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# CHINA DAILY

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## Books of Xi's thought offer global insights

Publications in multiple foreign languages share nation's progress, wisdom with world

By MO JINGXI  
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Ragnar Baldursson, a Sinologist in Iceland, has accomplished a cross-cultural milestone by translating *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* into Icelandic, making it the first Nordic-language edition of the book.

The translation of the influential book, which offers readers direct insights into the political philosophy of the Chinese president, was motivated by Baldursson's commitment to better understanding China's evolving role in the modern world. Initially, Baldursson approached the task with some trepidation, recalling the two years he spent in his youth translating *the Analects of Confucius*. "It was a time-consuming and difficult task," he said. However, the belief that the process of translating Xi's book would further enrich his knowledge of China's development convinced him to accept the job.

"I was right," Baldursson said. "As I submerged myself in the translation of Xi Jinping's political thought, I found that many of his ideas echo the altruistic thinking of political idealists in ancient China."

In October 2022, the Icelandic edition of the first volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* was launched in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

Baldursson, who has worked as a diplomat for 25 years and once served as deputy head of the embassy of Iceland in Beijing, suggested every serious diplomat based in Beijing read the book.

"Actually, this applies to everyone who wants to understand China's rejuvenation and its significance for the rest of the world," he said.

It offers a different perspective compared with those reports and analyses on China's political priorities written by self-declared China specialists, he said.

According to Baldursson, the reader can follow step by step how Xi has advanced China's reform and opening-up to promote sustainable development, focusing on poverty alleviation, innovation, quality and ecological preservation.

Since the debut of the first volume 10 years ago, a total of four volumes of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* have been published in multi-

ple languages and distributed at home and abroad.

"Each volume brings further information on China's progress, problems and plans for solving them. Reading these books as they are published gives comprehensive overview about the priorities of the Chinese government in a clear and transparent manner," said Baldursson.

Over the past decade, a series of essential works by Xi, including *Up and Out of Poverty*, *Xi Jinping on the Belt and Road Initiative*, *Xi Jinping on Building a Human Community with a Shared Future*, and a compilation of excerpts from discourses on Chinese modernization have been translated into over 40 languages and published in around 180 countries and regions.

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev wrote a foreword for the Uzbek edition of Xi's book *Up and Out of Poverty*, which was published in November 2023. "This book by President Xi Jinping has rich political, economic and philosophical connotations, and reflects his profound thinking on poverty alleviation and the well-being of the people," he wrote.

As Uzbekistan plans to lift half of its impoverished population out of poverty by the end of 2026, the Uzbek president has said on many occasions that China's experience in poverty reduction is noteworthy and delegations have been sent to China to study the experience with the aim of implementing similar initiatives in the Central Asian country.

In June, the French, Russian, Arabic and Spanish editions of the first two volumes of *Selected Readings from the Works of Xi Jinping* were made available at home and abroad, after the English edition was published in March.

Rajan Bhattarai, a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and head of the CPN's Foreign Affairs Department, said he found the book thought-provoking.

"It provides great details about the work the Communist Party of China has been pursuing under his leadership. Xi has expressed his thoughts and vision with great clarity on each and every subject," he said.

See *Vision*, page 3

## COUNTRY AIMS FOR BEACHHEAD IN 6G DEVELOPMENT BATTLE

Established advantages in talent, innovation, patents poised to usher in successful implementation

By MA SI  
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Chinese academic researchers and telecom operators are leaving no stone unturned in efforts to establish a beachhead for 6G, the next-generation wireless technology that has already turned into a key battleground for innovation and industrial transformation.

Despite growing geopolitical interference in the global telecom industry, China has a solid foundation in telecom talent and patents, and its edge in 5G will help the country gain an upper hand in the race toward 6G research and development, experts and company executives said.

The comments came as the world



enters a crucial window of opportunity to identify technologies and formulate key standards for 6G. While there is still no universally accepted definition of the technology, 6G is expected to have far lower latency, higher speeds and more bandwidth than 5G.

More importantly, the technology will be able to support the integration of space, air, territorial and maritime communication technologies, which will spawn a wide range of innovative applications, they added.

See *Tech*, page 2



Seasoned shooter Li Yuehong cracked a hard target on Monday at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre, near Paris, France, to bring China its first-ever Olympic gold in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event. Cho Yeong-jae of South Korea won silver, and Li's teammate Wang Xinjie took home the bronze. AMR ALFIKY / REUTERS

## Swimmers' golden finish wins respect of opponents

By SUN XIAOCHEN in Paris  
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Despite a slow start affected by unfair anti-doping scrutiny, Chinese swimmers have capped their Olympic campaign with pride, bringing home the biggest medal haul ever, one new world record and plenty of respect from the Paris pool.

After nine days of intense competition, the Chinese swimming team wrapped up its Olympic program with a strong finish by pulling off an inspiring victory in the men's 4x100-meter medley relay, ahead of the United States and France, to add a second gold to its total of 12 medals. The team surpasses its previous best of 10, achieved at London 2012.

Propelled by 100m freestyle gold medalist and world record holder Pan Zhanle, the Chinese quartet, also including backstroke veteran Xu Jiayu, breaststroke world champion Qin Haiyang and butterfly specialist Sun Jiajun, came from behind, riding on Pan's scintillating pace in the final split to touch first in 3 minutes, 27.46 seconds in the heated final.

The exciting finish at the Paris La Defense Arena brought the applauding capacity crowd to its feet. The victory ended the US team's decades-long stranglehold on the medley relay in the Olympics.

During the medal ceremony, members of the once invincible US team, such as Caeleb Dressel and Ryan Murphy, greeted the Chinese team and shook hands with Pan and his teammates, before sitting down with the French squad for a group photo with the Chinese winners standing in the middle of the podium.

The mutual respect and appreciation helped ease the tension

between Chinese swimmers and some of their foreign opponents that stemmed from false doping accusations by overseas media, such as The New York Times and German broadcaster ARD, that targeted Chinese athletes involved in what was proved to be a food contamination incident in 2021.

The sensationalized reports, although denied by the World Anti-Doping Agency and World Aquatics, the global governing body for swimming, led to more frequent than normal doping tests for Chinese swimmers before and during the Games.

However, Team China rose to the challenge and delivered when it mattered most.

Regarding the rigorous testing program that Team China endured in Paris, backstroke star Xu said: "We have no problem with that. We follow the rules. I don't want to make any excuses. We did overcome some challenges. We never shy away from challenges. This is something that is rooted in our Chinese spirit."

After winning the men's 100m freestyle in a world record time of 46.40 seconds on Wednesday, Pan backed it up with an epic 100m split in 45.92, the world's first sub-46 100m split, in his relay leg to push China ahead in the final sprint.

Murphy, a two-time individual backstroke Olympic champion, paid respect to his Chinese opponents, stressing that it is healthy for the sport to have more balanced competition.

"Today, China was just a little bit better," Murphy said. "It was really tight all the way through. Hats off to China, they had a great race tonight."

Inside See more, pages 3, 7, 8



Li Yuehong competes on Monday in the final of the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the Paris Olympics in France. Li clinched his first Olympic gold on Monday. ZHAO DINGZHE / XINHUA



Zou Jingyuan holds up his gold medal after winning the artistic gymnastics men's parallel bars event of the Paris Olympics on Monday. GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP

Dressel, a nine-time Olympic gold medalist on the US relay team, said that the Chinese quartet deserved the win.

"Australia and the US, I feel, are the two most recognizable, but from these Games I saw it from China and France," he said.

## China playing a key role in maintaining world peace

In an increasingly polarized world, China is emerging as a significant player in the quest for world peace. The country's consistent calls for immediate cease-fires and direct negotiations for the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Palestine-Israel conflict, as well as its recent hosting of high-level officials from relevant parties in Beijing, underscore its great efforts and unique potential in mediating in these crises.

China recently brokered a historic unity pledge by 14 different Palestinian factions in Beijing, while Ukraine Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrapped up a four-

### WORLD WATCH

By Wilson Lee Flores

day visit to China, during which Beijing reiterated its readiness to keep playing a constructive role in pushing for a cease-fire.

China, with its pragmatic approach and deep-rooted philosophical values, is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in resolving these conflicts.

The country's foreign policy is marked by a pragmatic approach

that has proven effective over decades. Its economic diplomacy has helped form influential groupings and fostered stable relationships, even in complex scenarios. The late Philippine ambassador to China, Chito Sta. Romana, noted that China has successfully resolved numerous border disputes through patient bilateral negotiations. This pragmatic approach extends to its relations with Russia and Ukraine, where China's substantial trade ties make it a critical stakeholder. Similarly, its evolving relationships in the Middle East — highlighted by deep historical ties with Pal-

estian leaders and improving relations with Israel — demonstrate its diplomatic effectiveness.

China's diplomacy is deeply influenced by ancient Confucian and Taoist philosophies, which emphasize harmony and the reconciliation of contradictions. Confucianism advocates social stability and order, while Daoism promotes balance and the natural flow of events. As the Chinese proverb goes, "Harmony is precious", reflecting the country's commitment to maintaining harmony in its diplomatic efforts.

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INSIDE  
Constructive endeavors made to create stability  
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## PAGE TWO

## Tech: Openness key to China's global 6G vision

From page 1

China is aiming to commercialize the technology around 2030. "We will kick off a string of scientific projects targeting 6G and aim to achieve breakthroughs in crucial technologies," said Jin Zhuanglong, minister of industry and information technology.

**Progress underway**

In July, a group of Chinese telecom engineers announced they had established the world's first field test network that integrates communications and intelligence.

The experimental network has achieved remarkable improvements in key communication metrics, including capacity, coverage and efficiency, according to Zhang Ping, a Chinese Academy of Engineering academician and a professor at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications.

The network serves as a platform for research institutions conducting theoretical research and initial verification of 6G pivotal technologies, and effectively lowers the entry threshold for 6G research, making it more accessible for innovation, according to the team of engineers.

"The European Union, the United States, Japan, South Korea and other countries and regions have all initiated research on 6G, and China has unique strengths," said Wen Ku, director-general of the China Communications Standards Association.

China has made remarkable strides in 5G infrastructure, which gives it an unparalleled edge in exploring 6G technologies, he said.

By the end of May, China had built over 3.8 million 5G base stations, accounting for 60 percent of the global total. These advances have helped position China as a global leader in 5G technology, with over 60 percent of mobile communication users in the country now utilizing 5G services, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

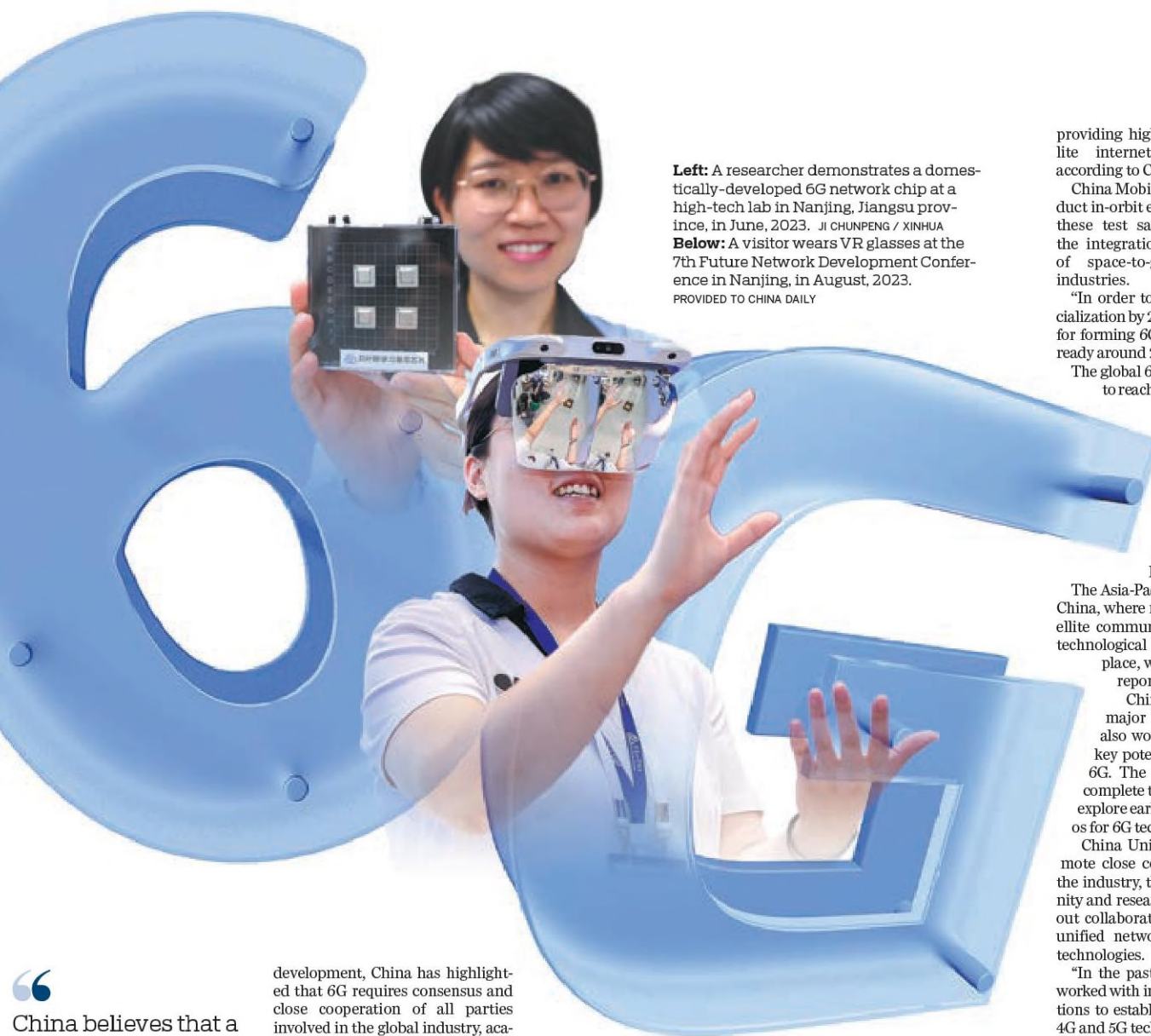
Meanwhile, China has handled over 94,000 5G applications in industries such as manufacturing, mining, power, ports and healthcare, the ministry added.

"Advancing the use of 5G is like building a good bridge and road for 6G, and efforts to promote the large-scale application of 5G will lay a solid foundation for 6G development, which is still in the early stage," Wen said.

More importantly, the country already has an early edge in 6G patent applications over the US and Japan.

China's 6G patent applications accounted for 40.3 percent of the global total, and topped the list of global 6G patent filings, according to a survey conducted by Japanese media company Nikkei and Tokyo-based research company Cyber Creative Institute in 2021.

The US and Japan took second and third spots on the list with 35.2 and 9.9 percent respectively, followed by Europe with 8.9 percent, and South Korea with 4.2 percent, the report said.



**Left:** A researcher demonstrates a domestically-developed 6G network chip at a high-tech lab in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, in June, 2023. JI CHUNPENG / XINHUA  
**Below:** A visitor wears VR glasses at the 7th Future Network Development Conference in Nanjing, in August, 2023. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

China believes that a mobile network is an important infrastructure that needs to be built ahead of schedule. Once the road is ready, cars will come naturally."

**Yang Guang**, senior chief analyst at the global market research company Omdia

In the telecom industry, countries with core advantages in previous-generation wireless technology are more likely to gain advantages in next-generation technology and achieve technological leadership and promote healthy industry development, China Galaxy Securities said in a research note.

Yang Guang, senior chief analyst at the global market research company Omdia, said: "China believes that a mobile network is an important infrastructure that needs to be built ahead of schedule. Once the road is ready, cars will come naturally. The underlying condition is that Chinese operators are all State-owned enterprises and need to bear considerable social responsibility."

European and US telecom operators are private enterprises, and their first consideration is financial performance. Their main objective is to reduce costs, which makes them less inclined to build infrastructure, Yang said.

**Vitality, innovation**

In sharp contrast to some countries' closed mindset in telecom

development, China has highlighted that 6G requires consensus and close cooperation of all parties involved in the global industry, academia, research and applications. This will generate greater vitality and a more vibrant innovation atmosphere, experts said.

Zhang Yunming, vice-minister of industry and information technology, has repeatedly called for more efforts to deepen international cooperation to promote the formulation of unified 6G global standards.

Both Chinese and foreign telecom and smartphone companies have participated in China's 6G technical trials and tests, as 6G moves from a concept to a crucial stage of potential technological breakthroughs, said Wang Zhiqin, head of the IMT-2030 (6G) Promotion Group, a government-affiliated flagship platform for promoting 6G and international cooperation in the country.

Wang said Nokia Shanghai Bell, Ericsson, China Mobile, China Telecom, China Unicom, Huawei, ZTE, Vivo and Inspur have participated in China's 6G technical trials and tests.

China's 6G development adheres to the principle of open cooperation, strengthens international exchanges, and has inked cooperation agreements with partners in South Korea, Europe and India, she said.

That is in contrast to what the US government has done. In February, a group of 10 countries, including the US and the United Kingdom, announced that they had endorsed a set of principles to underpin the development of secure and resilient 6G networks.

Dong Yifan, an assistant research fellow at the Institute of European Studies at the Beijing-based China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said this is an example of how US-led developed

countries want to unite with their allies to have a bigger say in formulating 6G standards.

"They have lost their edge in 5G and (now) they want to regain their strength in 6G, which has turned into a key battleground for innovation and industrial transformation," Dong said.

"This is a typical US practice of forming a small group to contain China in the international telecom arena, which will, in fact, slow down the development of the entire global telecommunications technology, given China's unparalleled advantage in the telecom industry."

The US government has already pressured a string of countries such as the UK into removing the telecom equipment of Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE from their 5G networks by fanning national security fears, which had never been substantiated, Dong added.

Alex Sinclair, chief technology officer of GSMA, an industry group representing the world's biggest mobile phone operators, said it will work hard to avoid the so-called "small yard, high fence" situation with 6G.

"If there are trends of isolation, it would have a negative impact on the industry and we would lose many advantages. Ultimately, the development of 6G technology standards should be a global collaborative effort involving academia, research institutions, and commercial sectors, including innovative technology companies," Sinclair said.

**Ready for liftoff**

Huang Yuhong, general manager of the China Mobile Research Institute, said that "6G is expected to be commercially available around 2030 in China, and 3GPP (an international organization for telecom technology development) is expected to start 6G standardization in 2025. As the day is drawing near, 6G R&D has now reached a key breakthrough period."

China Mobile, the world's largest telecom carrier by mobile phone subscribers, successfully launched the world's first satellite to test 6G architecture in February, marking a milestone in its efforts to explore integrated space and ground communication technology.

The low-Earth orbit test satellite is the first to employ 6G design architecture, which was jointly developed by China Mobile and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Innovation Academy for Microsatellites.

The system, utilizing domestic software and hardware, supports in-orbit software reconstruction, flexible deployment of core network functions and automated management, enhancing the efficiency and reliability of the in-orbit operation of the satellite core network, China Mobile said.

Orbiting at a height of approximately 500 kilometers, these satellites offer advantages such as low latency and high data transfer rates compared with high-orbit satellites. As a crucial platform for future integrated space and ground networks, low-earth orbit satellites can address telecom signal coverage gaps in terrestrial mobile networks,

providing higher bandwidth satellite internet services globally, according to China Mobile.

China Mobile said it plans to conduct in-orbit experiments based on these test satellites, accelerating the integration and development of space-to-ground technology industries.

"In order to realize 6G commercialization by 2030, the base stations for forming 6G networks should be ready around 2029," Huang added.

The global 6G market is predicted to reach \$340 billion by 2040, with a compound annual growth rate of over 28 percent between 2031 and 2040, according to a report by the market analysis firm Market Research Future.

The Asia-Pacific region, especially China, where more attention to satellite communications and related technological improvements takes place, will lead the trend, the report said.

China Unicom, another major Chinese telecom, is also working hard to explore key potential technologies for 6G. The company expects to complete technical research and explore early application scenarios for 6G technology by 2025.

China Unicom said it will promote close collaboration between the industry, the academic community and research institutes to carry out collaborative innovation in 6G unified network architecture and technologies.

"In the past, Chinese companies worked with international organizations to establish standards for 3G, 4G and 5G technologies," said Xiang Ligang, director-general of the Information Consumption Alliance, a telecom industry association. "They should enhance their partnerships and cooperation with foreign counterparts to promote the formation of globally unified 6G standards."

**Crucial upgrade**

As the commercial application of 6G is still years away, Chinese telecom companies are also working hard to develop the 5G-Advanced, or 5G-A technology, which is a crucial upgrade to the 5G network in functionality and coverage and paves the way for key 6G technologies. For instance, 5G-A features 10-gigabit peak downlink speeds to meet increasingly diverse service requirements.

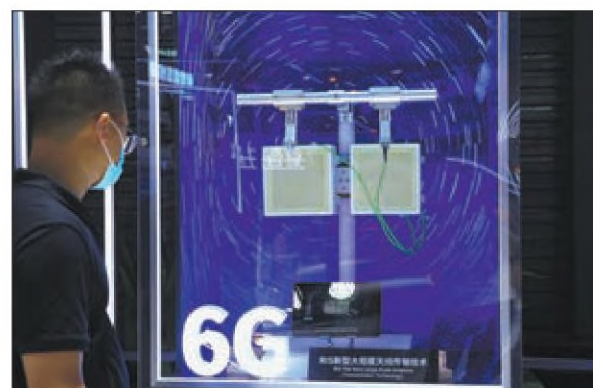
Wang Tao, executive director of Huawei Technologies Co, said over 60 telecom operators and partners globally have announced the arrival of 5G-A this commercial year. Over 30 devices supporting 5G-A are set to launch this year, marking a significant milestone in the digital era.

Wang said that 5G-A is a path for the industry that protects existing investments, while creating new business opportunities. He called for continuous enhancement of 5G-A technology to sustain the health and vitality of the 5G industry and to realize the vision of 5G transforming society.

As 5G-A accelerates its commercial deployment, AI brings new opportunities for the telecommunications industry. Wang said that "2024 marks the convergence of the 5G-A commercial year and the AI-to-device year, heralding the mobile AI era where intelligent services become ubiquitous."



**Left:** Participants read an information board at the opening of the Global 6G Conference 2024 in Nanjing on April 17. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



**Middle:** An attendee visits a booth featuring 6G RIS new large-scale antenna transmission technology at the Mobile World Congress in Shanghai, in June last year. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



**Right:** Visitors wait in line to try AR glasses at the XREAL booth at the 2023 MWC. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## TOP NEWS

## Nobel prize-winning physicist passes away

By WANG XIAOYU  
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Chinese American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee, a Nobel laureate who made significant contributions to advancing China's science education and innovation in high-energy physics, passed away in the United States early Monday. He was 97.

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, where Lee was an honorary professor, confirmed his death in an obituary released on Monday afternoon.

Lee, who was also a foreign academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was born in Shanghai in November 1926. He attended universities in Zhejiang and Yunnan provinces before receiving a doctoral degree at the University of Chicago in the US in 1950.

From 1953 until his retirement in 2012, he taught at Columbia University in New York City, where he was named Enrico Fermi Professor of Physics.

Lee was best known for his joint investigation of the principle of parity with Yang Zhenning, also known as Yang Chen-Ning, another renowned Chinese physicist who now lives on the campus of Tsinghua University in Beijing. The research earned them the 1957 Nobel Prize in physics.

In addition to his cutting-edge research, Lee was deeply respected for his efforts in cultivating Chinese science talent and contributing to the development of the study of physics in China.

Since the early 1970s, he frequently traveled to China to give lectures and provide suggestions on the nation's science education, frontier research in high-energy physics, high-quality talent cultivation and China's scientific cooperation with other countries.

He helped establish a number of academic programs for gifted

young people and college students in China to foster talent and promote Chinese researchers' communication with the US and other developed countries.

He also played an important role in advocating the establishment of the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the China-US joint committee on high-energy physics, and promoted construction of several large, high-end science facilities that have spearheaded China's innovative research in basic science and paved the way for the nation's breakthrough discoveries in high-energy physics.

Yan Ning, an academician of the CAS and founding president of the Shenzhen Medical Academy of Research and Translation, said on Monday on her social media account that the death of Lee was "the fall of a giant star".

Tang Chao, an academician of the CAS and head of the National Natural Science Foundation of China's interdisciplinary science department, said that the formation of the China-United States Physics Examination and Application program, which was initiated by Lee more than four decades ago, blazed a trail for sending Chinese to study in the US.

Nearly 1,000 students enrolled in the program before it was ended in 1988, and many have become renowned scientists or leading company managers.

"The program was a landmark in China's international science and talent communication" and had an impact on China's history of reform and opening-up, Tang said in a statement on social media.

"His strong sense of patriotism and his perception that science belongs to all of humanity remain fresh and admirable and can serve as a model for us to learn," he said.



Tsung-dao Lee (1926-2024)

## Smart helper



A humanoid robot works at a factory of Zeekr, a premium electric vehicle brand of Chinese automaker Geely, in Ningbo, Zhejiang province. The robot will help with logistics work on production lines, the factory said on Monday. ZHENG XUOXIONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Expansion of services sector drives recovery

Boosting domestic demand should be top priority, experts say

By OUYANG SHIJIA  
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China's business activity recovered further in July, with the services sector expanding at an accelerated pace due to improvements in both demand and supply, according to a private survey report.

As challenges and uncertainties remain, expanding domestic demand, particularly by spurring consumer sentiments and improving the offering of consumer goods and services, should be among the top priorities for policymakers, in order to strengthen the world's second-largest economy in the coming months, experts said.

The Caixin China General Services Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 52.1 in July from 51.2 in June, according to the report released on Monday by media group Caixin. The figure, which is above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction, remained in expansionary territory for the 19th consecutive month.

Citing the previously released Caixin manufacturing PMI for last month, which fell to 49.8 in July from 51.8 in June, the report noted that faster services activity growth was offset by a slower and only marginal rise in manufacturing production, with the Caixin composite PMI, which includes activity in both sectors, posting 51.2 in July against 52.8 in June. "The services sector saw improvement, while manufactur-

ing faced greater pressure. The former outperformed the latter in terms of supply, demand and employment," said Wang Zhe, senior economist at Caixin Insight Group. "Regarding market expectations, optimism improved compared to June, although the corresponding gauge remained at a low level."

As China's GDP growth in the second quarter slowed to 4.7 percent year-on-year, after 5.3 percent growth in the first quarter, Wang said it will be "challenging" for the country to meet its annual growth target of around 5 percent.

"The most prominent issues include the still-weak effective domestic demand and low market optimism. Therefore, policy efforts should focus on stabilizing growth, improving employment, safeguarding people's livelihoods, intensifying policy stimulus, ensuring effective implementation of previous policies, and unleashing market vitality," he said.

In its latest efforts to spur domestic demand, China announced a plan to boost consumption by expanding opening-up in the services sector, improving the supply of services and fostering new services consumption scenarios.

On Saturday, the State Council, China's cabinet, issued a 20-point guideline aimed at tapping the consumption potential, boosting new types of consumption, and strengthening the growth momentum in services spanning

hospitality, elderly care, nursery services, entertainment, tourism, sports and education.

Among exports, investment and consumption, the traditional "trifecta" powering China's economic development, spurring consumption will be the key driving force boosting China's economic growth, said Chen Wenling, chief economist at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

To further prop up the economy, China needs to take more measures to boost consumer sentiment and confidence as well as expand consumer demand, so more efforts are needed to stabilize the job market and improve the supply-side offering of consumer goods and services, Chen told China Daily on the sidelines of a symposium organized on Monday in Beijing by Renmin University of China's Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies.

A research report, titled Decisive Battle: The Progress of China's Comprehensive Deepening Reform and High-Standard Opening-Up in the New Era and Prospects for 2029 and 2035, was released during the symposium, which took a rosy view of China's economic prospects in the years ahead. According to the report, China's new quality productive forces are poised to continue to grow in 2029, with strategic emerging industries accounting for more than 20 percent of GDP. By then, more than 40 percent of Fortune Global 500 companies will be from China.

## Peace: Nation well-placed to be mediator

From page 1

Additionally, "A gentleman seeks harmony but not uniformity" underscores the importance of achieving balance while respecting differences.

These ancient principles guide China's efforts in conflict resolution, aiming to harmonize opposing views and foster mutual understanding.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence — mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence — form the cornerstone of China's diplomatic strategy. In the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Palestine-Israel conflict, China has emphasized these principles by advocating for direct negotiations and respecting concerns of all parties. This approach resonates with the global community's desire for a fair and balanced resolution to these conflicts.

Proposed by President Xi Jinping during the Boao Forum in April 2022, the Global Security Initiative upholds the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. It pursues the long-term objective of

building a security community and advocates a new path to security featuring dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance, and win-win over zero-sum. The concept paper lays out 20 priorities for cooperation, including upholding the United Nations' central role in security governance, supporting efforts to prevent war and conflict, developing peace-building architecture, and promoting post-war reconstruction.

China has growing economic influence. As the largest trade partner of both Russia and Ukraine, it holds significant leverage in these negotiations. Its economic relations with Israel and long-standing support for Palestinian causes further enhance its mediation capabilities. China's success in brokering reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran illustrates its diplomatic sophistication and ability to manage complex international issues. The Chinese proverb "Endure a moment of anger to maintain peace; retreat a step to gain a wider perspective" reflects the strategic patience and compromise that underpin China's diplomatic approach.

China's strategic interests are closely tied to global stability. By

facilitating cease-fire talks, China not only bolsters its global stature but also aligns with its economic and geopolitical goals. A stable global environment is essential for China's continued economic growth and the realization of its long-term strategic objectives.

Historically a victim of foreign invasions and never a colonizing power, China abhors and opposes the chaos and immorality of war. Therefore, it can be concluded that China's unique blend of historical pragmatism, philosophical depth and rising economic power positions it as a key mediator in the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts.

Despite ongoing challenges, China's commitment to peaceful coexistence and its strategic interests in global stability provide a robust foundation for facilitating cease-fire negotiations. As global attention focuses on these conflicts, China's efforts could hopefully pave the way for more balanced, decisive and enduring resolutions to these crises.

The author is moderator of *Pan-desal Forum* and columnist of *Philippine Star* and *Abante* newspapers. The views do not necessarily reflect those of *China Daily*.

## Shooter adds another gold to team's medal haul

By LI YINGXUE  
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Seasoned shooter Li Yuehong cracked a hard target on Monday at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre, near Paris, France, to bring China its first-ever Olympic gold in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event.

Cho Yeong-jae of South Korea won the silver, and Li's teammate Wang Xinjie took home the bronze.

Li, 34, who has made three Olympic appearances and won bronze medals at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, realized his golden dream with 32 hits at the ongoing Games. At the prize ceremony on Monday, Li triumphantly raised his arms, sharing the joy of his victory with the audiences.

His monumental achievement raised the number of gold medals won by the Chinese shooting team in Paris to five. The team's overall performance has been stellar, with a haul of 10 medals, including two silver and three bronze medals, making this the team's best Olympic show ever.

From the first gold secured by Generation Z members Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao in the 10m air rifle mixed team event, to the fifth gold won by Li, who is the Chinese shooting team's eldest member, the champions demonstrated how talent spans generations in China.

Monday's final rounds were fiercely competitive, but even when he was trailing, Li — a world record holder — didn't lose hope, fighting until his very last shot. In the decisive final three rounds, he delivered two perfect sets of five hits and one set with four out of five, securing his lead and clinching the gold.

After his historic win, Li shared a long embrace with his coach, Zhang Jianwei.

"Our coordination is seamless. We understand each other with just a glance," Li said, expressing deep gratitude for the unwavering support and meticulous training he received from Zhang since they started collaborating in 2021.

Li's victory also filled the last gap in the Chinese shooting team's gold medal puzzle. Before the Paris Games, the men's 25m rapid fire pistol was the only event in which the Chinese team had not yet won an Olympic gold.

"I stand on the shoulders of giants, learning from my predecessors. They have won every championship except the Olympics. I carry their dreams with me," Li said, attributing this breakthrough to the hard work and dedication of generations of Chinese shooters. "This gold medal belongs to each and every one of them."

Li gained fame early in his career and secured many milestones. At the 2010 Asian Games, held in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, he was a newcomer to the national team and won two gold medals in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol individual and team events.

In August 2023, Li created a world record in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol individual event at the ISSF World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, with 39 hits, which he still holds.

However, his Olympic journey had been challenging until now.

Li recalled that during the Rio Games, he wasn't yet "capable enough" of winning gold and was "thrilled" with just bronze. During the Tokyo Games, although his skills had improved, his focus wavered and he came in third.

"In my first two Olympics, I couldn't consistently perform at a high level, so I mostly gained experience from (my) losses," he said. "After working with my new coach, I focused more on avoiding the mistakes I had made before. This time, I was in a much better shape. I thank myself for the years of perseverance, and I am deeply grateful to everyone on the team. We have all been striving toward (achieving) our dreams."

Veteran shooter Tao Luna, who claimed the first gold medal for China at the 2000 Sydney Olympics in the women's 10m air pistol event, has been watching the Chinese shooting team's performance at the Paris Games.

"Success is not accidental, but comes from long-term, relentless effort. I am incredibly proud of our Chinese shooting team," Tao told The Paper.

## Flood alert



Stranded cars lie partially submerged in water after heavy rain hit Lyngbyvejen in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Sunday. The rain in the capital area caused traffic problems in several places.

STEVEN KNAPP / RITZAU SCANPIX / AFP

## Vision: Books enable better understanding of China

From page 1

Noting that Xi's thoughts are in-depth guiding principles for the new era, Bhattarai said, "Many of his views and opinions are based on practical experiences and make sense in our context as well."

As Xi's works are being translated into more languages and published overseas, foreign readers who are interested in China's political priorities and the country's success now have the chance to hear the answers directly from the Chinese leader.

For Wirun Pichaiwongphakdee, director of the Thailand-China Research Center of the Belt and Road Initiative, the book *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* is like the "secret to successfully governing a country".

Calling the book "a valuable treasure for developing countries", Pichaiwongphakdee said, "Every time I read *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*, I feel like I'm seeking wisdom from a learned sage, experiencing

the Chinese leader's love for his family and country through his down-to-earth words.

"Most importantly, it allows the world to experience the remarkable course of China's reform and development through the macro perspective of the Chinese leader."

Rana Ali Qaisar Khan, executive member of the Central Standing Committee of the National Party of Pakistan, said that *Selected Readings from the Works of Xi Jinping* describes the beautiful vision of building a world of lasting peace, universal security, common prosperity, openness, inclusiveness and clean beauty, and provides China's wisdom and China's plan for maintaining world peace and promoting common development.

Khan said he will use the ideological essence he learned from the book to help promote the development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan.

*Xinhua* contributed to this story.

## CHINA

## Horseplay

Tibetan riders perform horseback stunts at the opening ceremony of the 22nd Shambhala Tourism and Art Festival at the Dangzhou grassland in Gannan Tibet autonomous prefecture, Gansu province, on Sunday. People dressed in festive attire, sang and danced to enjoy the festivities. WEI DEZHAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



## Mandarin teachers get ready for Saudi Arabia

By YANG CHENG in Tianjin  
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A total of 175 Chinese language teachers for primary and middle schools will begin their careers in Saudi Arabia in mid-August.

They will become the first batch of Mandarin teachers to serve in Saudi Arabia, honoring an agreement on enhancing cooperation in Chinese language education that the two countries made last year.

They completed pre-service training at Tianjin Normal University from July 29 to Friday.

The training was organized by the university, the Saudi Education Ministry and the Chinese Ministry of Education's Center for Language Education and Cooperation.

The website of Cankao Xiaoxi, a newspaper affiliated with Xinhua News Agency, said Saudi Arabia will open Chinese language classes in middle schools.

China will send 800 Chinese language teachers to Saudi Arabia, according to another website, jiaohanyu.com, which offers details of the latest Chinese language teaching programs and job opportunities.

Yaqin Talal A. Jebreen, a human resources specialist at Tatweer Co from Saudi Arabia, the chief representative in organizing the training, thanked the center and the university for organizing it.

"The successful completion of the pre-service training for the first batch of Chinese teachers who are about to go to Saudi Arabia is a reflection of the solid partnership and fruitful cooperation between Saudi Arabia and China," she said.

"And I believe these teachers' fulfillment of the jobs will set a brand-new beginning for China-Saudi Arabia educational cooperation."

Liu Xiaoting, a representative who spoke for the 175 teachers, said, "We are grateful for such a valuable training opportunity and ambitious to contribute to Chinese language education in Saudi Arabia soon."

The year marks the 60th anniversary of Tianjin Normal University's international Chinese education initiatives, along with the 20th anniversary of its international Chinese teacher volunteer service.

Qu Kai, the university's Party secretary, said its efforts have yielded more than 60,000 international students who are proficient in Chinese language and culture and it will continue to boost China-Saudi Arabia international Chinese education cooperation, providing students and teachers with better Chinese training services.

## Polluters held liable to restore environment

Restorative justice approach adopted to enhance ecological governance

By YANG ZEKUN  
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China has adopted a restorative justice approach to handling environmental pollution cases as part of efforts to enhance its ecological governance system, the Supreme People's Procuratorate said on Monday.

In the first half of this year, 1,597 individuals were prosecuted in 668 cases for environmental pollution offenses, according to the top procuratorate. It said that environmental pollution crimes present a mix of old and new challenges, requiring comprehensive strategies and intensified governance efforts.

In February, the top procuratorate launched a special nationwide operation focused on addressing livelihood issues, including the protection of the environment and natural resources, which will run until December.

The rapid pace of industrialization and urbanization has led to an increase in solid waste production, particularly hazardous waste, in certain areas. Some enterprises, facing insufficient disposal capacity and high costs, resort to illegally transferring hazardous waste to other regions or provinces, causing soil, water and air pollution, the top procuratorate said.

In a recent case, a man surnamed Zhang, lacking the required waste disposal qualifications, accepted construction and

untreated domestic waste in a rented forest area in Beijing's Fangshan district from 2020 to July 2021. Furthermore, he hired individuals to work at the site and collected dumping fees.

The Beijing Municipal People's Procuratorate said the total weight of the illegally dumped waste reached nearly 449,000 metric tons, severely damaging the land's original functions and vegetation. The costs for cleaning, disposal and environmental restoration, along with the loss of ecological services, amounted to over 138 million yuan (\$19.3 million).

The Fangshan District People's Procuratorate filed public interest litigation against Zhang and four others involved in environmental pollution crimes, in addition to investigating their criminal acts. The Fangshan District People's Court sentenced Zhang and his accomplices to prison terms ranging from one year and eight months to six years and 10 months for environmental pollution, along with fines ranging from 20,000 to 70,000 yuan.

Zhang was also ordered to bear the costs of ecological restoration, loss of ecological services, punitive damages and appraisal fees totaling about 140 million yuan. The other defendants were held jointly liable with Zhang for 2 percent to 15 percent of the costs.

Two defendants appealed the verdict, but the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court

recently upheld the original judgment.

The top procuratorate said that industries such as electroplating, printing, chemical engineering and metal processing remain key areas for environmental pollution crimes. Some privately operated workshops deliberately evade supervision and unlawfully discharge pollutants.

Falsification of monitoring data is another significant concern. While China's laws require key polluting units to install monitoring equipment and connect it to ecological authorities, some entities manipulate data to avoid regulatory oversight, which has a negative impact on environmental compliance.

Certain third-party testing and monitoring institutions, motivated by self-interest, aid waste producers in concealing pollution through the falsification of data, the top procuratorate said.

In June, it released three typical cases of prosecuting third-party environmental protection agencies for data falsification, providing guidance to procuratorates at all levels in handling such violations. The cases, supervised by the top procuratorate and the ministries of ecology and environment and public security, covered environmental impact assessments, testing and vehicle emissions.

From 2022 to 2023, multiple central departments, including the top procuratorate and court, collaborated on a special campaign to address data falsification by third-party environmental protection agencies.

## Overseas Chinese students learn about agricultural culture at summer camp

By ZHENG CAIXIONG  
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The plump, round cocoons turn into exquisite silk threads as the spinning machine rotates and, after dehydration, beautiful flowers, leaves, roots and stems are ingeniously used to create unique embossed works.

Such traditional Chinese workmanship surprised many young overseas Chinese students who were attending a summer camp in Guangzhou, Guangdong's provincial capital, on Friday.

Wen Xiaobo, vice-president of South China Agricultural University, said it had planned multiple experiences with an agricultural culture theme for the visiting students.

"I hope every overseas Chinese student can experience the unique charm and profound influence of Chinese agricultural culture from all angles and perspectives during their visit," he said.

The 10-day summer camp,

which ended on Monday, attracted 66 overseas Chinese students from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Jamaica and Belgium.

At the university, the students also visited the South China Agricultural Museum, where it said they "traveled through time and space" to observe ancient farming tools up close, learn about crop planting techniques and experience the customs and traditions of the ancient farming society.

Under the guidance of teachers, the students operated the silk drawing machines by hand, experienced the process of spinning silk, and learned embossing techniques, using their imagination and creativity to give flowers new life, the university said.

The opportunity to experience the beauty of Chinese agricultural culture through hands-on operation allowed them to deepen their understanding and identification with Chinese culture, it said.

Li Chengxuan, a student from the UK, said the summer camp

activities were exciting and interesting, especially the embossing, which he had never experienced before.

"The summer camp is an unforgettable experience and journey," he said.

Ivar Yu Yongqiang, from Belgium, said the camp gave them many new experiences, giving them a new understanding of traditional Chinese agriculture and a liking for traditional crafts.

The visit to the university was part of an Overseas Chinese Youth Chinese Agriculture Culture Experience Summer Camp hosted by the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese and jointly organized by the Guangdong Province Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese and the university.

The students also visited Jiangmen, a famous hometown for overseas Chinese, a Guangdong culinary technical school and famous enterprises to appreciate South China's colorful culture and the rapid development of science and technology.

## Light-rail interchange for Macao-Zhuhai connection completed

By CHAI HUA  
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A cross-border light railway link connecting the Macao Special Administrative Region and Hengqin Island in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, is one step closer to completion, enhancing Macao's integration into the "one-hour living circle" of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The Macao Public Works Bureau announced last week that an interchange facility linking Lotus Station on Macao's Light Rail Transit Taipa line and HE1 station on the Hengqin extension line has been completed.

The 2.2-kilometer extension starts from HE1 station near Lotus Bridge in Macao, runs across Shizimen Waterway to Zhuhai's Hengqin Island through an underwater tunnel, and ends at HE2 station at the front of Hengqin Port.

Construction of the extension line was completed earlier this year and testing has started. With the finalization of the interchange, the overall project is scheduled to be completed in November and put into operation by the end of the year, according to the bureau.

Southern Metropolis Daily reported on Monday that the new LRT line is scheduled to start trial operation in October.

Upon completion, it will create a more comfortable and convenient cross-border travel environment for residents of Zhuhai and Macao, and other cities in the Bay Area, because Hengqin Port is also linked to the Guangzhou-Zhuhai Intercity Rail, which fans out to other cities in Guangdong, such as Zhongshan, Foshan and Guangzhou.

The cross-border project is regarded as a public infrastructure priority for this year's 25th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland.

An extension from Hengqin Port to the Guangzhou-Zhuhai-Macao high-speed railway route, which starts from Guangzhou North station, is also in the planning stages.

According to the Hengqin Checkpoint, the number of inbound and



I think the transportation between Hengqin and Macao is already very convenient, but I also would like to have a try when the new LRT service opens."

Dai Min, passenger from the Chinese mainland

outbound passengers through the port exceeded 16.7 million last year, double the number in 2022. In the first half of this year, the number has surged 44 percent year-on-year.

Hengqin Port has been an important gateway for entering and exiting Macao during the summer vacation, an officer at the checkpoint said. The island's Zhuhai Chimelong International Ocean Resort, a favorite destination for families, is linked with Hengqin Port through intercity rail transit.

He said the cross-border travel route of "Hengqin plus Macao" is becoming increasingly popular, making it the preferred holiday travel choice for many residents of the Bay Area.

Dai Min, a passenger from the Chinese mainland, visited Macao and Zhuhai from Shenzhen over the weekend. She said she took a free shuttle bus to her hotel after arriving through Hengqin Port.

Several hotels in Macao provide frequent free shuttle bus services to and from Hengqin Port every day and visitors can also take public buses.

"The drive between the checkpoint and our hotel in Macao was about 20 minutes," Dai said. "I think the transportation between Hengqin and Macao is already very convenient, but I also would like to have a try when the new LRT service opens."

## Fine folk



Actors perform Jin opera at the 2024 Jinci Temple Fair in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi province, on Monday. The three-day event, which commenced on Monday, boasts a series of folk activities including music performances and theatrical shows. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

## Biodegradable material for wound healing developed

Chinese researchers have developed a band-aid-like biodegradable composite material that can promote complete wound healing and the growth of skin-like tissue.

The study, conducted by Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University and the Wuhan University of Technology, was published in the International Journal of Biological Macromolecules.

The biocomposite material is made from silk fibroin, sodium alginate and other natural polymers. When applied to a wound, its micro-nano-layered structure guides skin cells to "climb" to various skin layers, promoting full-thickness skin repair and regeneration, according to Wang Xinyu, a professor at the university.

The process results in the growth of native-like skin, which differs from artificial skin and possesses normal sensory functions like touch and pain perception.

The material can be absorbed by the human body or excreted as metabolic byproducts such as amino acids, carbon dioxide and water.

The breakthrough can be applied in the repair of skin and mucosal defects in the oral and maxillofacial regions, as well as the repair of burn-induced skin defects.

It can accelerate wound healing and address issues such as a shortage of autologous skin graft materials and non-degradable repair materials, as well as allergies.

XINHUA

# CHINA

## Chengdu expo lays out examples for better ecological development

Exhibition seen as part of larger project to green the city, raising people's awareness of environment

By YAN DONGJIE in Chengdu  
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China has set good examples on how to balance economic development with ecology to create a more sustainable way to live, according to horticultural experts attending the International Horticultural Exhibition 2024 in Chengdu, Sichuan province.

The exhibition, themed around Chengdu being a park city, covers 42 hectares. It opened in April and will run until Oct 28, and features 113 exhibitions and gardens from across the globe. There are seven major exhibition areas showcasing the best in gardening from countries such as France, Italy, the United Kingdom and cities around China.

"I must mention how impressive the country's development is with ecological development, and this is the direction that we should pursue for our next generation not just in China, but in the world," said Lee Da-eun, of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), from South Korea.

Leonardo Capitanio, president of AIPH, said the Chengdu expo has reached a new level for an international horticultural exhibition, with excellent gardens featuring a lot of greenery.

"China has a beautiful vision on designing the future. You (China) are designing in a proper way because you are looking for a more sustainable way to live. I see what we, as foreigners, can learn from this country," he said.

Tim Briercliffe, AIPH secretary general, said he has witnessed China becoming a more sustainable country with cities becoming greener in recent years.

"I heard at the Beijing expo in 2019 the announcement from President Xi Jinping, where he talked about a vision of ecological development in cities. What I've seen since then is cities are really implementing that and to the point where it's changing people's lives," he said.

Briercliffe said he liked the traditional culture displayed in gardens from different cities in China such as Yangzhou, but he's more interested in how greenery can connect with people's daily lives, especially in big cities with their concrete and buildings.

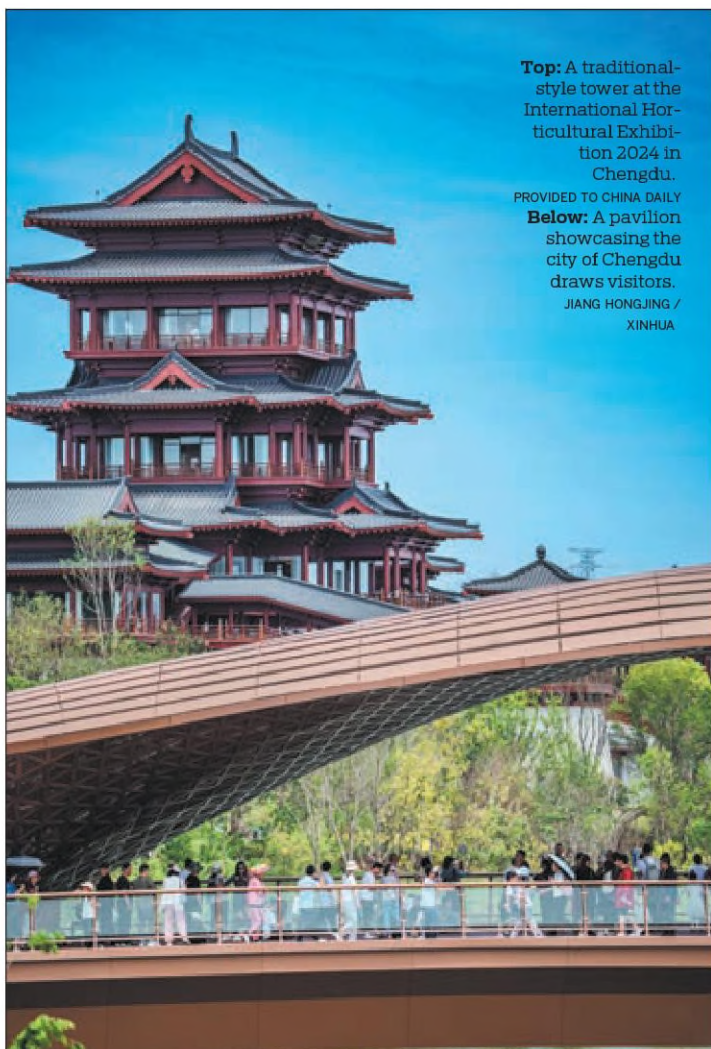
A small rooftop courtyard decorated with plants and flowers in the Shanghai garden display at the expo left a strong impression.

"Everyone has walls and roofs, so they can be converted into something horticultural. When people from other cities visit, they will see ideas and concepts that they can apply on a city level," he said.

The idea of having "green walls" in cities is something that Briercliffe said he's seen in several cities across China.

Green walls require technology to achieve, because getting water and fertilizer to plants on a high wall is no easy feat, he said.

"The policy of ecological development in



Top: A traditional-style tower at the International Horticultural Exhibition 2024 in Chengdu.

Below: A pavilion showcasing the city of Chengdu draws visitors.

JIANG HONGJING / XINHUA



China's cities is being implemented in a way that other countries are not doing. I hope this expo is an opportunity for other cities around the world to see that they can do the same," he said.

Tim Edwards, former board member of AIPH, agreed. He visited China's capital in 2019 for the Beijing World Horticultural Exhibition, which was the largest international horticultural expo ever held. The 503-hectare expo site attracted 9.34 million visitors in the months it was open.

International horticultural exhibitions and world horticultural exhibitions — defined according to their size and the number of participating countries — started by AIPH have been held in more than 50 countries since 1960.

Chengdu is one of eight cities in China to have hosted the expo, with Kunming, Yunnan province, holding one in 1999, and Beijing in 2019.

"The Beijing expo was the best expo that I'd seen to that point. But when I arrived in Chengdu, I saw that the standard of horticulture has again increased," Edwards said.

"It's already obvious that the expo is simply a part of a bigger project here to green the city, and the expo demonstrates techniques that are going to be utilized throughout the bigger project. So I think it's a very fine example," he added.

Edwards recalled that when he first came to China decades ago, there were only a few plants that would be grown by the industry commercially, and those that were grown were mainly certain species rather than in varieties.

"Now, the quality of the plants on show in Chengdu is the highest I've ever seen," he said.

In addition to plant varieties, the technology used in horticulture has also improved a lot in China in recent years, he noted.

"There were green walls at the 2019 Beijing expo, but I felt that the designers were showing off some new techniques. This year a lot of the gardens have green walls, and I can see they're now being used with confidence," he said.

Besides showcasing a wide variety of plants, the more important meaning of the exhibition is that gardens can reflect a close relationship between the local ecological environment and the lives of local people, said Takuhiro Yamada, a horticultural expert from Japan.

"For those of us in the horticultural industry, how to maintain a climate more suitable for human survival is an important issue that we have been studying. We hope that through these exhibition gardens, everyone can rekindle their awareness of the environment and climate, highlighting the importance of protecting the ecology and climate," he said.

"With Chengdu being a park city, the park created for the expo will enable the city to establish itself as an example to the world of how to create green city ecology, and how to develop ecologically in a way that will create an attractive livable environment for citizens," said Briercliffe from AIPH.

## Horticultural event shows 'park city' concept

By HUANG ZHILING and PENG CHAO in Chengdu

For Huang Cong, vice-president of engineering firm TYLin China, planning and designing the main venue of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2024 Chengdu is a milestone in his 23-year career.

The 186-day expo, which began on April 26 in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, is a showcase of hundreds of distinctive plant species from five continents, and gardening styles from 32 countries and regions.

Huang, as the chief planner of the expo's main venue, has experience in the planning and design of major domestic and international projects such as the 2012 London Olympics, Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport and its supporting facilities, Chang'an Automobile's headquarters, and Nanjing Garden Expo Park.

He said Chengdu has provided the perfect venue for the expo as it is the birthplace and major demonstration area for China's "park city" concept, and offers a platform to showcase the country's green development practices to the world.

"Undertaking this project is not only an honor for me, but also signifies a sense of responsibility and mission," said Huang.

"Through practice in ecological restoration, low-impact development, reuse and recycling, and intelligent operation in the planning and design of the main venue, we hope to demonstrate some of China's green development solutions to the world.

"With the total number of exhibition gardens hitting a record of 113 among category B international horticultural exhibitions, the expo emphasizes the principles of being green and low-carbon, economical and sustainable, shared and inclusive," he said.

"For the first time in the event's history, the Chengdu expo carried out a special plan and a management method to implement the green and low-carbon approach in the planning and design, construction and operation," Huang said.

The construction of the main venue used existing ecological resources and preserved the natural terrain features as much as possible. This not only avoids damage to the local ecosystem but also reduces construction costs.

To reduce carbon emissions, the pavilions and buildings at the main venue were all designed in accordance with green building standards, with a preference for using carbon-negative building materials such as bamboo and wood, and incorporating green and energy-saving technologies such as photovoltaic glass and composite thermal insulation.

"Take the three giant lotus petal-shaped buildings at the entrance as an example. They are not only visually appealing, but also function as rainwater collectors," Huang said.

The facility is estimated to collect about 2,500 metric tons of rainwater per year, which can meet the daily watering needs of 2 hectares of green areas.

After the closing of the expo, the main venue will be transformed into an urban park of the Chengdu Eastern New Area, while the buildings within will be turned into public facilities, including a cultural and arts center, a marriage registry and a community center.

"Not a single building in the main venue has been designed without considering its long-term use," he said.

In Huang's view, one of the event's distinctive features is its inclusiveness of diverse cultures.

It has enabled Huang and his team to incorporate plenty of Sichuan's cultural elements and Chengdu people's unique living philosophy into their design, and provided them with a chance to exchange ideas and foster mutual understanding with global counterparts from different cultural backgrounds.

Although the expo has been underway for more than three months, Huang still frequently visits the main venue to identify areas that require improvement and refinement, and to brainstorm ideas for future upgrades of the area.

"The expo offers us an exceptional opportunity to envision future living spaces and future communities," Huang said. "The experiences we gain here will enable us to improve people's quality of life and well-being in future practices."

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Above: Tourists take photos at the horticultural exhibition park in Chengdu, Sichuan province, in May.

Right: A volunteer answers questions from a visitor at the horticultural event in April.

WANG XI / XINHUA



Above: A parade vehicle passes visitors in the expo park in May.

Left: Students learn about philosophies and practices of gardening in China at an exhibition of the Chengdu expo in May.

WANG QIN / FOR CHINA DAILY



## WORLD

# Forum honors Flying Tigers' lasting legacy

Granddaughter tells of general's loyalty to Chinese people, celebrates friendship

By RENA LI in Los Angeles  
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The granddaughter of US General Claire Lee Chennault, the founder of the World War II-era Flying Tigers, said he remained in China because he "heard the cries for help".

When Chennault decided to stay behind and offer his services to China in July 1937, the US government threatened to revoke his citizenship if he did not return home and cease helping China.

However, his compassion was unwavering and he accepted his new role as an adviser to the Chinese Air Force, said his granddaughter Nell Calloway, director of the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum in Monroe, Louisiana.

Calloway recalled her grandfather's story at a recent gathering of the new generation of Flying Tigers, formerly known as the American Volunteer Group, during the 45th Anniversary of US-China Diplomatic Relations Forum hosted by Flying Tigers-friendly organizations.

The celebration was held in Whittier, California, a city in Los Angeles County and the hometown of former US president Richard Nixon, as the Flying Tigers organizations aim to carry on the fighter pilots' spirit and their friendship between the two peoples.

Chennault arrived in China on June 1, 1937, but it was not easy for him to stay in a foreign land as he was hard of hearing and did not understand the language.

"He stayed because he heard the cries for help from a people in desperate need," Calloway said. "He did not let cultural differences, political affiliation or ideology stand in the way of his humanity or serving his fellow man."

When the war was over, Chennault wrote in his 1949 memoir *Way of a Fighter*, "It is my fondest hope that the sign of the Flying Tiger remains aloft just as long as it is needed and that it will always be remembered on both shores of the Pacific as the symbol of two great peoples working toward a common goal in war and peace."

The legacy of the Flying Tigers shows how much the United States and China can accomplish together over the course of history, said US Representative Judy Chu of California.

## Risking lives for peace

"I was so impressed that so many brave young men quit their jobs to volunteer to fight with the Chinese to protect China from her enemies," Chu told the audience. "And they weren't even an official part of the US military because the US was not yet at war with Japan, but these men were still willing to risk their lives for peace."

The Flying Tigers produced 39 US aces during their brief combat history. The official tally of the American Volunteer Group at the time was 299 Japanese planes destroyed in seven months.

In March 1943, Chennault, then a major general, was made the commander of the 14th Air Force, which was formed out of the China Air Task Force.

When the US eventually entered World War II, thousands more went on to serve in both Asia and Europe, including another 20,000 Chinese Americans like Chu's father, who fought for the US despite facing racial discrimination at home because of the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943).

"For my father's whole life, he was so proud of his service to his country. Of course, I thought of him when Congress passed legislation in 2018 to finally award the 20,000 Chinese American veterans who fought in World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor," Chu said.

## Reciprocal gratitude

As the Flying Tigers fought alongside the Chinese people to resist Japanese aggression, the Chinese were deeply grateful for their contributions and went to great lengths to rescue and protect them.

Hundreds of Flying Tigers were saved, at the cost of thousands of Chinese soldiers and civilians who sacrificed their lives.

"This is a glorious and honorable chapter written by the people of our two great nations with flesh and blood in defending world peace and justice," said Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles Guo Shaochun.

In the 1970s, in a demonstration of political courage and strategic vision, Chinese and US leaders made the historic decision to reopen exchanges.

In 1972, Nixon visited China, and a handshake extended to Premier Zhou Enlai crossed the Pacific, ending decades of disengagement. The two countries established formal diplomatic relations on Jan 1, 1979, which marked the beginning of a new chapter in friendly bilateral exchanges.

Over the past 45 years, the China-US relationship has forged ahead despite twists and turns, growing into the most important bilateral relationship in the world, Guo said.

"There are so many lessons we may learn from the 45-year history. The most important one is that both China and the US gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation, and working together is our only correct choice," he said. "The broadest consensus is that we should make the China-US relationship work rather than mess it up. The only right way to get along is mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation."

This year, efforts have increased on both sides to collect and promote the stories. Local schools, especially the alma maters of Flying Tigers veterans, have joined the Flying Tigers Friendship School program.

More US teenagers are visiting China to attend Flying Tigers-themed summer camps, helping to build bridges of mutual understanding and friendship between China and the US, Guo said.

"This year marks the 45th anniversary of the China-US diplomatic relationship. We have every reason to carry on the friendship forged by the Flying Tigers, promote its spirit among the younger generation and inject youthful strength into China-US relations," he said.



## Caught on camera

A cyclist stops to capture the breathtaking dawn eruption of Mount Etna in Catania, Italy, on Sunday. The latest eruption from the Voragine crater sent lava fountains soaring kilometers high, with ash drifting east-northeastward, affecting villages on the mountain's northeastern slope.

FABRIZIO VILLA VIA GETTY IMAGES

# London urged to be pragmatic about ties with Beijing

By SHAO XINYING  
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With a new government and Cabinet in place in Britain, experts anticipate a reset in relations between China and the United Kingdom, while calling on Downing Street to take a pragmatic and realistic approach toward mending ties with Beijing.

The UK elected Keir Starmer as prime minister last month, ending 14 years of Conservative rule. The Labour government had outlined its China policy in its election manifesto before the July 4 polls.

"After 14 years of damaging Conservative inconsistency over China, Labour will bring a long-term and strategic approach to managing our relations," the manifesto said.

"We will cooperate where we can, compete where we need to, and challenge where we must."

Starmer has promised a "full audit" of the UK's relationship with China within his first 100 days in office. It could take as much as a year to carry out the audit, according to

an article on the Politico website.

While the Labour government will largely follow the China policy of the previous administration, it is "likely to see minor adjustments in fields such as economy and trade", Jian Junbo, deputy director of the Center for China-Europe Relations at Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, told China Daily.

"The Labour government might adopt a more pragmatic approach toward China. Cooperation in climate change and investment could see potential growth."

Official data showed China is the UK's largest trading partner in Asia, with the UK ranking as China's third-largest trading partner in Europe.

Former UK prime minister David Cameron sought to create a "golden era" of engagement with China in 2015, but relations swung to overt hostility under Liz Truss and then to confused ambiguity under Rishi Sunak, wrote newly appointed UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy in an article titled *The Case For Progressive Realism*,

published in *Foreign Affairs* in April.

The UK must "adopt a more consistent strategy" that would recognize that Beijing "poses a systemic challenge for British interests" and recognize China's importance to the British economy and the need to work with China on matters of global concern, Lammy wrote.

Zheng Zeguang, China's ambassador to the UK, said it is a critical time now for China-UK relations, with the emergence of both new opportunities and new challenges.

## Cooperation serves both

Speaking at an event organized for the British business community on July 30, Zheng said 52 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries have proved that cooperation serves both sides and the world.

Wang Zikui, an assistant researcher of UK politics at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of International Relations, told China Daily, "A pragmatic and realistic approach is expected from the Starmer government."

China and the UK can see the possibility of cooperation on issues that do not involve security or sensitive topics, Wang said. "Clean energy, artificial intelligence and education could be areas of shared interest. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges should be further enhanced to bolster ties."

Noting the "special relationship" between the UK and the United States, Wang said the former will enhance its role as a "knot" in strengthening the bond between the US and the European Union, and will keep close ties with the US and the EU while exploring relations with China.

"The upcoming US election could further complicate Britain's China policy as the UK is a core part of the US alliance system," Wang said. "Whoever ascends to the White House will align Britain in consistency with its geostrategic goals."

Jian of Fudan University said, "Global geopolitical shifts, as well as the US-UK and EU-UK relations, will influence the trajectory of China-UK relations."

# UK hails China's policy push for wider opening-up

By ZHENG WANYIN in London  
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Experts in the United Kingdom welcomed China's new policy push for pursuing high-standard opening-up and called for stronger international trade exchanges and cooperation amid geopolitical turbulence.

Their comments came after the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China concluded last month. The plenum's resolution stated, "Leveraging the strengths of China's enormous market, we will enhance our capacity for opening-up while expanding international cooperation and develop new institutions for a higher-standard open economy."

Some detailed measures include

creating a transparent, stable and predictable institutional environment, opening China's commodity, services, capital and labor markets wider, shortening the negative list for foreign investment, and more.

Xie Yizhe, director of SPX Capital, a Brazilian multi-strategy hedge fund management firm, who is based in London, said he is glad to see that China stays committed to opening its door wider.

Xie particularly noted that he had experienced this welcoming attitude during his recent visit to Shanghai with his company's delegation in April and encouraged foreign business owners to see China firsthand during this complex period.

"On-the-ground experience will very likely boost confidence," he said. John McLean, chairman of the Chi-

na UK Business Development Centre, echoed the sentiment, pointing out that an "eagerness" to venture into the Chinese market can still be observed in the UK business community.

## Common language

"But we've got to bring together more of this common language," he said, suggesting that the UK business community and its Chinese counterpart can work closely to consolidate that voice and further enhance the country's capacity and knowledge of today's China, which is undergoing economic transformation.

Although admitting that foreign investors might adopt a wait-and-see approach because of the global geopolitical landscape and economic slowdown, both experts said there is still room for international cooperation.

McLean expressed hope that the new Labour Party government could offer fresh opportunities for its dealings with China as the past UK had been "too risk-averse".

"If you are being risk-averse, you end up doing less than you should be doing," he said. "I hope that the new government can offer fresh opportunities and a balanced approach for engagement. Part of the government policy is about growth, which may align with the opportunities that exist in China."

In addition to attracting foreign investment into China, Xie said prospects could also arise when Chinese and foreign enterprises seek to build a joint venture overseas, as many Chinese companies are adopting an expansion strategy. "Opening up can be a two-way approach," he said.

# Harris nears nomination, pick for V-P

By HENG WEILI in New York  
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Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris was poised to secure her party's nomination Monday night and also has reportedly narrowed her search for a vice-presidential running mate to two governors.

Harris' nomination will become official after five days of online balloting by Democratic National Convention delegates concludes on Monday night, and the party announces the results, The Associated Press reported.

The governors are Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Tim Walz of

Minnesota, reported Reuters, which attributed their names to three sources with knowledge of the matter.

The candidates will be informed on Monday night or Tuesday morning of Harris' decision, sources told Reuters.

Harris, the US vice-president, is expected to announce her running mate Tuesday before her first scheduled public appearance with the pick at a rally that evening at Temple University in Philadelphia.

In a message late Monday, Harris said she had yet to make a decision.

"I know many of you are eager to find out who I will be selecting to join me on the campaign trail, and

hopefully in the White House, as my Vice President," she wrote.

"Though I have not made my decision yet, it is important to me that grassroots supporters - like you - have direct updates about the state of the race," she said.

The Democrats will face Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and US Senator J.D. Vance, the GOP vice-presidential pick, in the Nov 5 election. Vance also will campaign in South Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Shapiro, 51, is governor of a state whose 19 electoral votes are considered crucial to win the election. A former state attorney general, Shapiro

would be the country's first Jewish vice-president.

Shapiro's support for Israel could be questioned by some progressive voters but also could blunt Republican efforts to portray the Israel-Gaza war as a wedge issue for Democrats.

Walz, 60, is a former member of Congress from a Republican-leaning district in Minnesota, who also has championed progressive policies as governor such as free school meals and expanded paid worker leave.

Other contenders for the V-P pick had included US Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker.

Agencies contributed to this story.



Nell Calloway, the granddaughter of Flying Tigers General Claire Lee Chennault, shares her grandfather's story at a 45th Anniversary of US-China Diplomatic Relations forum held in Whittier, California, on July 28. RENA LI / CHINA DAILY

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SWIMMING

# A RELAY IMPRESSIVE HAUL

Team China's deep pool of talent creates history at the Games

Zhang Yufei (left) won six medals (one silver and five bronze) and Tang Qianting pocketed three (two silver and one bronze) during the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. XINHUA



By SUN XIAOCHEN in Paris  
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With one world record broken, three Olympic medals collected and plenty of respect earned, China's swimming prodigy Pan Zhanle celebrated his birthday by taking the Olympic pool by storm, and receiving another golden gift.

If there remained any doubts over his world-record-breaking performance in the 100m freestyle final, the "human thruster", as Pan has been nicknamed by Chinese fans, dispelled them all, as he helped the Chinese swimming squad cap its Paris 2024 campaign with a resounding victory in the men's 4x100m medley relay on Sunday.

Putting the Olympic icing on his 20th birthday cake, he eclipsed his own 46.40-second 100m world record with a rapid 45.92 final leg in Sunday's relay — a slap in the face of his detractors, proving what they claimed was "not humanly possible" is well within reach.

"We won, we are the winners. And if someone is not so happy about this, just let them be. We will leave proud of ourselves," Pan said after he propelled Team China, all the way from third place before his final leg, to win the medley relay in 3 min, 27.46 sec to rousing applause at the Paris La Defense Arena.

The United States finished second, 0.55 seconds behind China, while the host France, powered by four-time gold medalist Leon Marchand, had to settle for bronze, finishing in 3:28.38.

The inspiring win from the quartet of backstroke specialist Xu Jiayu, breaststroke world champion Qin Haiyang, butterfly speedster Sun Jiajun and Pan has ended Team USA's 64-year stranglehold on the men's medley

relay at the Olympics.

With the exception of the 1980 Moscow Games, which the US boycotted, Team USA has won every race in the discipline since it was first introduced into the Olympic program in 1960 — until now.

Pan's scintillating final-leg push — the world's first sub-46 sec 100m split ever — also surpassed the 46.06 swum by Jason Lezak of the US that led the American team to gold in the event at Beijing 2008.

According to World Aquatics rules, only athletes competing in the leadoff leg in a relay are eligible to count official world record times, due to the following legs' advantage on faster relay dives compared to the static start in an individual race.

While the crowd was left stunned by his lightning-fast final leg, Pan, however, wasn't surprised at all.

"To crack the 46-second barrier was a goal I set on my birthday a year ago. I am just so happy that I realized it big-time — at the Olympics," said Pan, who also won a silver medal as a member of China's runner-up team in the mixed 4x100m medley relay.

Adding to the excitement on Sunday was the resurgence of breaststroke phenom Qin, who swam the field's fastest second leg — 57.98 — returning to his flying pace and keeping the team in pole position in the early stages of the relay.

As the first swimmer to sweep all three breaststroke titles (50m, 100m and 200m) at the world championships last year, Qin suffered a disappointing individual slump, missing out on a podium finish in both the 100m and 200m in Paris, which he attributed to the pressure-cooker atmosphere.

The current 200m breaststroke world record holder (2:05.48) said the

relay gold is a critical morale booster for the Chinese swimming program, despite coming a bit late.

"This gold medal is of great significance to the entire Chinese swimming team. At these Olympics, we've experienced a lot of challenges, and we've come a long way. This achievement is the most inspiring of all. It showed the solidarity of our team," said Qin, who finished 7th in the 100m and failed to qualify for the 200m final in Paris.

"Our goal today was to win the gold and break the stranglehold of the US, and we've done it."

### Showing their mettle

With two more bronzes bagged in women's 50m freestyle by Zhang Yufei and in the women's 4x100m medley relay in the final evening session, the Chinese swimming team wrapped up the nine-day Olympic meet with two gold, three silver and seven bronze medals to bring home its biggest medal haul from the Paris pool, with six more than Tokyo and two more than its previous best at London 2012.

The distraction from groundless accusations of doping leveled by overseas media, such as The New York Times and German broadcaster ARD, targeting Chinese athletes involved in a proven food contamination incident in 2021, took a heavy toll emotionally and psychologically on the nation's pre-Games favorites, including women's butterfly star Zhang and men's breaststroke world champion Qin.

Both Zhang and Qin struggled to bring their best form in their respective specialist events, having had to face a higher-than-normal number of doping tests prior to, and during, the Games,

as well as fielding questions from overseas media that were both unfair and irrelevant to their performances.

"I feel proud of myself, but I am not so satisfied that the medals are all bronze and silver. I dreamed of a gold medal, but, this is sport. At this competition, it is not as simple as do your best and you get what you want," said Zhang, after clocking 24.20 to win a bronze medal in the women's 50m free on Sunday. "I accept this result, and I will never give up doing my best in the future."

"This is my third Olympic Games. I've had a whole life in swimming, so, after Paris, I maybe want to try a different experience. Maybe get a boyfriend or go to college, possibly go traveling. Then, if I still have the passion to come back and push for a fourth Olympics in 2028, I will," said Zhang, who won

bronze in both the 100m and 200m individual butterfly finals.

The 26-year-old has pocketed a total of 10 medals at the past two Summer Games, giving her biggest collection of Olympic metalware of any Chinese athlete, across all sports.

The rise of the younger generation, led by women's 100m breaststroke silver medalist Tang Qianting and Pan, has helped the veterans rest assured that the program's future is in good hands.

"I am feeling quite proud of my younger teammates, who have shown obvious progress at these Games. I am not young anymore, but they have great potential to keep Chinese swimming competitive in the future," said Xu Jiayu, a three-time Olympian who won his second men's 100m backstroke silver medal in Paris.

From left: Wang Shun, Qin Haiyang, Pan Zhanle and Xu Jiayu secured two golds, two silvers and one bronze for the Chinese men's swimming team in Paris. XINHUA, REUTERS AND AFP



## PARIS 2024

## Spikes and troughs

This year's Summer Games have been a mixed bag for China's 'big ball' teams



Li Yingying has been pivotal in securing wins for the Chinese women's volleyball team.

PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Left: Chinese basketball legend and chairman of the Chinese Basketball Association, Yao Ming, attempts to rally his troops during the Paris Olympics. Right: Shooting guard Li Meng reacts to another defeat for China's women's basketball team. XINHUA



By LI YINGXUE  
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Relying on others to shape your destiny is not about luck, it signals a shortfall in strength. As the curtain fell on the women's basketball group stage at the Paris Olympics on Sunday night, the Chinese team narrowly missed out on advancing to the quarterfinals by a single point, bringing its Olympic journey to an unexpected halt.

Runner-up at the 2022 Women's Basketball World Cup, Team China entered the Olympics with aspirations of a podium finish. However, its campaign began with a heart-breaking 89-90 overtime loss to Spain, followed by a whopping 59-81 defeat to Serbia.

In Olympic women's basketball, teams compete in three groups, with the top two from each group, and the top two third-placed teams, advancing to the quarterfinals.

Despite a commanding 80-58 victory over Puerto Rico in its final match, China's fate rested on the outcome of matches in other groups.

Australia's triumph over France secured it best third-placed spot, with two wins and one loss. Meanwhile, Belgium's resounding 27-point victory over Japan in its final group game edged it slightly ahead of China on net points, clinching the final quarterfinal berth — and signaling the end of China's bid for Olympic glory.

"We stood on the brink, knowing a single defeat could end it all. We fought with determination, treating each game as if it were our last," said Team China center Li Yueru after the win over Puerto Rico. Indeed, this match was China's last at the Paris Games.

In stark contrast to the disappointment of China's women's basketball team, the Chinese women's

volleyball team, securing its Olympic berth just over a month ago, has surged to the top of its group. It clinched three consecutive victories, confidently, advancing to the quarterfinals where it is set to face Türkiye on Tuesday.

#### Some net gains

The impressive performance of the volleyball team has kept alive China's hopes of podium success in

one of the three major "big ball" sports — basketball (5x5), volleyball and soccer — at the Paris Olympics.

Since the Tokyo Olympics, China has struggled.

The Chinese men's teams in all three sports failed to qualify for either Games. In Tokyo, the Chinese women's soccer team didn't advance past the group stage, finishing 10th, and didn't qualify for Paris at all.

The women's volleyball team, the

defending champion in Tokyo, finished a disappointing ninth. The women's basketball team's fifth-place finish three years ago was the best result among the six teams.

In Paris, the Chinese women's basketball team finished ninth, its second-worst Olympic result ever, only better than its 10th-place finish in Rio 2016. It has reached the quarterfinals six times and the semifinals twice out of nine Olympic appearances.

The early exit, perhaps, wasn't a total surprise. In pre-Olympic warm-up matches, China had a poor record of two wins and 11 losses, struggling against strong teams like Australia, France and Belgium.

The women's sport is also grappling with a challenge similar to that faced by their male counterparts: the domestic league's low intensity is failing to maintain high performance levels. The lack of competitive drive and resilience needed for international play is evi-

dent in the team's results.

One potential solution is to gain experience by playing in higher-level leagues abroad. Li Yueru, a stand-out player for China in Paris, is a prime example. Having left the Chinese league for Türkiye, and then the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks, Li has showcased the benefits of international-level competition.

In Paris, she has quickly demonstrated her enhanced skills, surpassing her previous Olympic averages of 7.4 points and 3.2 rebounds per game, by scoring 31 points and grabbing 15 rebounds in her first match.

Basketball commentator Su Qin recently highlighted on his WeChat account that Li's performance in the first game was like that of a female Shaquille O'Neal, reflecting her significant improvement from playing overseas.

"Li once told me she wanted to compete in a more challenging environment. In domestic leagues, it's mostly national team players facing each other," Su said. "This underscores the importance of stepping out of one's comfort zone."

Li's international experience serves as a model for players in other major team sports. While moving abroad involves adapting to new languages and environments, these challenges are essential for psychological and technical growth.

However, it's a bit of a "catch 22": To find such opportunities, a player has to be good enough, and to be good enough, they need to have a domestic set-up that allows them to excel.

However, the unique appeal of competitive sports lies in overcoming adversity. The stage is always set, and while the Chinese women's basketball team has experienced success, it will not fear the lows.

Next time, hopefully, the ball will be in their court.



Clockwise from top: Chagee's Paris Tea Bar makes its offline flash debut on July 22 at the Gare Saint Lazare. Visitors try out Chagee's representative product "BoYaJueXian". Free tea and a close-up experience of Chinese culture attract a large number of customers.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Chagee puts Eastern tea culture in global spotlight during Paris Olympics

By YUAN SHENGGAO

New-age Chinese beverage brand Chagee is taking advantage of the market opportunity created by the ongoing Paris Olympics to expand its global presence. Chagee's Paris Tea Bar made its offline flash debut in the French capital on July 22, providing free drinks to local residents, tourists and Chinese students, inviting them to sample the product and participate in immersive cultural activities.

According to on-site staff, nearly 2,000 customers were served. And

more than half of them were tourists from across the globe. Chagee projects that number will exceed 10,000 over the following three weeks.

Chagee's Paris Tea Bar is located at the third-busiest railway station in Europe — Gare Saint Lazare — where impressionist artist Claude Monet once drew inspiration for his paintings. The space is primarily themed in the iconic blue color of the Chagee cup, integrating representative elements such as tea trees and leaves and the Ancient Tea Horse Road trade route. In the beverage experience area, a visitor was

amazed by the taste of the representative Chagee tea product "BoYaJueXian" for the first time. "This is different from any tea I've had before. The fragrance of jasmine is a refreshing taste for summer. This is the first time I've felt the charm of Eastern tea."

Paris Tea Bar customers can sample a freshly made brew while immersing themselves in a close-up experience of Eastern tea culture. Chagee will continue to host tea gatherings in Paris, organizing activities such as pitching pots and *cifu* (the Chinese origin of football) to

present rich Chinese culture to the world.

In addition to appearing at the Paris Tea Bar, Chagee's Health Ambassador Team, consisting of seven world-class athletes, will visit landmarks in Paris to showcase the health benefits of Eastern tea. Furthermore, Chagee has partnered with local food delivery platform, Hungry Panda, to deliver its products.

The Eastern tea craze sweeping through Paris marks a new benchmark for Chagee's international development. As of now, Chagee has opened nearly 5,000 stores, with more than 100 located overseas. Leveraging this key opportunity in Paris, the company said it will continue to promote a healthier, more transparent and less burdensome modern Eastern tea to worldwide consumers.

## Superstars leading charge to healthier drink choices

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Driven by the pursuit of a healthy diet after the nation's first grading system to evaluate the nutritional value of beverages was introduced in March, Chinese new-age tea brands are providing consumers with healthier choices.

On July 5, homegrown hurdles Legend Liu Xiang returned to the field in a short film, narrating stories of people of different ages and backgrounds striving to live healthier lives. Another significant role Liu plays is global health ambassador for Chinese new-age tea brand Chagee. Along with Liu, Chagee's team of health ambassadors consists of world-class athletes Wang Shun, Zheng Qinwen, Jia Yifan, Chen Qingchen, Liu Qingyi, and Wang Ruimiao, who are introducing modern Eastern tea to international consumers at the ongoing Paris Olympics.

In February, Chagee took the lead in implementing the Nutri-Grade system guided by the Shanghai Center for Disease Control and Prevention, becoming the first tea beverage brand in the country to do so. After a four-month trial, Chagee announced the Nutri-Grade system will be implemented in all of its nearly 5,000 outlets nationwide.

The system classifies beverages based on their content of four key ingredients — added sugar, saturated fat, trans fat and non-sugar sweeteners. With grades ranging from A to D, the recommended

level decreases if the drink contains higher amounts of sugar, saturated fat and other unhealthy additives. Following official guidance standards, nearly 70 percent of the products previously sold in Shanghai stores by Chagee have received an A or B grade rating.

Currently, the ordering page of the Chagee WeChat app indicates values such as calorie content and glycemic index — a measure of how fast a food is converted to sugar in the blood. The nutrition calculator on the app can help consumers check the specific ingredient information of each drink, guiding them to choose beverages that are most suitable.

In the development process of new-age tea beverages, the vision of health is both a profound insight into the real needs of consumers and a way for brands to gradually establish a connection with their customers to create a sense of belonging in a healthy lifestyle. To allow consumers to perceive the charm of the global sport events at a glance, Chagee has incorporated elements of swimming, tennis, badminton, and breakdancing into the visual symbols of tea mountains, tea leaves, and gardenia flowers that the brand has long been associated with. Based on those elements and design, Chagee is launching limited-edition refrigerator stickers in some 5,000 stores nationwide, integrating Eastern tea culture into the spirit of sports.



A bus with a photo of Chagee's team of health ambassadors is seen on the Champs-Élysées avenue in Paris.

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## BUSINESS

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# AI-enhanced cybersecurity gathers pace

Experts advocate new solutions as digital threats turn more sophisticated

By MA SI  
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The increasing integration of artificial intelligence into various sectors has significantly influenced the domain of cybersecurity, and as digital threats become more sophisticated, the traditional approaches to cybersecurity are proving inadequate, thereby necessitating the adoption of AI-enhanced solutions, officials and experts said.

The comments came after the cybersecurity industry in China saw substantial growth, with its market size reaching about 220 billion yuan (\$30.8 billion) in 2023 and the number of listed companies in the sector increasing to 28, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Sui Jing, director of the cybersecurity administration of the MIIT, said the integration of AI with security measures will spur the development of new technologies, products and models within the cybersecurity space.

This synergy is expected to lead to the intensive development of high-end and intelligent security products, ultimately enhancing the capability to safeguard against cyber threats, Sui said. The ministry, she said, will increase efforts to encourage companies to develop crucial technologies for AI-enhanced security, especially in areas such as industrial internet and autonomous driving.

Wu Hequan, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts between AI providers and industries to develop industry-specific AI large language models or LLMs.

LLMs are AI models fed with huge amounts of text data for use in a variety of tasks, ranging from natural language processing to machine translation. It is the key technology underpinning OpenAI's ChatGPT, which has taken the world by storm since late 2022.

Such collaborations can widen access to advanced AI capabilities, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, enabling them to effectively implement AI-driven security measures, Wu said.

The integration of AI into cybersecurity is not just a technological advancement but a necessity in the face of evolving cyber threats. As AI continues to redefine content production and consumption, its role in

cybersecurity becomes increasingly critical, Wu said.

Zhou Hongyi, founder and chairman of 360 Security Group, emphasized the critical role of AI in addressing the limitations of traditional cybersecurity methods.

AI's superior data processing capabilities and its ability to quickly respond to incidents and trace security breaches are pivotal in managing the vast amounts of data involved in cybersecurity operations, Zhou said.

He underscored the need for AI-driven solutions to stay ahead of malicious actors who are increasingly leveraging AI to develop sophisticated attack tools.

AI-assisted crimes have been rising. For instance, in February, Hong Kong police revealed a fraud case where individuals used AI deepfake technology. The perpetrators impersonated a multinational company's chief financial officer during a video conference, convincing a Hong Kong-based employee to transfer HK\$200 million (\$30.9 million). The fraud was only uncovered when the employee verified the request with the headquarters.

This incident highlights the dual-edged nature of AI in cybersecurity. While AI can greatly enhance defense mechanisms, it also equips adversaries with powerful tools to execute more convincing and sophisticated attacks. This dichotomy necessitates a robust AI-centric approach to cybersecurity that can both counteract AI-enhanced threats and leverage AI's capabilities to strengthen defenses, experts said.

In response to these challenges, companies like 360 Security Group are heavily investing in the development of AI-driven cybersecurity models. Zhou said the 360 Security Model includes six specialized sub-models focusing on various aspects of cybersecurity, such as attack detection, operational management, traceability, knowledge management, data protection, code security and vulnerability analysis.

This comprehensive approach ensures that different facets of cybersecurity are addressed using tailored AI solutions, Zhou said.

Moreover, to make these advanced security models accessible, 360 Security Group has announced that its security model will be available for free to customers purchasing its standard products, with existing customers receiving free upgrades.



Overseas buyers seen at the sporting goods section at Yiwu International Trade City in Yiwu, Zhejiang province. SHI BUFA / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Sino-French trade's 'Olympic dividend'

By ZHONG NAN  
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While athletes from around the world sport numerous medals at the ongoing Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, Chinese manufacturers are also emerging victorious, with a surge in sporting goods orders boosting sales revenue and enhancing companies' brand recognition.

This trend, noted by exporters and market analysts on Monday, underscores the global reach and impact of the Olympics beyond sports alone.

As foreign consumers increasingly focus on fitness and sports-related goods and services, alongside the excitement of global sporting events, these factors will continue to drive China's exports of sportswear and sporting goods around the world this year, said Liu Ying, a researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China.

In the first half, East China's Shandong province exported sporting goods worth 6.46 billion yuan (\$907 million), representing a year-on-year increase of 24.3 percent. The province's exports in this category to France alone amounted to 62.27 million yuan, marking a 44.6 percent increase on a yearly basis, Qingdao Customs said.

South China's Guangdong province also saw its exports to France, including industrial products and

sporting goods, surge 11.5 percent year-on-year to 38.85 billion yuan over the period, said Guangzhou Customs.

In a workshop owned by Heyuan OT Composite Co in Heyuan, Guangdong, workers are busy packing and sealing finely crafted badminton rackets. These rackets will soon be shipped to markets in the European Union, the United States and Brazil.

"Our orders from European countries have jumped this year, with orders from France seeing substantial growth. Our production schedule is already fully booked for the entire year," said Huang Yuwen, the company's vice-president.

Huang said the firm's exports to France exceeded 35 million yuan in the first half, representing a 40 percent year-on-year growth. The company's exports to France are expected to exceed 65 million yuan for the entire year.

"Thanks to the increased enthusiasm in the global sports markets, our exports have seen notable growth this year," said Huang Huang, vice-president of Nantong Tieren Sports Goods Co, a fitness equipment manufacturer located in Nantong, East China's Jiangsu province.

"We anticipate that during and after the Paris Olympics, fitness enthusiasm among sports fans worldwide will also be spurred, and sales prospects of our products

will continue to improve," said Huang.

Tieren Sports exported various fitness equipment worth 173 million yuan to foreign markets such as Belgium, Spain and Colombia in the first half, up 43.1 percent year-on-year.

Jiang Yiyi, deputy dean of the sports, leisure and tourism school at Beijing Sport University, said that apart from sports-related merchandise, many Chinese manufacturers have enjoyed the benefits of the "Olympic dividend".

The Paris Olympics have significantly boosted local demand for items such as refrigerators, washing machines and various daily necessities, catering to both participants and spectators, said Jiang.

Thanks to their complementary trade structure and enhanced Sino-French business ties, China's exports to France grew 3.5 percent year-on-year to 150.48 billion yuan in the first six months, said the General Administration of Customs.

In addition to passenger aircraft, water treatment equipment, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, France's exports to China also feature fashion, agricultural and energy infrastructure-related products.

China mainly exports construction machinery, buses, manufacturing equipment, steel, electronics, textiles, garments and household appliances to the European country.

## RMB rebound trend to continue

By SHI JING in Shanghai  
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The renminbi has rebounded moderately since late July, thanks to a slight improvement in the external environment and rising market confidence boosted by a number of economic stimulus measures, and this trend is likely to extend into the following months, experts said.

The onshore USD/CNY briefly touched 7.115 in morning trade on Monday, the highest level in a month.

This followed the Chinese currency's 296-basis-point rally in the onshore market to close at 7.215 against the dollar on Friday. The offshore RMB, meanwhile, spiked 859 basis points to end at 7.1658 per dollar the same day.

Data from market tracker Wind Info showed that the onshore USD/CNY pair has risen 0.84 percent from July 25 to Friday, while the offshore RMB has gained 1.7 percent during the same period.

Both indicators are now almost at the same level as at the beginning of the year.

The slide of the US dollar, which shed 1.22 percent on Monday, has been one major reason for the stronger performance of the renminbi, or Chinese yuan.

Recent weak US economic data, combined with a likely interest rate reduction by the US Federal Reserve, have provided more flexibility for China's monetary policies, experts from AVIC Securities said.

The lower-than-expected US economic data and the volatile performance of the US markets during

the previous week shook the global capital market on Monday. Japan's Nikkei 225 plunged 12.4 percent to report the biggest single-day slide in 34 years. FTSE 100 and Stoxx 600, major benchmarks in Europe, both shed over 2 percent when market opened on Monday.

Changes have been taking shape in the external market to favor the RMB since July, said Li Liuyang, a forex analyst at investment bank China International Capital Corp. As US inflation cools, market expectations for the US Fed to cut interest rates in September have risen. As a result, US bond yields and the US dollar index have fallen, providing support for the RMB's exchange rate to some extent, Li said.

Zhong Zhengsheng, chief economist at Ping An Securities, said that the RMB's value for carry trade has been quite noticeable this year thanks to its lower volatility, pushing up the Chinese currency's value to some extent.

Carry trades refer to borrowing at low interest rates to invest in an asset that provides a higher rate of return.

Meanwhile, a number of policies to stabilize economic growth and the RMB's value have boosted confidence in the foreign exchange market, said Zhong.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, announced a reduction in the reverse repo rate and the medium-term lending facility rate late last month. State-owned banks have also collectively lowered their deposit rates.

The National Development and Reform Commission arranged

about 300 billion yuan (\$42 billion) of ultra-long-term special government bonds to support large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-in of consumer goods.

These are strong signals that will further stabilize growth, which is crucial to a stable RMB, Zhong added.

In a work meeting held on Thursday, the PBOC said efforts will be made to firmly guard against the risk of over-adjustment in foreign exchange rates.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange also said on the same day that it will step up efforts to stabilize market expectations and foreign exchange market performance.

Zhong said the CNH Hibor, the reference rate for RMB lending between banks in Hong Kong, rose to an average level of 3.3 percent in July, up from less than 2 percent a month earlier.

Given the RMB's ample liquidity in the offshore market, the cost of shorting RMB has risen, helping to effectively control the currency's depreciation, he said.

JPMorgan China's Chief Economist Zhu Haibin said a country that undergoes high inflation will face higher currency depreciation pressure. However, China does not fall into that bracket as its inflation rate has kept low, he said.

Wen Bin, chief economist of China Minsheng Bank, said overseas investors' willingness to be exposed to RMB assets has been increasing. The appeal of RMB assets will further go up once the Fed starts to lower interest rates.

## Xiaomi CEO returns to Forbes list

By WANG ZHUOQIONG  
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Lei Jun, chief executive officer of Xiaomi Corp, has made a comeback into the Top 10 Forbes China Best CEO list 2024, riding the company's successful foray into electric vehicles.

Lei joined other prominent Chinese corporate executives such as Chen Lei and Zhao Jiazhen, both Pinduoduo CEOs, Zeng Yuqun, CEO of EV battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Ltd, Wang Chuanfu, CEO of carmaker BYD, and Zhong Shanshan, CEO of bottled water company Nongfu Spring, on the list.

All the 10 companies concerned saw an average stock price increase of 47 percent and a net profit growth rate of 170 percent during the performance evaluation period.

Lei steered Xiaomi, a global major in smartphones, into EVs with the launch of the SU7. This move redefined the company's market strategy, said Forbes.

The SU7, which was unveiled in December and launched in late March, made a spectacular market debut, with 88,898 units sold within the first 24 hours, largely driven by Lei's adept use of livestreaming for sales, the list said.

Founded in 2010, Xiaomi quickly rose to China's smartphone market leader with its competitive pricing strategy. Lei's personal marketing approach, positioning himself as a reliable tech enthusiast, has resonated with consumers in China, observers said.

In 2020, Lei launched his personal account on short video social media platforms such as WeChat and Douyin. This has bolstered his influence. His Douyin account is followed by 28.8 million people.

In April this year, when Lei delivered the SU7 to its first customer in Beijing, what impressed social media users was the billionaire CEO humbly opening the car door to the new owner.

The ensuing online buzz quickly translated into sales, auto industry insiders said.

In the first quarter of this year, Xiaomi's revenue was 75.5 billion yuan (\$10.59 billion), up 27 percent year-on-year, which generated a net profit of 6.5 billion yuan, up 101 percent year-on-year.

Xiaomi data showed 7,058 vehicles were delivered in April alone; and 8,630 more vehicles reached consumers in May, and more than 10,000 vehicles in June. Xiaomi is expected to reach its 2024 target of 120,000 vehicles by early November, said Lei.

His innovative use of personal branding in the company's marketing push has set a new standard, observers said. "His livestreaming events and social media interactions have not only driven sales but created strong emotional connections with consumers," said Jason Yu, general manager of Kantar Worldpanel China.

This strategy of anchoring content marketing in Lei's unique personality highlights the irreplaceable value of a founder's personal brand equity in corporate marketing, said Yu.

A related instance is that of Zhou Hongyi, founder and chairman of Chinese internet enterprise 360 Security Group. He gained popularity at the Beijing Auto Show in April with his interactions with Chinese domestic EV users. He later urged every CEO to develop his/her own personal brand for better marketing.



Products related to cybersecurity are on display during an expo in Shanghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

### Briefly

#### H1 tea trade volume up; imports reach \$72m

The foreign trade volume of tea on the Chinese mainland reached 196,400 metric tons during the first half of this year, up 2.21 percent year-on-year, according to the Tea Industry Committee of China Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation. During the period, China's import volume of tea reached 24,400 tons, up 41.5 percent year-on-year, while the import value of tea reached \$72 million, up 10 percent year-on-year.

#### Reverse repos add \$94m to liquidity

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, conducted 670 million yuan (\$94 million) of seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 1.7 percent on Monday. The move aims to keep liquidity reasonable and ample in the banking system. A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future.

XINHUA - CHINA DAILY

## BUSINESSFOCUS

CHINA UP-CLOSE

## Chinese electric buses zoom into Paris, world

EV industry offering affordable, high-quality capacity, contributing significantly to global green growth

By CHENG YU and  
ZHU LIXIN in Hefei

A fleet of Chinese-made pure electric double-decker buses glide along the Seine River, zipping through the Arc de Triomphe and pulling up in front of the Eiffel Tower, making frequent announcements — “Dear passengers, welcome to Paris!” — in eight languages.

In fact, sports fans, coaches, members of visiting delegations, officials and others are using these pure electric vehicles to visit major tourist spots in Paris, venue of the 2024 Summer Olympics, which has been unprecedented in terms of its “green” quotient.

As the EVs offer pollution-free, experience-rich rides for just 40 euros (\$43), many tourists are eagerly waiting to hop on to these buses for sightseeing tours.

Developed independently by Chinese automaker Anhui Anka Automobile Co Ltd, this is the world's first pure electric double-decker open-top sightseeing bus. It joins other Chinese new energy vehicles that are making the Olympic venues environmentally friendly.

Between the Olympic Village and the sports training centers, there are K9 electric buses from BYD, the first time that the leading Chinese EV manufacturer has provided electric buses for the Olympics.

These specially customized electric buses have a range of over 400 kilometers each and use advanced pure electric drive technology.

In addition to the electric buses, BYD has also prepared hundreds of autonomous vehicles for transportation within the Olympic Village. Such self-driving vehicles are equipped with top-notch sensors and AI systems, and boast functions such as autonomous driving, obstacle avoidance and parking.

Amid a global green transformation, Chinese new energy buses are foraging into the global market.

Wang Lian, general manager of Asia Pacific of Anka, said: “Anka, in fact, developed such an electric bus by itself and tailored it for the overseas market a decade ago.”

“In other words, we have targeted it especially for the overseas market. After years of research and development, such a pure electric bus has met over 100 stringent standards of the European Union,” she said.

According to Wang, the company brought the prototype of the bus, or a sample bus, to an auto show in Belgium after a one-month journey in 2017.

To its surprise, the sample bus was snapped up by eager European consumers almost immediately at its original price, and hit the streets in no time, she said.

“This fully demonstrated the cost performance and competitiveness of Chinese new energy buses to the global market,” Wang said.

Amid accusations from some



**Above:** A brand-new pure electric double-decker sightseeing bus developed by Chinese automaker Anhui Anka Automobile Co is seen operating in Paris last month. **Below:** A technical staff member (left) from Anka introduces the company's electric models at its factory in Hefei, Anhui province, in July. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Western countries about China's so-called overcapacity, including skeptics who have argued that China exports NEVs because the domestic market is saturated, Anka's words prove that for many Chinese companies, going abroad has been a proactive move.

Gerry Price, executive vice-president of group fleet planning at Big Bus Tours, said the firm has been pleased to take a large delivery of such buses to Paris, based on a 17-year partnership deal with Anka.

“We've had nearly 200 vehicles from Anka that make up a large proportion of our operational fleet globally. These vehicles (EVs) are another part of adding to what we have. And it's another part of our long-term friendship,” Price said. “We rely on very, very good suppliers and Anka is one of the strongest that we have.”

Anka's buses are already a familiar sight in over 100 countries and regions, with over 10,000 buses in Saudi Arabia alone.

China has set ambitious targets for the expansion of electric buses and public transportation. It aims to increase the share of EVs in the public transportation system to 80 percent in key areas, including bus and taxi services, by 2025.

According to a pilot plan of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and seven other



Beaming with confidence and a sense of accomplishment!

Safe and sure journey, seeing such a bus pass through the Arc de Triomphe, this reporter nailed it!

Three cheers for China and Anhui! 🍷🍷🍷

Pride of Hefei, taking Paris by storm, dazzling the world!

ministries, China will speed up the full electrification of vehicles used in public transportation between 2023 and 2025, and the building of a charging and swapping infrastructure system that is “moderately advanced, well-balanced, intelligent and efficient”.

China's exports have seen a marked shift, with the “old three” — household appliances, furniture and clothing — giving way to the high-tech “new three” — EVs, lithium-ion batteries and solar cells, economist Yu Xiangrong said in a research note by Citigroup.

“The shifting export drivers demonstrate progress in China's industrial upgrading. China has clearly risen up the value chain and remains competitive amid a reconfiguration of the global supply chain,” said Yu, who led the research team.

“This ability to manufacture a range of products from low-value consumer goods to high-tech innovative products provides resilience for China's exports, and continuing upgrades to manufacturing capabilities, R&D investment and emphasis on cost controls should help sustain its competitiveness in trade.”

As the country accelerates its steps to promote green transforma-

tion amid a booming NEV sector, Chinese electric buses are zooming into the global market.

Yutong Bus Co, the largest e-bus manufacturer in the country, appears to be a surprise winner in the competitive EV market, thanks to its growth momentum in both the domestic and overseas markets.

Its stock price has more than doubled this year, making it the biggest gainer on the MSCI China Index. The most bullish analyst sees it rising another 15 percent within the next year.

Ma Jiabo, regional manager of the Europe division of Yutong Bus, said the company has pioneered the development of battery electric buses since 1997 and had sold over 180,000 such vehicles worldwide till the end of last year. This has not only advanced transport solutions, but also contributed significantly to economic and social welfare.

The company sold 36,518 units in 2023 alone, up 20.93 percent from the previous year.

In terms of global expansion, Yutong delivered 800 buses to Uzbekistan, 214 electric buses to Chile, 250 electric buses to Greece, and 126 new energy buses to Denmark.

In Kazakhstan, the Yutong E12 electric bus, which has been in operation for three years and has traveled more than 200,000 kilometers, is still able to travel an extreme range of 320 km from fully charged to zero, with virtually no degradation in range.

The cumulative mileage of the EVs it has sold has exceeded 37.8 billion kilometers, which reduces carbon emissions equivalent to planting 120,000 hectares of forest, highlighting Yutong's significant contribution to the global fight against climate change.

Wei Wei, an assistant professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou), said that EVs have been playing a key role in ensuring energy security and achieving the country's dual-carbon goals.

“China's NEV industry has been continuously offering affordable, high-quality capacity, which will make a significant contribution to global green development,” she said.

“China has really been at the forefront of success in conversion of all vehicles to electric vehicles, especially buses,” said Heather Thompson, CEO of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, a nonprofit organization focusing on sustainable transport solutions, in an interview with the BBC.

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Online  
See more by  
scanning the  
code.

By ZHU LIXIN in Hefei  
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The new energy vehicle industry in Hefei, capital of East China's Anhui province, has shown significant growth, according to recently released data on its economic performance in the first half.

Hefei produced 515,000 NEVs in the first half, a year-on-year increase of 67.3 percent, while total automobile production in the province surpassed 1.5 million, a year-on-year increase of 46.7 percent, accounting for 10.8 percent of the national total.

Currently, Hefei is home to a number of leading companies in the NEV sector, such as JAC Motors, BYD, NIO, Volkswagen Anhui, Chang'an and Anka, along with over 500 upstream and downstream industry chain enterprises.

The local support ratio for NEVs in Hefei has reached 35 percent, with the industry attracting over 100,000 talented people, according to the local government.

The Hefei government has set an ambitious target to grow the sector.

The development plan for the NEV industry in Hefei during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25) shows that by 2025, the scale of the city's NEV industry will exceed 700 billion yuan (\$98 billion).

Wang Ya, founder and president of Kuai EDian, a Hefei-based manufacturer of NEV charging facilities, said the company has seen market orders for such facilities increase rapidly over the past few years.

He said the company's sustained development has been partly due to Hefei's complete industrial chain and strong talent pool.

Wang, who established the company in 2020, said the company's growth is inseparable from that of Hefei University of Technology.

Wang used to encounter technological bottlenecks and sought help frequently. Eventually, he turned to the university's Intelligent Manufacturing Technology Research Institute.

“They patiently listened to my description of market resources, business models, and technological needs. Two days later, the institute

## Hefei emerges as key hub for NEV production



Workers operate an assembly line of seats for new energy vehicles in Hefei, Anhui province, in July. RUAN XUEFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

organized a technology team composed of professors and PhDs to collaborate with me,” Wang said.

Among the alumni that HUT is most proud of, many entrepreneurs have become leaders in China's new energy and NEV industries.

For example, there are Yin Tongyue, chairman of Chery Automobile; Li Zhen, chairman of NEV battery maker Gotion; and Cao Renxian, chairman of new energy power equipment maker Sungrow Power Supply.

By jointly increasing R&D investments, Wang's firm and the institute have rapidly made breakthroughs in wireless charging technology and industrialization, accumulating a series of high-tech product reserves that have enabled the company to develop quickly.

“The future regional industrial competition is not only at the level of the industrial chain, but more about the competition of industrial ecology,” said Ren Linjie, executive secretary-general of the strategic advisory committee for Anhui's NEV industry cluster.

Experts said that in order to consolidate the advantages already made in the early stage of the new energy transformation, the province and the city must seize the opportunities from rapid evolution of intelligently connected technologies and accelerate the industrial footprint to gain a favorable position in the new sector.

In early June, the Hefei Public Transport Group opened a distinctive bus route along an avenue in the urban Baohu district, equipped with unmanned buses and roadside smart devices, featuring Level-3 or above advanced autonomous driving and intelligent networked interaction functions.

On July 3, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology included Hefei in a list of 20 pilot cities for the integrated application of intelligently connected vehicles.

Prior to this, Hefei had already been designated by multiple ministries as a pilot city for the coordinated development of smart city infrastructure and intelligently connected vehicles by the end of 2021.

## COMMENT

## Editorials

## China will resolutely enforce the law in the waters under its jurisdiction

If one is to take the words of the Philippine Defense Minister at face value, his country is not provoking China. But if that is the case, Manila must be either too politically naive or shortsighted to appreciate its actions cannot be perceived by Beijing as anything else.

In fact, Manila is well aware that it is making Beijing's hackles rise, since that is its intent. It seeks to force Beijing to forcefully respond to its actions so that it can portray China as aggressively asserting its territorial claims in the South China Sea.

But what is happening at Xianbin Reef shows that shoe is actually on Manila's foot. It is Manila that has been taking advantage of Beijing's goodwill and restraint to repeat the trick it has played at Ren'ai Reef.

According to the China Coast Guard, since Saturday patrol boats from the Philippine Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Bureau and multiple other fishing boats have gathered in the waters near a Philippine ship that was illegally stranded on China's Xianbin Reef. The move marks the latest escalation of tensions at the reef, for which Manila bears the sole responsibility. The Philippine ship was illegally grounded on the reef in April, and since then Manila has sent other ships to transfer personnel and supplies to the vessel in order to fortify its illegal action. Given that China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands, including Xianbin Reef, Manila's moves seriously infringe upon China's sovereignty and cannot be viewed as anything but a provocation.

The ongoing farce at Xianbin Reef bears every emblem of Manila playing the same trick that it has played at China's Ren'ai Reef, where it deliberately grounded a World War II-era warship in 1999, opening the door to its illegal occupation of the Chinese reef till this day.

Coveting China's maritime territory, Manila has also violated the Declaration on the Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea, particularly Article 5. Its repeated affronts in the South China Sea leave Beijing with no other choice but to strongly condemn and respond to Manila's actions.

The latest fracas at Xianbin Reef happened just a few days after China agreed to allow the Philippines to send life support supplies to the personnel aboard the ship grounded on Ren'ai Reef following a provisional arrangement reached during a series of consultations held last month between Beijing and Manila on managing the situation at Ren'ai Reef and working for a de-escalation of tensions in the South China Sea. By making waves at Xianbin Reef in the wake of this agreement, Manila has squandered the last remaining respect China had for it, since it has shown that give it an inch, it will take a mile.

Both reefs are Chinese territory, and China will not allow a similar scenario to that at Ren'ai Reef to be repeated at Xianbin Reef. Manila had better abandon any illusions it may harbor that it can repeat this trick by duplicitously wringing its hands in mock consternation that it should be perceived as acting provocatively.

It is the encouragement Manila has received from countries outside the region, especially that of the United States, that has emboldened it to stoke tensions in the South China Sea. Last week, US and Philippine warships conducted a joint maritime patrol near a disputed South China Sea with the obvious intention of sending China a message.

The joint patrol followed swiftly on the heels of Washington's latest pledge to provide \$500 million in military aid to Manila. With such an incentive, it is little wonder Manila is willing to act as a pawn of the US, trying to rile China so as to put it on the back foot.

Yet the collusion of Manila and Washington is only serving to strengthen China's resolve to safeguard every inch of its territory and appropriately respond to any provocative moves that infringe on China's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and maritime rights and interests. China's law enforcement authorities have already stepped up their operations at Xianbin Reef.

## None unscathed by protection racket

The Bureau of Industry and Security of the US Department of Commerce is reportedly planning to add another 120 Chinese entities to its restrictive list this month citing "national security" concerns.

While the targeted Chinese entities, as well as those being targeted, are quickly adapting to the new normal by outsourcing their production to third-party countries, securing new markets and partnerships, or stepping up their efforts in pursuit of self-dependence for key parts and know-how, their US partners cannot substitute China as both a large market and a world manufacturing base.

A recent report by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York provides substantial evidence confirming the self-harming nature of the US administration's export control measures targeting China between 2012 and 2022.

Although they were originally intended to help US companies, the US moves have had a negative impact on them, the report notes, as they have caused supply chain disruptions, raised operating costs, and reduced the US companies' market competitiveness.

Chinese companies have sought to offset the negative impact of the US measures by finding new suppliers and strengthening their own research and development.

According to the report titled Geopolitical Risk and Decoupling: Evidence from US Export Controls, the longer the Entity List of the Bureau of Industry and Security becomes, the more US entities are actually being affected, particularly in the fields of telecommunications, transportation and electronic equipment.

Unable to establish new supply chain relationships with domestic or allied customers that are not export control targets, the profitability of US companies continues to be challenged. Data show that the export control policy of the US caused an average decline of 8.6 percent in the revenue of related US companies and an average decline of 25 percent in earnings before interest and taxes. The affected US companies were forced to cut jobs to adapt to the negative consequences of export controls. Data cited in the report show that the total number of employees in US companies affected by export controls fell by 7.1 percent.

The report also assessed the actual impact of US export controls targeting China on US companies in the fields of finance and financing, and found that the measures caused "significant collateral damage" to US companies. The total market value of all US companies affected by export controls on China has "evaporated" by an estimated \$130 billion. As the Joe Biden administration has markedly reinforced its China-targeted export control measures over the past two years, the loss of the US companies will have been even larger, if the data after 2022 is taken into account.

In addition, US companies affected by export controls also have more difficulty in acquiring financing, and they face higher interest rates and shorter terms when applying for bank loans. This not only exacerbates the financial difficulties of these companies in the short term, but may also have a profound impact on the innovation and competitiveness of US companies in the long run.

As a close ally of the US, the European Union should heed the lessons of the US. The EU's desinimization in the fields of high-tech, manufacturing, trade and investment, which follows the US in the name of "de-risking", will not help improve the global competitiveness of EU companies. Against the backdrop of soaring energy prices and slowing global demand, doing so will only continue and accelerate the continuous decline of European manufacturing in recent years, leading to more serious unemployment and social problems.

Both US and EU decision-makers should consider the wisdom of continuing with their restrictive economic and trade policies toward China, which will only become more self-wounding the longer they are prolonged.

Cai Meng



## Opinion Line

## Tightening grassroots emergency response key to handling calamities

Since the start of the flood season this year, many places in China have been repeatedly hit by heavy rainfall. The Yangtze River basin, in particular, has been under growing pressure to prevent floods, dike breaches and waterlogging.

The central authorities have issued a directive requiring greater efforts to strengthen the country's grassroots emergency response, and constantly improve the comprehensive disaster reduction capacity in the region.

The grassroots government is like the "first line of defense" and bears great responsibilities for dealing with sudden calamities. If it detects an impending disaster early and issues early warnings, it can win precious time to minimize the loss of lives and property. It is thus imperative to temper the capabilities of disaster prevention and reduction at the grassroots level.

The grassroots government should further improve the level of infrastructure protection, improve grassroots emergency organizations, and enhance the public's disaster prevention and self-rescue and mutual rescue skills, so as to plug potential risks at the source. The country also needs to improve the urban capacity for flood control and drainage, and fortify flood control projects such as dangerous reservoirs, dikes on small and medium-sized rivers, and flood storage and detention areas, as well as weak points in farmland for flood drainage.

China should make good use of technology to prevent flood and other disasters. It should better utilize the results of the national natural disaster risk surveys, connect the survey data with its emergency command platform, and analyze the local population density, emergency shelters, material reserves and other informa-

tion in the event of an emergency situation to form an emergency rescue plan.

China has so far built a five-tier disaster information release system covering the whole country, and targeted training should be carried out regularly to give full play to the role of more than 1 million "scene detectors". All kinds of social forces such as scientific research organizations, industry associations, and enterprises should be absorbed to create an emergency management team with timely response and improve the professionalism of hidden danger investigation, emergency rescue and volunteer services.

Disaster prevention is a systemic project that needs the participation of all sectors of society. Only after people's awareness and participation rate of the masses are raised effectively, can the country respond quickly to natural disasters.

— ECONOMIC DAILY

## Greater efforts needed to end 'Apple tax' monopoly

After warning Tencent to remove WeChat links through which mini-game developers get paid using channels that are beyond Apple's control, Apple has reportedly once again pressured Tencent and TikTok developer ByteDance, threatening to stall essential updates for the apps on Apple Store.

Apple deducts a certain percentage of money paid by users to developers of all smartphone apps installed through Apple Store. It varies in different countries and regions and could be as high as 30 percent of the fee on the Chinese mainland.

Following an update to Apple's clauses in 2017, anyone who likes an article on a

WeChat official account and clicks to pay the author is required to pay via Apple Pay and be charged. However, many users choose other channels, such as Alipay or WeChat Pay to bypass the "Apple tax". And that is why Apple is pressuring Tencent and ByteDance to close these alternative payment channels so that the "Apple tax" cannot be avoided.

On Aug 1, Apple filed a motion with the US Department of Justice, which had sued it for monopolizing the smartphone market, to say its operating system commanded a market share of around 65 percent, lower than the 95 percent Microsoft once commanded. Different laws might define monopoly differently,

but a 65 percent market share is enough to dominate the market and threaten app developers.

Apple's huge market share makes it difficult for small- and medium-sized app developers to challenge its rules, with even giants such as Tencent and ByteDance facing the heat. So, the efforts of a few companies alone is not enough to lower, if not put an end to, the "Apple tax".

What's needed is broader market consensus, so that a percentage of fee that is acceptable to all can be deducted, which, in all probability, will be lower than Apple's current 30 percent.

—ZHANG ZHOUXIANG, CHINA DAILY

## What They Say

## Overly fervent fans not good for image of sport

It should have been good news for the Chinese table tennis team that two Chinese players, Sun Yingsha and Chen Meng, competed in the final of the women's table tennis at the Paris Olympics on Saturday.

However, what was unexpected was that some extreme fans of Sun started attacking and smearing Chen the moment their idol lost the game 2-4.

With unexpectedly perceivable ease, Chen beat Sun, who was apparently not in a good frame of mind during the game for unknown reasons. In a repeat of the final Tokyo Olympics three years ago, Chen, who ranks fourth after the match with a score of 5,290 in the International Table Tennis Federation ranking for women players, beat her strong teammate, who is six years younger, and ranks No 1 in the world with a score of 8,100, to

defend her Olympic title.

Sun, who is known for her comprehensive skills, steady performances, strong will to win and humility, has made remarkable progress over the past three years — between the finals in Tokyo and Paris, she defeated Chen nine times and lost twice — during which time she has gained a large number of fans at home and abroad.

Reportedly, it was Sun's fans that were not only behind the large-scale stigmatizing on the internet targeting Chen but also booed the latter when she stepped on the podium to receive the gold medal, when most members of the Chinese table tennis team at the stadium were caught by the camera in a studied collective silence.

showing how "fan club culture", as some argued, has gone to extremes eroding the sport's standing.

The "fan club culture" originates from the entertainment industry, which stresses strong adhesion between fans and stars, thereby increasing the commercial value of stars. The profit-seeking and traffic-first operation can easily lead star-chasing to fanatical idol worship. The members of the "fan club" are different from common sports fans, as the former are strongly exclusive and ready to attack those that they deem don't share their devotion to their idol.

The key lies in whether the sports authorities and sports associations can guide and transform the healthy development of the "fan club culture" in a timely manner and cultivate a healthy fan culture. Real sports fans love their favorite players but they also respect their opponents and recognize and cherish sportsmanship and fair competition.

— BEIJING NEWS

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## COMMENT

Cheng Yuwei

## Reform to boost realty sector's development

The "Resolution on Further Deepening Reform Comprehensively to Advance Chinese Modernization", issued by the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on July 18, has charted the future direction of the real estate industry.

The third plenary session also issued a communique, which said the country will take measures to prevent and mitigate risks in the real estate sector and small and medium-sized financial institutions, and manage local government debt.

However, compared with some foreign cities, some Chinese cities could see further decline in housing prices, because the average rental yield in property hotspots such as New York, London and Tokyo is 2.5 percent, 2.5 percent and 2.1 percent, while that in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen is 1.5 percent, 1.8 percent, 1.3 percent and 1 percent.

Besides, real estate companies are more likely to default on payments because their financing capability is weak, and commercial housing sales remain sluggish. In fact, real estate risks could lead to banking risks and erode buyers' wealth.

For banks, the realty sector's defaults have led to bad debts, and the decline in the real estate sector has reduced bank credit and weakened profits, seriously affecting banks' ability to prevent or minimize risks. As for buyers, some of them have lost the down payment they made for housing when prices dropped in some regions. As a result, such people have been compelled to reduce consumption.

That's why the third plenum's resolution stressed the importance of regular, smooth housing supply, saying the country will expeditiously establish a housing system that promotes both rental housing and home-buying. The move to scale up the building and supply of government-subsidized housing to meet the housing needs of salaried people is a key feature of the real estate sector's new development model.

However, the construction of affordable housing faces problems such as the lack of financing, land allocation and a targeted supervision mechanism. Although the resolution does not mention the problems facing the "three major projects" — construction of affordable housing, public infrastructure for both normal and emergency use — they are encountering financing challenges which could affect the construction of affordable housing, with the fiscal pressure on local governments and financing restrictions on urban investment being major challenges.

To promote the construction of affordable housing and meet the housing needs of people of different income levels, a multi-level housing financial system should be established. China could consider picking a leaf out of the housing development book of Singapore, whose public housing is home to about 80 percent of the country's resident population. Yet China's current pilot policy needs to be improved, for which China has to first improve its strategic planning and coordination.

According to the plenum's resolution,

city governments will be given greater decision-making powers including the power to devise their real estate policy and regulate the real estate market. Also, based on the local conditions, some cities will be permitted to lift or reduce restrictions on housing purchase and scrap certain criteria for ordinary and non-ordinary housing.

Moreover, the sharp decline in property sales can be attributed to the long-term demographic changes, but short-term factors such as interest rates on loans and property prices still prevent many residents from buying houses. To address the problem, first- and second-tier cities may be allowed to optimize their housing purchase restriction policy by, among other things, easing the eligibility criteria for home-buying and lowering the interest rates on loans.

Some restrictions on real estate supply could also be removed including the annulling of the "90-70" policy, which requires developers to have 70 percent of their newly built residential units to be below 90 square meters. This would help developers to design apartments in accordance with the market's demand. And restrictions on the supply and demand sides will be gradually removed, helping establish a new real estate development model.

The resolution also said that reforms will be carried out to change the way the real estate sector is financed, and improve the advance housing purchase system. Owing to the pre-sale system, real estate enterprises in China depend heavily on supply chain financing, housing pre-sale funds and other financing sources, making it difficult for them to prevent downturns, which result in the abandoning of many under-construction buildings.

And although the resolution said the taxation system for the real estate sector will be improved, the government may not introduce real estate tax legisla-

The resolution also said the integration of rural and urban areas creates new development space for the property sector and, hence, greater urban-rural integration in planning, development and governance should be promoted.

tion in the short term because the industry is still undergoing intensive reforms. The right time to introduce such a piece of legislation would be after China's macroeconomic recovery and the maturing of

the real estate industry.

The resolution also said the integration of rural and urban areas creates new development space for the property sector and, hence, greater urban-rural integration in planning, development and governance should be promoted.

At present, China's urbanization rate is more than 60 percent. As such, a series of functional areas are likely to be built in cities, towns and rural areas to connect cities and rural areas. Different types of affordable housing, too, will be built in transit areas to meet the housing needs of the people who move from rural areas to cities.

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LI MIN / CHINA DAILY

Siamelie Latu

## Peaceful coexistence policy makes China benign power

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. To mark the occasion, President Xi Jinping called on the international community on June 28 to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in the new era and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind and promote human progress.

I first visited China in 2001 to study at the National Defense University of the People's Liberation Army. During that time, I also visited the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

When I landed in China again in 2010 as the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Tonga to the People's Republic of China, I was amazed to see the dramatic changes that had taken place in the intervening years. For instance, the number of terminals at Beijing Capital International Airport had increased from one back in 2001 to three.

I prefer to go hiking or on a picnic with some friends outside the city on weekends, with the Great Wall being a favorite site. I have also visited small villages with charming sceneries, observing the traditional lifestyle of the local people. Amid the idyll, serene locales, only electric wires and solar panels on rooftops reflect the modern side of the villages.

The Communist Party of China has led the country in making great achievements. From about 50 Party members

when founded in 1921 to the current 99.18 million members, the CPC has done an amazing job of leading a country of 1.4 billion people to socioeconomic success. There is no doubt that China will play a greater role in the world arena. And I am confident that China's peaceful rise is for greater global common good, because China has never been an aggressive power.

China's peaceful foreign policy is reflected in its policy toward the South Pacific island countries, which is based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence of mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; mutual non-aggression; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; equality and mutual benefit; and peaceful coexistence.

Beijing's relationship with the Pacific island countries dates back to the early 1970s when China established diplomatic relations with a number of independent developing nations in the South Pacific. Over the past few decades, China has become a major aid donor to the Pacific island countries. According to research by the Lowy Institute, China is the third-most significant source of official development finance to the Pacific Islands, with a total of \$3.9 billion disbursed between 2008 and 2021. In April

2004, China joined the "South Pacific Tourism Organization" as the first member state from outside the region.

Moreover, most Pacific island states have benefited from China's increasing trade and investment as well as from debt relief and debt extensions. In fact, China has given debt relief worth \$2.1 billion to developing countries under the G20 framework, the highest among all G20 member states in terms of the amount deferred.

China adheres to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which also advocates for respecting the Pacific island countries' political system and their right to choose their own development path; non-interference in their internal affairs; helping the Pacific island countries safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and maintain political stability; and promoting socioeconomic development.

China values peace. The bitter sufferings of the Chinese people due to war and poverty have taught them to value peace and promote economic development. As such, the central goal of China's diplomacy is to create a peaceful and stable international environment for its development.

Also, China will make its due contribution to world peace and development, never engage in aggression or expansion, and never seek hegemony.

So the Pacific island countries must monitor and review their relationship

with China, especially in the context of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, so that our interests are safeguarded and a win-win situation developed.

The essence of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was also reflected at the recent third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The third plenary session said China must pursue an independent foreign policy of peace, be dedicated to helping build a community with a shared future for mankind, and foster a favorable external environment for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization.

The plenary session was not only important for China's own development, but will also have a significant impact on the global economy. According to my knowledge, the resolution of the third plenum put forward more than 300 important reform measures to advance Chinese modernization. And I believe their implementation will create huge opportunities for the world, including the Pacific island countries, and they should seize the opportunity to engage in mutually beneficial cooperation, and prosper together with China.

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Kang Bing

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## From Olympic medal mania to casual confidence

Unlike four decades ago when half of China used to be glued to TV screens to see Chinese athletes' attempts to win medals, the ongoing Paris Olympic Games have drawn lukewarm response from Chinese audiences.

The seven-hour time difference could be partly responsible for Chinese sports fans' low enthusiasm. But the main reason, I think, is that the Chinese people now take winning Olympic medals more matter-of-factly. They know that the Chinese athletes will do their best, and win medals too. After all, China has been one of the world's major sports powers for the past two decades or so.

Starting my journalism career as a sports writer in the early 1980s and having covered the 1988 and 2008 Olympic Games and many other international sports events, I know how much the Chinese people's attitude toward sports has changed over the years. In the 1980s, China was economically and scientifically an insignificant global player. The country's 15-gold-medal haul at the 1984 Olympics put it into the limelight, and triggered the sports craze among the Chinese people. "To attain good sports results and win glory for the nation" has since become a popular slogan among Chinese athletes as well as the general public.

Their communication skills are in total contrast to the Chinese athletes' nervousness when interviewed by journalists in the old days.

With China continuing to win more and more Olympic medals — up to now it has won more than 300 Olympic gold medals — sports fans have realized that instead of only standing by and cheering Chinese athletes, they should also take part in sports. Over the past two decades or so, government investment in mass sports has increased dramatically. Physical exercise equipment have been installed in most of the residential complexes and villages, and running tracks laid in most of the parks.

Thanks to the government's efforts and Chinese athletes' excellent performance on the world stage, a sports fever has gripped the whole nation. Statistics show that nearly 40 percent of the 1.4 billion Chinese people aged 7 and above take part in sports or physical activities in 2020 — meaning they either play sports or do physical exercise with an intensity reaching moderate or above for at least 30 minutes three times a week.

Such mass involvement in sports helps experts to identify exceptional talents that can bring glory to the country, and ensures that Chinese athletes will win more medals in Olympics and other international and regional sports championships.

While watching the Paris Games on TV, certain phenomena have caught my attention. For example, at some venues, about half of the spectators were Chinese. And the way they were cheering the Chinese athletes made it seem as if the Games were being held in a Chinese city. I guess most of the Chinese spectators traveled to France to watch the Games, and they were joined by the Chinese people working or studying in Europe. Such a spectacle was unthinkable when I was covering sports as a China Daily journalist. Four decades ago, not a single Chinese person could be seen among the spectators, because in those days the Chinese people couldn't afford to pay for the travel to and accommodation in a foreign country.

Another salient feature is the self-confidence of Chinese athletes — not only during the competitions but also when meeting journalists. They talk about their own performances, their future plans and their counterparts' strategies as if chatting with friends. Some speak fluent English. Their communication skills are in total contrast to the Chinese athletes' nervousness when interviewed by journalists in the old days.

One more thing that amazes me is the size of China's Olympic reporting team in Paris. More than 2,000 China Media Group reporters, editors and technical staff are covering the Paris Games. And if the reporters from other media outlets are added, the number of Chinese journalists in Paris could be well over 2,500. In my time, less than 100 reporters were able to go abroad to cover sports events like the Olympics.

These three changes signify the economic and social development China has achieved over the past four decades or so. As a retired sports writer, I wish all the best to our athletes, and hope the younger generation of sports writers does a better job of promoting the Olympic Spirit.

## GLOBAL VIEWS



LI MIN / CHINA DAILY

LI XING AND FRANCISCO LEANDRO

## Constructive endeavors

By seeking to build trust and peace around the world, China is emerging as a global peace-maker and stability-creator

For a long time, the United States-led West has been struggling to find out what kind of global power China is. Is China a destructive or constructive power for the current US-led international order? Is China

a status-quo or a revisionist power, a force for continuity or a force for change? Will China use its military and economic weight to advance its own interest at the cost of abandoning the defined international rules? How to interpret the impact of China's rise not only in terms of its hard power, such as economy, technology, trade, and finance, etc., but also in terms of its soft power, such as ideas, norms, culture, thought, value system, and scholarship, etc.? How can the West understand the kind of international leadership role that China is playing, and how can the West better comprehend the historical and cultural fabrics that underpin Chinese foreign policies and behaviors?

Today, Washington firmly believes that: "the PRC is the only competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it." According to its newly published National Security Strategy, "Beijing has ambitions to create an enhanced sphere of influence in the Indo-Pacific and to become the world's leading power. It is using its technological capacity and increasing influence over international institutions to create more permissive conditions for its own authoritarian model, and to mold global technology use and norms to privilege its interests and values."

Therefore, China is portrayed as a "systemic rival" to the US-defined rule-based international order both in terms of turning the country into a global economic and technological competitor as well as a global security challenger, and in terms of translating its economic success into a political and ideological contending force, promoting alternative models of development and governance. Chinese cultural influence, ideological impact and the diffusion of Chinese ideas and norms that have been unleashed by its economic rise are increasingly carrying

weight in international relations and politics.

However, the image of China as a global security threat imposed by Western mainstream media cannot convince the world, especially the Global South. On the contrary, the latest events concerning global peace and security have largely advanced recognition of China as a global broker in the two of the most pressing armed conflicts: between Hamas and Israel and between Russia and Ukraine. In recent weeks, there has been an immense Chinese diplomatic push to bring together the different Palestine factions, namely Hamas and Fatah, to create the conditions to progress the recognition of the Palestine State, and therefore to advance the two-state solution. China has always advocated the two-state solution to end the conflict and bring peace to the region. Furthermore, we are also observing China's persistent efforts to build bridges with Ukraine and Russia. These diplomatic endeavors in promoting dialogue and stability are seen as China's major diplomatic achievement and a sign of China's growing influence in global affairs.

Last year, China played a significant role in brokering a historic agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, leading to the two countries agreeing to re-establish diplomatic relations and reopen their respective embassies. This agreement marked a significant step toward reducing tensions in the Persian Gulf and potentially paving the way for resolving conflicts in the region, such as the ongoing war in Yemen.

How to understand these diplomatic successes that China has achieved? What are Beijing's peace-making principles in the capacity of being an honest broker? Why are these principles agreeable to international contending forces and national factions?

First, China has been putting forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and those principles are not only part of the diplomatic rhetoric, but also are gaining status as a foundation stone in the context of the international order. More and more, China's international engagement is being perceived as a constructive power, one that sees the world in a different manner, and therefore advances its branding images as a force for change in a positive way. Therefore, it is important to notice China's specific historical and cultural characteristics as a constructive civilizational power, understanding the necessary room for different political cultures and histories and trajectories.

Second, China has moved from the usual diplomatic chatter to be an active and equidistant partner, capable of being heard and diffusing tense situations. Quite opposite to other major powers that are fueling conflicts, China has made a clear commitment to peace and development. China has been waiting for the right moment to take decisive diplomatic action, while advocating peaceful development. Indeed, instead of being a "systemic rival", China's international engagement is characterized by innovative ways to deal with conflicts, adopting the constructive model of inclusive advancement, to gather overlapping interests. Perhaps, rather than being a "systemic rival", China is acting as a global player outside of the Western box.

Third, China does not adopt the conventional style of other great powers, which take sides in line with their interests or values, without considering the root cause of the conflicts and the intertwined network of interests involved. China's diplomatic position is one of balance and respect for both sides, which reflects its own political culture, and it aims to contribute to defusing tensions, creating new peaceful pathways, and setting the course for development. Again, perhaps, instead of a "competitor with both the intent to reshape the international order", China is taking steps to adapt the world to the new conditions, with the intent of being a decisive cooperative contributor, of creating new governance conditions for the international system, and of bringing about peaceful and stable conditions for all.

To answer the many questions raised at the beginning of this article, the recent diplomatic engagements of China since last year have taught the world an important lesson: That Chinese diplomacy has an important (perhaps different from the usual) role to play, in the context of an emerging international order, as a cooperative global contributor.

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SATYAJIT BOSE

## Great exaggerations

Talk of a recession and overcapacity flies in the face of pursuit of sustainability

I visited six cities in China in 12 days last month. It was the efficient and affordable high-speed rail system that made my hectic itinerary feasible, and even comfortable. During my conversations with economists and investment managers in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities, there was much talk of "Chinese overcapacity" and a "recession". I was surprised by these terms.

Never in my career in finance or academia have I seen 5 percent GDP growth characterized as a "recession". A fundamental principle of sustainable development is that it is only natural that as an economy grows, its rate of growth must moderate. If any variable experiences continuous growth at a constant or increasing rate, such a variable will explode and overwhelm other important forces, undermining the stability of any dynamical system. Explosive growth in anything is inherently unsustainable and must come at the expense of hidden costs such as uncontrolled pollution, eroded family formation and neglected cultural achievements. Proper accounting for the environmental and human costs using cost-benefit analysis often reveals that low-quality growth does not advance people's well-being. Furthermore, 5 percent growth of a very large economy is a more powerful driver of global prosperity than 10 percent growth of a much smaller economy. Since China is now one of the world's largest economies, even its current moderate growth represents a massive impetus for global economic activity. The use of the term "recession" by some ill-informed commentators is an indication of the delusions that can be induced by fixating on the rate of growth rather than the absolute level and the quality of growth.

For anyone concerned with sustainable development, the term "overcapacity" also seems rather strange. According to the 2024 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report, only 17 percent of the SDGs are on track to be achieved. More than 700 million people live in extreme poverty around the world. They need access to clean water, sanitation infrastructure, clean energy generation, schools, clinics, connectivity for trade and basic material goods. Many crave freedom from armed conflict and the destruction brought about by war and climatic disasters. To such people, manufacturing capacity that facilitates rebuilding homes, building railways, digging wells, providing solar electricity or making bandages at large scale and at low cost must surely seem like a gift from heaven. Faced with such dire needs for so many people, all such capacity is essential. How odd the word "overcapacity" must seem to such people! China's investment in advanced manufacturing and infrastructure capabilities are an essential foundation for the path to common prosperity for the developing world. The hard work today is to ensure that such capabilities can be utilized for global development and mutual benefit, by reducing institutional, tariff, cultural, language and financing obstacles.

China's fostering of the Global Development Initiative, combined with its domestic priority for high-quality development can form a confluence of strategies to advance common prosperity for the world. The Global Development Initiative, proposed as an initiative to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, is committed to promoting common prosperity around the world. At the same time, the resolution adopted at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China continues China's fostering of high-quality economic development, innovation and ecological conservation. As China shifts its domestic focus to advanced clean energy generation, storage, mobility and related upstream and downstream industrial ecosystems in precision manufacturing, intelligent technology and digital manage-

ment, it can better allocate its own human, natural and financial capital by ceding its dominant position in labor-intensive manufacturing industries such as furniture, home appliances, light electronics and internal combustion automobiles to emerging markets in the Global South. Efficient and productive resource allocation requires discernment in the choice of both domestic and foreign investment. A simple lesson of trade theory is that global gains from trade arise mostly from comparative advantage rather than absolute advantage. This means that even if labor-intensive manufacturing in a Global South emerging market is initially more expensive than in China, it is still more productive to shift capital to the emerging market for this type of activity. Developing a quality workforce in China implies freeing it from tasks where productivity has already been maximized. In the context of Chinese demographic change and capital needs for advanced manufacturing, the opportunity cost of deploying resources in labor-intensive sectors is very high because it is measured in the lost high-technology production that would otherwise have been supported. Chinese outward investment in value-added manufacturing in emerging markets is thus essential to its own high-quality growth strategy as well as to appropriate industrial development in the Global South. Foreign trade structural reform, combined with further opening-up of inward and outward investment simultaneously facilitates the goals of both domestic high-quality development and the Global Development Initiative.

As Mark Twain said: "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." Similarly, talk of "recession" and "Chinese overcapacity" is greatly exaggerated. What some call a "recession" is a timely moderation and reorientation toward pursuing progress while ensuring sustainability and stability. What some call "overcapacity" is a hard-earned capability awaiting deployment in universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

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WANG XIAOYING / CHINA DAILY

## LIFE

## LIVING HERITAGE

From left: A blouse made of fish skin from the Hezhe ethnic group, a Manchu woman's ceremonial robe, and a two-part tree-bark garment from the Li people on show at the museum. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



## Threading culture and skill into garments of beauty

Museum dedicated to ethnic clothing presents an image of countrywide grace and elegance

For tourists exploring the enchanting landscapes of Beijing's architectural wonders such as the Forbidden City, they are captivated by the vision of young women adorned in the intricate Manchu attire once donned by royal ladies of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Their presence evokes a vibrant reinterpretation of traditional Chinese art, defying the oppressive heat with grace.

These dresses are part of the imperial fashion called *qizhuang* (costumes of the bannerwomen) of the Manchu ethnic group. They are but one part of the traditional garments worn by China's 56 ethnic groups.

For people who are interested in all the colorful costumes, a must-see venue is the Ethnic Costume Museum that draws their attention to the lesser-known, yet equally captivating garments of the country's other ethnic groups.

Nestled in the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology is the museum, a treasure trove of cultural heritage. It was officially set up in 2000 as China's premier institution for clothing culture. It has amassed more than 10,000 items, including clothing, jewelry, fabrics, batik and embroidery from various ethnic groups, and displays nearly a thousand photographs from the 1920s and '30s that document the traditional dresses of ethnic groups, such as the Yi, Tibetan, and Qiang people.

The quest to collect these ethnic costumes was daunting. While Han attire is widely available, the clothing of the 55 other ethnic groups, some residing in remote or distant areas all across the country, posed a challenge in terms of its collection and preservation.

Since 1988, when the museum was still being prepared, the faculty members of the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology have championed the study and conservation of ethnic costumes, leading to the establishment of the museum. Faculty and students have committed themselves to hands-on research.

Tian Hui, head of the museum, recounts the early days of their mission. "Our teachers, understanding the urgency of preserving these priceless ethnic costumes, took students on targeted expeditions to different regions," he says.

Tian recounts a memorable episode from 2000 involving You Cuiyu, a female fisher-farmer from the Hezhe ethnic group, who was the last maker of fish-skin clothing in Heilongjiang province at the time, and the museum's then director, Yang Yuan.

Yang ordered a set of fish-skin clothes from You for the collection, but You forgot it, because she had so much fishing and farming to do, and was only able to make fish-skin clothes during her spare time. Yang used this as a chance to meet You in her village in Northeast China, to record the process of fish-skin craftsmanship. Her determination led to the filming of a documentary about You's skills that subsequently received national acclaim, Tian says. "The endeavor was more than mere collecting. It was a mission to protect and document traditional craftsmanship," he adds.

Acquisition was just the beginning. The museum also undertook the meticulous task of repairing and conserving garments for research. "Some pieces arrived in near-perfect condition, while others bore the marks of time, and required careful cleaning, sterilization, and treatment, before being stored," Tian explains.



Tian Hui, head of the Ethnic Costume Museum at the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, introduces exhibits to primary and middle school students from Beijing. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Gao Dandan, an associate researcher at the museum, says that their research revealed a tapestry of influence and integration among ethnic groups. "Despite their diversity and different clothing styles, regional commonalities emerge due to similar geographical situations. For example, long robes were favored by some ethnic groups from the north, while those from the south preferred to wear two-piece suits, either pairing a blouse with trousers or a skirt," she says.

In this way, the Ethnic Costume Museum serves as a guardian of China's sartorial history, ensuring that the threads of tradition and the love woven into each garment endure for generations to come.

Gao emphasizes that the uniqueness of each ethnic group's attire lies in its intricacies.

Take, for instance, the clothing of the Oroqen people in Northeast China, which is made from animal hides or furs. Inhabiting the frigid

climes of the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains, the Oroqen have historically relied on the garments to survive.

"The Oroqen have a profound connection with nature, adapting to and even transforming what they find. Their wisdom of living is a type of impetus for our research into ethnic costumes," Gao explains.

Distinctive apparel, such as the Hezhe people's fish-skin garments and the Li people's tree-bark clothing, also demonstrates the adaptability of ethnic groups to their environments.

"In the past, without access to fabrics like cotton, linen, or silk, these groups ingeniously made use of what nature provided, transforming raw materials into wearable art through their wisdom," she adds.

As time progressed, the museum's collection efforts faced increasing challenges.

"With a growing emphasis on the preservation of ethnic costumes, the

availability of quality pieces has diminished, and the cost of acquisition has risen, placing a strain on our resources," Tian says.

To mitigate funding pressures, the museum has diversified acquisition strategies, including borrowing from other institutions, and accepting public donations.

Its website has a donor directory dating back to 2008, and the 102 entries each tell a touching story.

One narrative involves Dong Min, a Beijing resident who donated 61 outfits from the 1940s to '80s, and 156 photographs from his late mother's collection.

Tian shares the heartfelt circumstances of Dong's contribution. Following his mother's passing two years previously, Dong sought a deserving repository for her cherished possessions.

"When he discovered our museum, he was relieved, because he believed our professionalism would preserve the garments and research them to their fullest," Tian says.

"The reason I find this story so touching is that the clothes contain not just memories of his mother and his family, but the recollections of an entire generation.

"Costumes are imbued with emotion and sentiment. Behind each piece of clothing is a precious story and a cherished memory, so, when we talk about the culture of clothing, it is both an art and an emotion," he adds.

Despite the museum's efforts, the adoption of modern clothing by ethnic groups is an undeniable trend.

"While we wish to see traditional costumes in ethnic regions, people often prefer the convenience of modern life," Gao says.

"The younger generation is moving to the cities, and the art of making these garments is fading with the older generation."

This shift presents a challenge to cultural preservation, as there's a tension between the desire for modernity and the need to protect the national heritage. So, it requires a collective societal effort to protect these treasures, according to Gao.

But Gao remains optimistic about the enduring appeal of the garments.

"The appreciation of beauty is innate. The ethnic costumes in our museum, most painstakingly handmade by women, are imbued with their love for family and life. Even domestic items like covers and sheets are made with care, reflecting a deep-seated love for life, and a commitment to beauty in every aspect," she says, underscoring the emotional and aesthetic investment woven into each piece.

The Ethnic Costume Museum is currently curating *Splendid Colors: Chinese Costume Culture Exhibition*, an exhibition at the Chinese Traditional Culture Museum that seeks to bring the beauty of ethnic clothing to the public eye.

One highlight of it is a section dedicated to student designs that fuse ethnic traditions with contemporary fashion sensibilities.

"Our museum serves a dual purpose. It's not just a repository of history but a vibrant educational space," Tian says.

"Ultimately, our goal transcends the mere appreciation of traditional attire. We strive for innovation, to blend the ancient with the modern, and ensure that our rich cultural tapestry evolves and thrives."

Wong Kai-wing contributed to this story.

## Guardians of the Great Wall strive to protect it

Even at 80, Mei Jingtian continues to patrol the Shixiaguan section of the Great Wall. With over four decades of experience under his belt, he skillfully taps the overgrown ground along the way with a wooden stick, alerting wild animals to his presence to ensure his safety.

Mei lives in Shixia, a village nestled near the 8.6-kilometer stretch of the Shixiaguan section of the Great Wall in the suburban Yanqing district of Beijing, the oldest part of which dates back to the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-577).

Shixia village residents have a deep affection for the wall. Mei remembers when he ran and played hide-and-seek with his friends on the imposing structure as a child.

However in 1979, when he returned to Shixia after working outside for years, he was stunned by the destruction to the ancient wall. "Some residents even took bricks from it to build their houses," Mei says.



When I was a child, my uncle always told me his patrol stories. ... It is my mission and responsibility to protect cultural heritage."

Liu Hongyan, a Great Wall guardian

To help protect the wonder, Mei volunteered as a guardian, patrolling 20 km each day to dissuade people from taking bricks, scribbling on the wall or dropping litter.

"My family worried that it would be dangerous to hike in the mountains by myself, so I always took a wooden stick with me to drive the wild animals away," Mei says.

In 1984, a Great Wall protection campaign was launched in Beijing and was quickly picked up by villagers in Shixia. Realizing the significance of heritage protection, more and more of them returned the bricks they had taken and joined Mei on patrol.

In 2006, Mei helped set up a local volunteer protection association, and about 80 of the village's 100 or so residents joined as guardians.

Inspired by her uncle, Mei's niece Liu Hongyan, followed in his footsteps and officially became a Great Wall guardian in 2019.

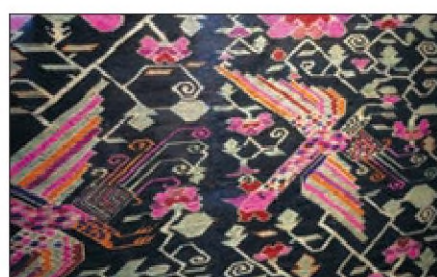
"When I was a child, my uncle always told me his patrol stories and talked about the history of the Great Wall," Liu says. "It is my mission and responsibility to protect cultural heritage."

China has continued to step up efforts to protect the Great Wall. From 2015 to 2023, the country approved 289 protection and maintenance projects, and more than 6,800 guardians nationwide are dedicated to protection work.

Today, more advanced technology has been adopted for protection. At the Badaling scenic area, which is one of the most popular sections of the wall, a drone patrol platform and intelligent scenic area management platform play vital roles in this effort.

According to Liu Manli, deputy director of the Yanqing cultural heritage bureau, the two platforms will be upgraded in terms of resource sharing, process coordination and data analysis.

The Shixiaguan section of the Great Wall has not yet been opened to the public. "It is my biggest wish to see heritage well-preserved and available to visit, encouraging more people to join us in protecting the Great Wall," Mei says.



Silver decorations of the Miao ethnic group (above left) and bedsheet design of the Tujia ethnic group (above right) on display at the museum. Also on display is a hat made of deer leather from the Oroqen people (top), and a pair of silver dangling earrings of the Tujia people. PHOTOS BY WANG ANQI / FOR CHINA DAILY

## LIFE



**Middle:** Winners and judges at the 37th Hundred Flowers Awards in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Sunday. **Left:** Ma Li wins Best Actress for *Article 20*. **PHOTOS BY TANG WENHAO / XINHUA** **Top left:** Li Xuejian, 70, is honored with the Best Supporting Actor Award. **Top right:** Actor Yu Shi receives the Best New Talent Award. **Right:** Fu Ruoqing, chairman of the China Film Group Corporation, is honored with the Best Film Award for the epic *The Volunteers: To the War*, largely financed by the company. **PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY**

On Sunday night, 101 jurors representing movie enthusiasts from across the country assembled in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, to select the recipients of the 37th Hundred Flowers Awards. Established under the advocacy of former premier Zhou Enlai in 1962, it is China's oldest cinematic accolade.

Zhang Yimou, the auteur known for his work on the opening and closing ceremonies of both the 2008 Summer Olympic Games and 2022 Winter Olympic Games, took home the Best Director Award for *Article 20*, a film inspired by real-life cases of justifiable defense. It was the eighth time for the 74-year-old director to be honored at the Hundred Flowers Awards, but his first time winning best director.

Zhang said that the award was a testament to public recognition and he felt honored to have been nominated alongside four fellow filmmakers, including Rao Xiaozhi and Wuershan, whom he praised as the future of China's film industry.

#### Shining stars

Held biennially, the Hundred Flowers Awards is seen as a retrospective of the best Chinese films of the previous two years, as well as a glamorous event that attracts numerous A-list stars.

A thought-provoking story that delves into concepts of justice, *Article 20* also picked up two other awards — Ma Li for Best Actress and Zhao Liying for Best Supporting Actress.

Upon winning the Best Actress Award with 48 votes, Ma was overjoyed and unable to hold back her tears.

Embarking on her acting journey as a member of the comedy troupe Mahua FunAge, Ma said that it had taken her 20 years to transition from comedy to the prestigious Hundred Flowers Awards ceremony.

"The past two decades have been very challenging. There were times when I even thought about giving up because comedians are sometimes undervalued," she said, emphasizing that her passion for acting had enabled her to persevere.

Director Chen Kaige's epic *The Volunteers: To the War*, the first installment of a scheduled trilogy

## Hundred Flowers confirms culture is hot ticket

China's longest-running film award announces winners, Xu Fan reports in Chengdu.

which tells a panoramic story of the War to Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53), won the Best Film award.

Fu Ruoqing, chairman of the China Film Group Corporation, the main producer of the epic, says that Chen and his fellow creators have already dedicated four years to the franchise, adding that the sequel will be released in October, with the third installment scheduled for release next year.

*Chang'an*, last summer's animated blockbuster, won the Excellent Film Award. Named after the capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the film chronicles the lifelong friendship between two legendary poets, Li Bai and Gao Shi, while also depicting the lives of other renowned literature masters of the era, such as Du Fu and Wang Wei.

Xie Junwei, who codirected the film with Zou Jing, said that the award will encourage him and fellow animators from Light Chaser Animation to make more films about the beauty of Chinese culture and history.

Zhu Yilong won Best Actor for *Lighting Up the Stars*, a feel-good tale about the father-daughter-like relationship between an orphaned girl and a funeral director. Yang Enyou, the 10-year-old who plays the young girl, accepted the trophy on behalf of Zhu and called the actor, who wasn't able to attend the ceremony as he was shooting a new movie. Zhu expressed his surprise at winning and said that he felt a strong connection to the role.

Li Xuejian won Best Supporting Actor for his masterful portrayal of a



**Above top:** Zhang Yimou wins the Best Director in Chengdu on Sunday. **Above:** Directors Xie Junwei (left) and Zou Jing (right) alongside producer Song Yiyi win the Excellent Film award for the animated film *Chang'an*. **PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY**

noble in the fantasy epic *Creation of the Gods I: Kingdom of Storms*. It was the second win for the 70-year-old actor, 33 years after his bio-

graphical film *Jiao Yulu* won Best Film and Best Actor at the 14th Hundred Flowers Awards in 1991. Bowing to the audience before his

speech, Li said that he believed the honor belonged to everyone who loves cinema.

Yu Shi took home the Best New Talent award for his portrayal of Ji Fa, the brave, charming son of the noble played by Li. Yu said that he had worked in the film industry for seven years and that during this time, he had experienced long periods of waiting, repeating training tasks that seemed meaningless to some people, and that finally receiving the award was a great honor, as well as a source of encouragement and motivation.

Couple and creative duo Dong Runnian and Ying Luojia took home Best Screenplay for their comedy hit *Johnny Keep Walking!*, a satire exposing problems at internet companies. Dong said that winning the award felt like a dream come true, because it has been part of his life since he was a child.

#### Insider insights

Aside from the award ceremony, a range of activities including themed forums and film screenings were held from Friday to Sunday as a platform for industry insiders to exchange ideas on the future of the Chinese film industry.

Lu Shaoyang, president of the working committee of film theory and critic at the China Film Association and a professor at Peking University, said that a survey they conducted revealed that the primary audience of regular cinemagoers is aged between 25 and 30.

Reflecting on a similar survey conducted five years ago that showed the primary audience at the

time was aged between 20 and 24, Lu said this suggests that the mainstream cinema audience is the same group, only now five years older, which hints at the potential loss of younger viewers.

He added that some directors have worked hard to attract a younger audience, exemplified by films that explore hotly debated topics or which incorporate short-video elements, a format popular among the younger generation, in feature-length films that typically run for two hours.

Yin Hong, the vice-chairman of the China Film Association and a professor at Tsinghua University, said that the domestic audience has shown a trend toward recognizing and preferring films about Chinese culture or local themes, which demonstrates the improvement in the storytelling and artistic quality of Chinese films.

"China is currently one of the few countries where the market share of domestic films surpasses imported blockbusters," said Yin, adding that this was a testament to the progress achieved by local talent.

According to statistics from the China Film Administration, the top sector regulator, in 2022 and 2023, box-office grosses from home productions accounted for 84.85 percent and 83.77 percent respectively of annual cinematic revenues.

Director Wuershan, who is known for the *Creation of the Gods* series, said he believes that with its millennial history, Chinese civilization offers plentiful inspiration for domestic artists.

The rise in popularity of films about traditional culture has sparked an increased interest among young audiences in exploring cultural heritage, he added, saying that he has found that more young theatergoers have begun visiting museums and showing interest in traditional Chinese medicine and martial arts as a result.

"The Chinese film industry still has a long journey ahead. Don't let the length of the road deter you — once you take the first step, you will reach your destination," he said.

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## Travel trend reshaping global perspectives

From the bustling capital city of Beijing to the mountainous city of Zhangjiajie, China is abuzz with an influx of foreign tourists.

As many of them share their experiences online, "China Travel" has become a buzzword on overseas social media. Their firsthand stories offer fresh perspectives that debunk the claims perpetuated by some Western media outlets against China, and give foreigners a more comprehensive and authentic view of China.

"Most of my knowledge of China is limited to what I've heard in the news cycles over the last few years," Australian video blogger Josie says in a vlog about her first journey in China.

After visiting the eastern city of

Shanghai, she says that what she saw really surprised her.

"Most of the concerns I had about China were simply not coming true. As I explored more of the city, constant smiles, curious kids and the general friendliness of everyone we met made me so comfortable and welcomed," she says.

Josie's experiences are echoed by millions of foreign tourists who are wowed by China's advancements in modern technology and rich culture as they ride the trend of China travel.

Many highlighted keywords like "unexpected", "never imagined", or "unbelievable" on social media to describe their travels in China.

Hidetoshi Tashiro, chief economist of Japan's Infinity LLC, who

also recently traveled to Shanghai, says he did not see the so-called "desolate scenes" in Chinese cities mentioned in some news reports.

"What I saw were fuel-powered and electric vehicles driving alongside each other on the roads, as well as bustling new construction sites," he says.

"From cashless payments to traffic guidance systems, almost every aspect of China's society has been digitized. The streets are clean and the cityscape is beautiful," he adds.

Besides major cities and landmarks popular with foreigners, many lesser-known cities and even villages are on the radar. Smaller and bespoke tours are also emerging to fulfill these needs.

For example, Zhangjiajie in Hunan province stands out for its 569 percent increase in inbound tourists in the first half of this year. With its primordial forests and splendid mountains, foreign travelers are eager to see the magnificent natural landscape.

Sichuan province has become a popular destination for foreign tourists, particularly from South Korea. This surge can be attributed to the introduction of "panda tourism" itineraries by South Korean travel agencies.

Jaeho Hwang, director of the Institute for Global Strategy and Cooperation, says that as more international tourists visit China, misunderstandings and prejudices

will gradually diminish.

"People from all over the world will truly understand the wonders of Chinese culture and the enthusiasm of the people," he says.

This surge of excitement has been ignited by China's expanding visa-free policy and improved services for inbound tourists.

The country has rolled out a 15-day visa-free entry policy for 15 countries on a trial basis and has expanded the coverage of its 144-hour visa-free transit policy to 37 ports of entry, allowing nationals of 54 countries the opportunity for short-term travel and business visits.

It has also taken measures to improve services such as easing the use of mobile payment for foreigners, implementing reservation-free entry policies at scenic spots, and offering multiple languages and payment methods to assist international travelers in purchasing tick-

ets without too much trouble.

Thanks to these efforts, 14.64 million foreign nationals entered China through various ports in the first half of this year, an increase of 153 percent year-on-year. Remarkably, 8.54 million foreigners entered visa-free, a 190 percent leap from the previous year, according to the National Immigration Administration.

"This demonstrates China's determination to expand people-to-people exchanges and improve the institutions and mechanisms of opening-up," says Hwang.

As the world seeks a deeper understanding of China, the country welcomes this enthusiasm and curiosity. With an increasing number of foreign travelers visiting China, their stories will transcend borders and foster mutual understanding.

XINHUA

## LIFE



From left: Yan Dehui (1908-87) admired a lion sculpture during his visit to Beijing in 1977. The sculptor gave finishing touches to an artwork at his studio in Paris. Yan and modern artist Pan Yuliang at his studio in France. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

# Love for home shines through

Forty works of late sculptor Yan Dehui are on display at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing, **Lin Qi** reports.

**W**u Weishan, director of the National Art Museum of China, recalls a long car ride one winter morning in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comte region, eastern France in 2018.

Through the woods delivering "a poetic mood to remind one of the landscapes of Barbizon school", Wu and his colleagues arrived at the end of a country road where stood the former studio of Yan Dehui (1908-87), the Chinese sculptor who lived and worked in France since the 1930s till death.

They were greeted by Yan's daughter, Marianne Yen, who ushered the visiting group into the house, in which "sculptures filled almost every corner of the room, the desks and the top of packed book cabinets," Wu recalls, "and there were unfinished works and chunks of *huangyangmu* (boxwood) left for carving."

Wu says he had never met Yan, but "seeing his works, as if I had seen the man". He adds: "The works, carrying the marks of his hands and fingers, whether been done or not, touched us deeply, all the while conveying his homesickness."

The trip was arranged for a meeting with Yan's daughter who wished to donate his works to his home country.

The fruits of this journey — 40 works from Yan's oeuvre and a donation by his family — are on show at *Shaping Techniques From Within*, at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing. Part of the works are on show until Sunday and the rest through to Aug 14.

The exhibition provides insights into those clues in his work: his deep love for family, the modern art movements he was exposed to while in France, and the Chinese cultural roots that kept him warm and nurtured him while living far away from home.

Yan left France in 1938, making him a member of groups of Chinese youngsters studying in Europe,



a phenomenon of the first half of the 20th century.

Yan, however, did not find fame as much as his contemporaries in Europe — Xu Beihong, Liu Kaiqu and Wu Guanzhong — to name only a few who later became luminous figures and helped shape the Chinese art scene.

Before that, Yan had attended Shanghai Fine Art School, greatly inspired by the words of Liu Haisu, the school head and artist of repute, that "the mission of the school is to research on the latest developments of European art and meanwhile, to rediscover the treasures in the palace of our own culture, and blaze new trails for the revival of Chinese arts and culture."

Finishing his initial art education at home and teaching at his alma mater for some years, Yan thus traveled to Europe to follow the tenets of Liu Haisu.



From top: *Fisherman*, a boxwood sculpture, on show at *Shaping Techniques From Within* at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing. Two statues of Yan's daughter Marianne Yen on display. PHOTOS BY JIANG DONG / CHINA DAILY

The exhibition shows a typed recommendation letter for Yan in French and signed by Liu Haisu in his own hand, in which the latter described Yan's work as of "Eastern particularity" and "highly esteemed and appreciated."

Liu Haisu wrote that, Yan, to further improve his skills, went to France to draw inspiration from European arts to meld them harmoniously with the Eastern forms, a skill "which he was certainly able to master".

Yan's studies in France were fruitful. He enrolled in the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, the time-honored school in Paris. His graduation thesis writing was halted during World War II, but he managed to finish his studies after the war ended.

"Yan's work shows his solid disciplines in school and a figurative method to master," says Wu Wei-

shan, a sculptor in his own right. "He treated his subjects as delicately as Auguste Rodin and as expressively as Antoine Bourdelle," he adds.

*Walking Alone*, a work on display, sets a fine example. Shao Xiaofeng, a researcher at the National Art Museum of China, says the nude statue shows the results of the academic training Yan received in Paris.

"By giving a definition to her soft, well-fit silhouette, he hails the inner energy of life," Shao says, adding the depiction of a figure walking alone also reveals the confusion and loneliness of Yan in a foreign land.

Yan never forgot his roots. Born in Zhejiang province, he began to learn boxwood carving — his home province produced skillful artisans of the kind — at the age of 13 from famed carvers.

Several boxwood sculptures he made in France are also on show at the current exhibition.

During the decades he lived in France, he continued with this craft, a way to retain an emotional link with his homeland and also to source from Chinese elements.

While his Western-style sculptures were on show at Parisian exhibitions and collected by museums, he also endeavored to make his home art better known to Europeans.

He exhibited a wood carving, *Hide and Seek*, at a show at the Grand Palais in 1938. He joined the Chinese Society of Art in France which promoted traditional Chinese art. And his graduation thesis was a study of the sculptures of the Jin (265-420) and Sui (581-618) dynasties.

Wu Weishan says the Chinese side of Yan's art continued to influence his work, especially those in the later stage of his career.

"His works, enriched by spirituality and philosophy of his home art, allowed him to initiate a smooth dialogue between the East and the West," he sums up.

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## New finds indicate a legendary state in Shaoxing

By **WANG RU**  
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The latest archaeological discoveries in Shaoxing in Zhejiang province appear to confirm records of the existence of a legendary state millennia ago.

Complex large-scale foundations from the Yue State, which existed during the Warring States Period (475-221 BC), have been discovered for the first time in Shaoxing ancient city, which is known to have been the site of an important Yue capital, scholars explained at a recent news conference at the National Cultural Heritage Administration in Beijing.

The Jizhong Site in Shaoxing was discovered during a construction project at the Shaoxing Jishan High School last year. It has yielded results over the past five months since archaeological efforts started in February. The area under excavation covers nearly 3,000 square meters.

Li Longbin, director of the Shaoxing Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, says that the remains of wooden foundations from the Warring States Period and the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220)



are densely distributed across the site. The later Han complex was built on the site of an earlier structure covering an area of 2,385 square meters.

Based on records, archaeologists believe that the Warring States Period relics are from the Yue, a state that ruled part of today's Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces and Shanghai.

A large number of tiles have been found from both periods, which imply the existence of important buildings. "From the Warring States Period to the Han Dynasty, only important buildings had tiles. The large number and types of tiles unearthed clearly indicate that the site was originally home to important buildings," says Li.



Above: The Jizhong Site under excavation covers nearly 3,000 square meters in Zhejiang province's Shaoxing ancient city, the site of high-level buildings of an important Yue state capital during the Warring States Period (475-221 BC). Above left: A brick well built in the Six Dynasties (222-589) at the site. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Moreover, archaeologists have found that the original complexes were built on high platforms, indicating they were government offices since at the time only government buildings were elevated.

The complexes from both periods show evidence of buried wooden foundations and buildings on platforms. "This shows an innovative way of building that probably com-

earliest foundations are well-preserved, and display characteristics very different to contemporaneous structures in northern China, and thus play an important role in the history of the country's architecture.

According to Li, archaeologists have excavated a few Yue sites, particularly tombs, but all the earlier sites were located outside Shaoxing ancient city, which is part of the modern Shaoxing, and only the new site is located within the confines of the ancient city.

According to historical literature, King Goujian assumed the Yue throne in 496 BC, and three years later, the state was invaded and defeated by a neighboring power, the Wu, who took Goujian captive and held him until 490 BC.

Following his release, Goujian built a new capital in Shaoxing ancient city and is said to have lived a humble life. He slept on piles of firewood and hay, used his weapons as a pillow, and hung bitter gall in his home, licking it every day to remind himself of the bitterness and shame of being captured. Through much resolve and immense effort, he finally built up Yue strength and defeated Wu 17 years later.

"Carbon dating shows that the site

dates to 2,500 years ago, and stands as testimony to the recorded history of King Goujian establishing his capital in Shaoxing ancient city," says Li.

"As a result, it's a big discovery since it fills in a blank about why no Yue state relics had been found within Shaoxing ancient city, and offers clues to the study of the layout of the capital," he adds.

Artifacts from later dynasties have also been found at the site, including from the Six Dynasties (222-589), and the Sui (581-618), Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties.

One standout find is of part of a tablet written by Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) historian and poet Lu You, which was unearthed at the site last year, alongside a large number of building units and ceramics found more recently, which together indicate that the site may have been Shaoxing's *guanxue*, a type of government-sponsored educational institution for nurturing talent during the Song Dynasty.

"The Jizhong Site boasts a wealth of artifacts. The area is full of foundations of buildings that were in use for a long time," says Li.

"These buildings, spanning different eras, exhibit the features of high-level architecture, providing evidence of ancient Shaoxing's role as a political, economic and cultural hub in the southeastern region of China," he adds.