.

China has a window of opportunity to deal with the EU's anti-subsidy tax. First, it should actively challenge the decision of the EU through legal channels and file a protest with the EU to demand a reduction in the tariff rates or the cancellation of the tariff increases. Second, it should accumulate core technologies and enhance its product premium by increasing research and development investment, improving the product technology level and quality, and enhancing market competitiveness. In this way, the cost increase caused by tariff hikes can be offset. Third, the industry layout should be diversified in major global markets, reducing dependence on the EU market and actively exploring other international markets, such as Southeast Asia, so as to defuse market risks. Fourth, it should upgrade its overseas strategy by initiating localized development. Chinese enterprises should estab-



SHI YU / CHINA DAILY

lish production bases and research and development centers in overseas markets to achieve localized production and sales, reduce transportation and tariff costs, and enhance market response speed. Through the above strategies, Chinese new energy vehicle companies will be able to maintain competitiveness in the global market and effectively respond to the anti-subsidy measures of the EU and the US.

In this regard, China needs to

start with green supply chain improvement to deal with the dual challenges of policy and technology. China should advocate a fair and just multilateral trade environment for electric vehicles through multilateral trade and investment. China, Europe, and the US can strengthen industry chain cooperation through third-party cooperation with Southeast Asian markets, actively setting up electric vehicle industry chains in developing countries and regions to serve emerging

electric vehicle markets such as Indonesia and Vietnam.

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Members of the media preview the exhibition, *On Top of the Pyramid: The Civilization of Ancient Egypt*, at the Shanghai Museum on July 16.
GAO ERQIANG/
CHINA DAILY

Museum visitors eager to experience Egyptology exhibition

Despite the scorching heat of 37 C, visitors formed long lines in front of Shanghai Museum on July 19, eager to catch the first glimpse of the much-anticipated exhibition, *On Top of the Pyramid: The Civilization of Ancient Egypt*, which opened to the public that day.

In the coming 13 months, the largest showcase of ancient Egyptian artifacts in Asia will be held at the museum on People's Square in downtown Shanghai, featuring 788 objects selected from seven institutions around Egypt.

Shanghai Museum sold out 200,000 early-bird tickets months ahead of the opening, and a few weeks ago the museum announced that the exhibition has been fully booked for the coming two months.

The museum has an appointment system to limit the number of visitors to no more than 8,000 per day. To meet the soaring public demand to see the Egyptian artifacts, it has extended its opening hours into the evening, allowing another 4,000 visitors to see the exhibit.

On July 19, when ticket sales began for the first cat-friendly evening session on July 27, within one second, the 250 openings were sold out. The session allows pet owners to bring their cats to the exhibition to pay respect to Bastet, the ancient Egyptian cat deity.

The exhibition is "not only the first collaboration of a Chinese State-run museum with the Egyptian government but also the largest exhibition ever held outside Egypt and the highest-level exhibition ever held in Asia, displaying Egyptian artifacts, signifying a golden age when the long-standing friendship between China and Egypt enters a phase of leapfrog development", according to Chu Xiaobo, director of Shanghai Museum.

"It showcases a diverse collection that represents many facets of Egyptian civilization", according to Mohamed Ismail Khaled, PhD, sec-

Ancient artifacts depicting the fascinating age of the pharaohs attract thousands, as tickets quickly sell out, reports **Zhang Kun** in Shanghai.



retary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. It includes depictions of prominent Egyptian gods such as Osiris, Isis, Horus and Ptah and features remarkable items from various Egyptian kings across different dynasties, highlighting statues of high-ranking people such as officials and priests, he says.

Different from many other international shows that have taken place at Shanghai Museum, this exhibition was conceived, independently planned and curated by Chinese scholars and tailor-made for the museum, reflecting the unique Chinese perspective in the studies of Egyptology, Chu said at the media preview of the exhibition on July 16.

Staff members of Shanghai Museum flew to Egypt and worked alongside Egyptian colleagues for the selection, inventory and packaging of the artifacts, which were taken first to Cairo from different institutions around the country. The studies of ancient Egyptian civilizations were founded first by Western scholars. Chinese scholars started late compared to them in this field, but

the unique interpretations by Chinese scholars will inject more diverse perspectives into the understanding of ancient Egyptian culture and history, according to Chu.

"This exhibition is a great opportunity for Egyptology in China. You can see the authentic artifacts without traveling to Egypt," Chu says. "It will also inspire more interest in Egyptian civilization in China, because public interest is the great foundation for the academic studies."

The exhibition consists of three chapters. Yan Haiying, a professor of history from Peking University, who is the chief curator of the exhibition, suggests visitors begin their tour from the first chapter, *The Land of the Pharaohs*, which presents an overview of ancient Egyptian civilization. Beginning with the creation myths, it explores cosmology, social hierarchy, writing, craftsmanship



and burial traditions.

Among the statues, treasures and papyrus, visitors will find ink rubbings on Chinese rice paper of the Egyptian memorial plaques. They were made by Duan Fang (1861-1911), a Chinese official and epigraphy connoisseur. While passing through Egypt during a diplomatic mission to Europe, he stopped in Cairo where he bought a dozen plaques with inscriptions.

Duan was so fascinated with the mysterious Egyptian writing that he had some plaques reproduced with cement and rubbings made on Chinese paper, which he gave to friends. He "started a wide curiosity for



Online
Watch the video
by scanning
the code.



Clockwise from above: Decorated coffins on display at the exhibition that also shows cat sculptures.
PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Egypt among intellectuals in the early 1900s", Yan says.

Later, in the 1930s, a Chinese scholar named Xia Nai (1910-85) studied Egyptology in the United Kingdom.

"Chinese scholars have paid attention to Egypt as a similar civilization as ours. We may have started late, but I believe our perspectives are irreplaceable," Yan says. "In the future, people from Asia may contribute some breakthroughs in the studies of ancient Egyptian writing."

Yan recommends visitors step into *The Age of Tutankhamun*, a cross-section of ancient Egypt dating to 1500 BC. During the reign of Tutankhamun, the traditional Egyptian religion and art were restored, which had been set aside by his predecessor Akhenaten. In 1922, the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb shocked the world and inspired great public fascination for Egyptian civilization in the West.

Visitors to the museum can view the latest discoveries from Saqqara. Since 2018, archaeologists have made remarkable discoveries in Saqqara, including Egypt's largest animal mummy cemetery, the most intact mummification workshop, the only remaining temple dedicated to Bastet and thousands of intact painted wooden coffins.

The exhibition marks the first systematic showcase of the discoveries from Saqqara and the first time that these artifacts have been shown outside of Egypt, says Khaled. "It reflects Egypt's good relationship with China and that Egypt is keen to treat the Chinese people differently than anyone else by showing artifacts that have never been displayed before."

This event is like "an appetizer that attracts people to visit Egypt", he says. "Egypt has 41 museums and more than 2,000 archaeological sites. We welcome all Chinese people to come and visit our monuments."

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Cooperation with Cairo breaks new ground for Chinese archaeologists

By **ZHOU WENTING** in Shanghai
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Major cooperation projects between China and Egypt focusing on the digital scanning, photography, sorting and research of some 1,000 humanoid wooden coffins unearthed in Saqqara, Egypt, have been underway since May, according to the Shanghai International Studies University.

The university made its announcement about the China-Egypt Joint Investigation, Research and Digitalization Project on Ancient Egyptian Antiquities, on June 24.

All the coffins have been unearthed by the archaeological team of the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt at the Bubasteion Site in northern Saqqara, which is home to some of the oldest pyramids in Egypt, since 2018.

The project was carried out by the university's World Arthistory Institute, the Saqqara Archaeological Team and other teams from Egypt, and was led by Xue Jiang, an assistant researcher at the institute. The final research results will be released simultaneously in Chinese,

Arabic and English.

This was "the first time China carried out such a large-scale basic cultural project outside the country", according to the university, as it will provide valuable experience and serve as an example for the implementation of follow-up projects. These include the upcoming Database on Ancient Greek-Gandharan Images, Literature, and Archaeological Artifacts, which is affiliated to the university's World Civilizations Research Database.

The project is the latest example of the increasingly strong partnership between China and Egypt. Strengthening people-to-people exchanges and deepening friendship between the two countries are essential to promoting common development and prosperity, according to the scholars.

Mutual learning between China and Egypt has also entered a new paradigm, one no longer limited to single archaeological projects, but which will establish the comprehensive collation and research of Egyptian civilization, and make use of technologies, such as databases and artificial intelligence, to carry out



Archaeologists study a wooden coffin as part of the China-Egypt Joint Investigation, Research and Digitalization Project on Ancient Egyptian Antiquities, in Egypt in June. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

systematic, long-term research, according to experts.

On a visit to the Shanghai university in May, Mohamed Ismail Khaled, PhD, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, expressed his full support. He

said he believed the project was innovative in terms of the mechanism of mutual learning and exchange between China and Egypt as ancient civilizations.

Li Yansong, president of the Shanghai International Studies Uni-

versity, says that he expects the project to enhance the school's studies of countries and regions, provide fresh support for China-Arab cooperation under the Global Civilization Initiative, and boost mutual learning and exchange with all parties in Egypt.

Zhu Qingsheng, the initiator of the project, says that in the era of digital technology, it is necessary for artifacts to be more comprehensively analyzed through technical means and made known to the public.

"This marked an important beginning for the continuation of the cultural traditions of China and Egypt, for conducting dialogue among civilizations on an equal footing, and for carrying out international cultural cooperation in a new form," says Zhu, who is also director of the World Arthistory Institute and a professor of history at Peking University.

"For a Chinese university to enter an Egyptian archaeological site with new image theory, database concepts and micro-trace scanning to collect and sort finds is a new academic strategy," he says.

Yan Haiying, who is in charge of

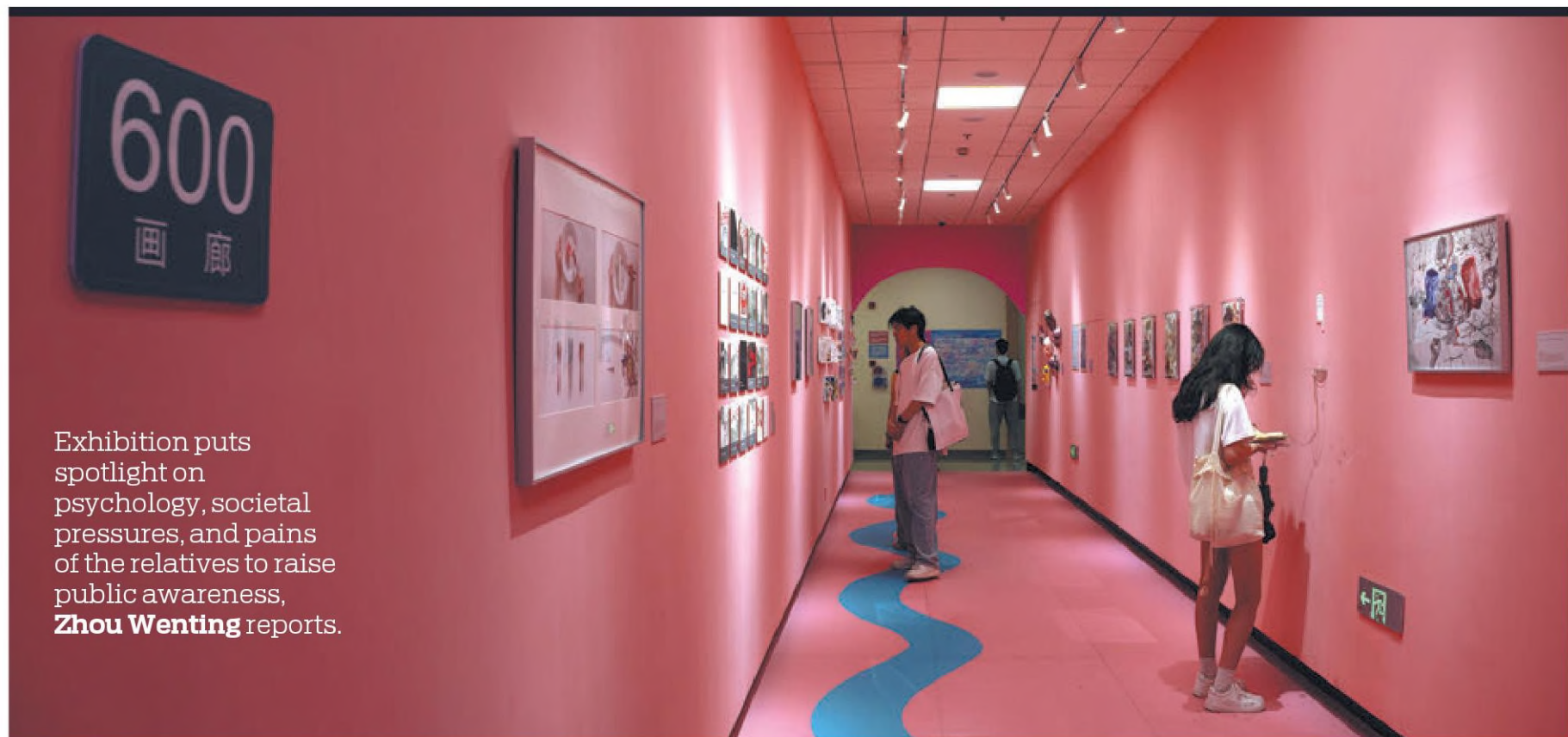
the project's academic affairs, says that it was an unprecedented experience for Chinese researchers majoring in Egyptology to participate in sorting out unpublished firsthand information.

"The digital collection, sorting, research and interpretation of important artifacts signifies that Egyptology in China stands at the forefront of the world. The discovery and research of these new finds will change some theories and research in Egyptology itself," says Yan, a professor of history at Peking University, and a distinguished professor at the institute.

The project, which was based on the joint efforts of five researchers from China and six from Egypt, is expected to score several firsts for Chinese scholars involved to Egyptology, Xue says.

For example, Chinese scholars will jointly publish research results and present artifacts digitally with their Egyptian counterparts. The projects also marks the first time an ancient civilization from outside of the country has been invited to participate in the World Civilizations Research Database, he says.

LIFESHANGHAI



Exhibition puts spotlight on psychology, societal pressures, and pains of the relatives to raise public awareness, **Zhou Wenting** reports.

An exhibition at the Shanghai Mental Health Center displays drawings and clay works made by people with eating disorders during their art therapy. Artists currently or previously afflicted by the diseases also contributed their works as exhibits. The exhibition runs from July to September. PHOTOS BY GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

Eating disorders are food for thought

For most people, food is a source of nourishment and pleasure, but for a certain group of individuals, it becomes at worst a matter of life or death. For these individuals, when asked to use clay to represent what food is in their minds, many of the pieces they make are messy and distorted in color and shape.

The shapes mirror their mixed feelings toward food and are conflicted by strong dependence and resistance and boundless longing and fear.

Putting a focus on eating disorders, an exhibition at the Shanghai Mental Health Center has been displaying the drawings and clay works of eating disorder sufferers they made as art therapy during hospitalization. The exhibit also includes works created by artists currently or previously afflicted by the diseases.

Chen Jue, director of the Eating Disorders Treatment Center of SMHC, says that there is still much misunderstanding by the public toward eating disorders. "People may simply perceive such patients as those who don't eat well, make a fuss about diets, go to extremes in losing weight and have poor self-control.

"However, eating disorders are physiological disorders that are closely related to psychological factors. Although they manifest as eating-related behavioral problems, there are complex mental health problems behind them," says Chen from the center established in 2017, the first one specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders in China.

The exhibition aims to help the public better understand the diseases and patients to show more tolerance and care, she says.

More than a diet issue

Experts explained that eating disorders are a group of psychiatric disorders characterized by abnormal eating behaviors and psychological disturbances accompanied by significant weight changes and challenges in physical and social functioning.

Eating disorders mainly include anorexia, bulimia and binge eating. Eating disorders are more common in adolescents and young women, with anorexia having a mortality rate of 5 to 20 percent, making it one of the most life-threatening diseases in the psychiatric field.

Anorexia usually includes a low body weight, intense fear of gaining weight and an unrealistic self-image. Anorexia often involves using extreme efforts to control weight and body shape, which may lead to systemic multiorgan complications caused by malnutrition that seriously affect normal life.

"Some patients even suffer from body dysmorphic disorder, characterized by inappropriate self-awareness of their body shape," she says. "A classical cartoon about the disorder depicts a slender person standing in front of a mirror who sees an obese body. So in their minds, they think that they're not slim and need to lose weight."

Some anorexia may develop into bulimia — bingeing, or eating a large amount of food in a short time, then, due to guilt, purging to get rid of calories. Purging can include vomiting, excessive exercising, not eating for a period of time, or other methods, such as taking laxatives.

"Families of such patients are in pain. They either eat too much or nothing and are out of control. Eating topics can

throw families into turmoil and every meal turns the home into a battlefield," says Chen.

Women and young patients

The number of female patients suffering from eating disorders is universally far higher than their male counterparts. Chen says the ratio of female to male sufferers is larger than 10 to 1 in China.

"I believe a main factor is that social culture puts more pressure on women in terms of anxiety about appearance. It seems that women with pretty faces and slim figures are more likely to succeed. Therefore, some college students start losing weight in preparation for job interviews," says Chen.

A 19-year-old woman who finally ended her two-year fight with anorexia says that she believes the fact that female patients outnumber males is a result of societal expectations.

"One reason that I finally conquered the disease was that I became aware that the idea of thinness and weight instilled in women is detrimental to my health and how painful and difficult it would be to live with a body like that. But for many going through puberty, to conform to such standards of beauty becomes unshakable. I hope to help more women overcome these concepts," says the woman, using the alias Lam.

TV screens convey the message that celebrities are slim without exception to the public and nowadays new media, including short videos, accelerates the spread of such social pressures.

The international medical society acknowledges that people between 13 and 20 years old are the most affected by

anorexia. But Chen says her youngest patient is only 7 and it is not rare to see patients as young as 11 or 12.

Kids with self-esteem

In 2022, as high as 77 percent of anorexia patients hospitalized at the Eating Disorders Treatment Center of SMHC were younger than 18, according to the center's statistics.

"Children nowadays are exposed to the internet world at an early age. People tend to beautify their photos before sharing them online and part of the process makes their faces and bodies slimmer," says Chen.

"Also, they will hear adults talking about going on diets and losing weight quite often. Gradually, they'll form a concept that a slim body shape means beauty, attention and self-discipline," she says, adding that extreme cases include some who lived on water for a week and fainted due to low blood sugar at school.

Doctors say that looking at personalities, anorexia and bulimia sufferers are usually demanding of themselves in many ways, which can lead to an extreme pursuit of a certain body shape, with a strong determination to achieve that goal.

"However, they also suffer from low self-esteem. The more inferior they feel about themselves, the more they will base their worth on things like body shape and weight because they think these can be controlled. When they lose a little weight, they may get the so-called praise of people, which helps them feel good," says Chen.

If hospitalized, eating disorder patients typically need to stay in the hos-

pital for four to six weeks. Doctors will inform them that the behaviors are very harmful to their health and will stimulate their motivation for cooperation. Some patients, especially bulimia sufferers, become cooperative as they feel tortured by such a way of life.

Goodwill from strangers

The exhibition is beginning to harvest goodwill from the public. Some among the audience share their feelings in the message book at the center or online. Many people leave messages, hoping the sufferers can recover from the diseases soon and feel better. Some also encourage them to be healthy and never give up.

"The gallery allowed me to learn for the first time that patients with eating disorders are suppressing a lot of emotions and enduring hardships. I feel that they are very brave for fighting against the diseases," reads a message in the message book.

Zhang Qinwen, who participated in designing the exhibition and was once a patient for years herself, hopes the public can understand the essence of eating disorders through the form of art, but not ignore the pain due to the artistic expressions.

"What I want to say the most is to tell sufferers of eating disorders that everybody deserves love. And I hope that every bite they eat, they can taste happiness," says Zhang, who shared her personal experience of conquering anorexia online in 2019, and encouraged many.

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Family is at the core of recovery

Family-based treatment is at the core of recovery from eating disorders, as parents of sufferers must learn how to teach their children to eat properly and doctors find that family plays a role in triggering the diseases.

In some cases, adolescent sufferers have lived under the tight control of their parents for years and some were abused during childhood, experts say.

"For example, if children have long been living in families that leave little room for their own identity or autonomy, they may rebel when reaching puberty," says Chen Jue, director of the Eating Disorders Treatment Center of Shanghai Mental Health Center.

"Unable to rebel in other ways, they find they can control whether or not they eat. Eating becomes their biggest resistance and they turn the disease into a fight with their parents," she says.

"In other cases with poor parent-child relations, children use means of starving themselves to take revenge, hoping their parents will feel guilty when seeing their skinny bodies," Chen says.

That explains why even the standard treatment for eating disorders involves multidisciplinary treatment, including professionals in nutrition, pediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, international medicine and social work. The patient's family is always at the core, according to doctors.

Treatment includes talks with the patient alone and with the family to help parents find the reason for the onset of the disease and make changes.

A university student from Shanghai who went to a school elsewhere says that one reason she was afflicted by anorexia accompanied by amenorrhea two years ago was because her mother kept asking her to lose weight.

"Each time I returned home, the first thing blurted from my mother's mouth was 'How much do you weigh now?', which made me tremble. I stopped going home for family gatherings during festivals," says the woman using the alias "Little A".

Family support is crucial in treatment. Parents observe how their child begins to recover the normal order of eating supervised by doctors and nurses in a hospital and continue the practice once they go home.

Chen says that patients have a fixed timetable for eating each day during hospitalization. They have three meals and two snacks each day.

"Patients sit at the same table to eat. Medical workers won't mention anything about eating while they're dining so they don't feel extra pressure," Chen says. "But if they fail to finish the food, nurses will give them nutrients equivalent to that of the leftover food."

ZHOU WENTING



CULTURAL HERITAGE



Left: A researcher from Fudan University's laboratory of molecular archaeology collects physical anthropological information from the remains of unidentified martyrs unearthed from a site at Xuecun village of Suning county, Hebei province. **Center:** Wen Shaoqing, associate professor at Fudan University's Institute for Archaeological Science, examines ancient human remains and collects samples for forensic DNA analysis for further study at Yuncheng city, Shanxi province. **Right:** A researcher studies a plant sample at the Shanghai-based laboratory. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

The histories hidden in bones

Advances in DNA technology increasingly enable the writing and rewriting of the past, **Fang Aiqing** and **Xu Xiaomin** report.

Wen Shaoqing's work is about breaking boundaries and exploring where his imagination leads him. Journalists have been chasing the molecular biologist-turned-archaeologist since September when his team at Fudan University's Institute for Archaeological Science uncovered the touching stories hidden in the remains of unidentified martyrs of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the subsequent War of Liberation (1946-49).

The team's efforts involving forensic DNA techniques continue to this day in the hope that relatives of these obscure heroes will finally be able to find long-lost family members.

Wen, who is an associate professor at the institute, has also been involved in research such as analyzing the dietary habits of an ancient emperor and his queen and the causes of their deaths, as well as the interaction and integration of ancient ethnic groups in what is now northern China.

As his team's more interesting findings become known to the public, especially those involving the analysis of ancient DNA, the potential of archaeological science to solve long-standing historical mysteries becomes more widely recognized in China.

Emotional stories

In June 1942, a crucial battle against the Japanese invaders took place in Xuecun village in Suning county, Hebei province. More than 1,000 Chinese soldiers and officers sacrificed their lives, including two top officers, Chang Deshan and Wang Yuanyin.

Villagers buried them in mass graves and have visited to pay their respects every April on Tomb Sweeping Day, ever since.

This April, Wen and his colleagues and students helped local officials move some of the remains for better preservation, collecting physical data in the process.

In June, they released the results of their preliminary analysis based on physical anthropology.

The remains belonged to at least 101 individuals. Four showed traces of comminuted fractures (where a bone is broken into multiple fragments), two of injury by sharp objects, and another had bullet wounds.

Wen speculates that the impact of weapons like machine guns caused the comminuted fractures, indicating the cruelty of war.

He says that it's worth noting that the young males — very likely soldiers — were buried with people of both genders of all ages.

The team was able to identify the gender of 52 individuals, 42 of whom were male or presumed male. Among the 79 that could be identified by age, 15 were under-age — the youngest was a 1-year-old — 45 were aged between 15 and 35, 15 were between 36 and 55, and four were elderly.

As to who the elderly, women and children were, Wen says that further isotopic analysis and DNA identification work they are carrying out might be able to confirm whether they were noncombat army personnel, or villagers that the soldiers failed in trying to help escape the battle.

Wen explains that strontium isotopes will identify whether the bodies belong to local residents or outsiders, while carbon and nitrogen isotopes reveal information

about lifestyle and nutritional status. Facial reconstruction based on cranial computed tomography will also be performed on 35 well-preserved skulls.

For the past nine years, the team has built a DNA database of around 1,200 national heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country and its people.

This effort paid off when they managed to help Shanxi retiree Cui Yuqi fulfill his late father's wish of finding his brother who died during the War of Liberation in 1947 at the age of 23 in Lyuliang, Shanxi province.

Based on records and interviews with villagers, local officials speculated that the brother, who was called Cui Haizhi, was likely buried in a martyrs' cemetery in Nancun village in Fangshan county because the cemetery was located near a wartime hospital and was used to bury those who could not be saved.

In January of last year, accompanied by four young scholars and 11 students, Wen excavated the cemetery and unearthed 49 bodies, as well as belongings such as buttons, enamel bowls, iron spoons, pipes, jade seals and bullets. The remains were properly reburied later.

The team extracted the skeletons and cleaned them on-site, collecting physical anthropological information before conducting lab tests to establish a DNA archive, confirming the gender and age of the martyrs, traumas and illnesses suffered during their lifetimes, and clues about their personal lives. The results were made public at an exhibition at Fudan last September.

Wen says that the work was very emotional.

The martyrs' average age was 20.5, with the youngest not even 14. Many showed traces of wounds or of suffering from degenerative joint diseases at a very young age. Five had undergone amputations, with the cut marks and evidence of infection indicating that the amputations were performed under rudimentary conditions.

Some of the bones had bullet holes, sometimes more than one, inferring that as the soldiers advanced against the enemy, bullets came mostly from the front.

Taking part in his first field study, Wang Ke, a graduate student at Fudan's Department of Cultural Heritage and Museology, was shocked to discover as he swept the dirt from one of the bodies that its epiphyseal plates (plates of cartilage at the end of growing bones) had not yet fully closed, indicating that they belonged to an adolescent.

"At that age, I was in high school, still childish and sometimes fooling around. But my peers decades ago were fighting on battlefields and risking their lives," Wang says.

In Lyuliang, Wen's team re-created facial appearances for the first time. After scanning the skulls, they added anatomical markers when they returned to the lab.

Based on the cranial CT scan data of thousands of contemporary people of both genders and of different ages they had previously collected and information on the average thickness of muscular and soft tissues, combined with the physical information of the remains, they were able to make 43 successful digital facial re-creations.

"Studying these undocumented soldiers buried in Nancun helps us learn about revolutionary history from a grassroots perspective, how



Top: Researchers collect physical anthropological information from the remains of unidentified martyrs at Xuecun village in Hebei province. **Above:** Wen examines ancient human remains and collects samples for forensic DNA analysis for study at Wuxi, Jiangsu province.

they lived and what they went through.

"They cannot and should not be forgotten. We hope their loved ones are able to find them and they will eventually have names and photos on their gravestones," Wen says.

Through DNA matching, Cui Yuqi was able to find his uncle Cui Haizhi, whose high nose bridge, thin lips and narrow eyes resembled those of his father.

Small finds, big progress

The 42-year-old molecular archaeologist used to study bioscience. In 2014, when he was a doctoral candidate at Fudan's School of Life Sciences, he joined a program overseen by historian Han Sheng and molecular anthropologist Li Hui to trace the pedigree of Cao Cao, an iconic warlord in late Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220).

As part of the program, research-

ers collected and analyzed genetic samples of contemporary males with the Cao surname from across the country — particularly those who claim to be descendants of Cao Cao — and later compared their Y-DNA with that of the warlord's granduncle Cao Ding, whose remains include two teeth, from which the researchers were able to extract a DNA sample.

For Wen, the program was a door into the world of ancient DNA, which over the past decade has shown great potential in the study of the origins and migration of human populations, changes to social structure, cultural exchange and the spread of diseases.

In 2022, Swedish geneticist Svante Paabo received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominids and human evolution, a milestone in

ern Zhou Dynasty (557-581), and his wife Queen Ashina.

The emperor was a member of the Xianbei ethnic group and succeeded to the throne at 17. He unified northern China and died at the age of 36 on an expedition to the Turkic tribes to the north, led by his father-in-law.

Genomic analysis suggests that 30 percent of Wudi's ancestry derived from agricultural populations in the Yellow River Basin, which, according to Wen, likely resulted from long-term intermarriage between the Xianbei royal family and Han nobility.

Meanwhile, laboratory tests and historical data indicate that the emperor died of chronic arsenic poisoning, the result of taking Taoist elixirs in pursuit of longevity, while Queen Ashina's bones contain a high level of lead from the cosmetics she used.

Wen says that the project is also exploring the ethnic structure of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) capital Chang'an — today's Xi'an in Shaanxi province — which had a population of over a million at its peak and attracted merchants from across China and beyond.

He says that the relatively cold and dry climate of northern China aids the survival of biological remains like teeth and bones, whereas in southern China, where it is more humid and the soil is more acidic, remains are less well-preserved and so they often analyze the DNA of sedimentary deposits to learn about the ancient environment or to determine what vessels contained and where they came from.

While Wen is focused more on the study of human bones, some of his colleagues and students in his team of 30 focus on animal bones and plants — for example, the domestication and evolution of horses and the spread of grapes in ancient China.

Having studied at Durham University and the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, Zhou Yu, a doctoral candidate and team member, has an interest in long-distance trade and the historical spread of crops.

Realizing that grapes and grape products played a crucial role in historical trade, cultural and religious exchanges in many parts of Eurasia, she decided to make grapes her focus of research.

"Ancient plant DNA is important to the study of the origins of agriculture and the propagation and evolution of crops," Zhou says, adding that research on existing grape genomes provides the necessary basis for her study.

However, as the challenge lies in extracting ancient plant DNA from poorly preserved remains, she is trying to collect grape seeds that have not carbonized and is exploring more efficient methods that can potentially be applied to the research of plant remains.

Wen says that after they were given the limb bone samples of Emperor Wudi and Queen Ashina in 2015, they spent almost eight years optimizing research methods to extract previously unobtainable DNA data.

He is looking forward to the embrace of DNA by multiple disciplines, especially history and archaeology, to deepen the interpretations of their findings.

"As we solve long-standing mysteries, other deeper questions emerge and wait to be examined through joint efforts," he says.

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Wen Shaoqing, archaeologist, Fudan University's Institute for Archaeological Science

the research of ancient DNA.

Wen likes the fact that addressing questions of history through the study of ancient DNA is straightforward and compelling.

His research includes tracing the spread and hidden connections between the Neolithic Yangshao and Longshan cultures in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, as well as changes to social structure in the pre-Qin period (before 221 BC), by looking into migration and genetic lineage.

In addition, a major strand of his work involves uncovering evidence of the interaction and integration of different ethnic groups with a presence in today's northern China, including the Xiongnu, Turks, Xianbei, Tuyuhun nomads and the Sogdians, who were active on the Silk Road, through the third to the ninth centuries.

The project was launched in 2021 and research teams specializing in multiple disciplines such as history, archaeology, genetics, ethnology and linguistics are involved.

One notable achievement has been the team's research into Yuwen Yong, Emperor Wudi of the North-