

OPINION: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN XINJIANG P.26 | FEATURES: MULTILATERALISM MATTERS P.30

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.64 NO.5 FEBRUARY 4, 2021

北方周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

READY, STEADY, GO!

Countdown starts to Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games



RMB8.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF2.60
JPY138

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914215

邮发代号2-922 · 国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2

Follow **BEIJING REVIEW**

And get in on the conversation



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



@BeijingReview



Chinafrica-Magazine



@chinafrica1



CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

02 Snow Fever

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 Heat in a White World

Beijing 2022 comes closer

16 A Debut of Olympic Venues

A look at some of the sites

18 A Snowballing Trend

Youngsters warm up to winter sports

OPINION

22 Synergies Amid Change

The relevance of Xi's message today and in future

24 A U.S.-China Green Deal?

A new American presidency is a good time for rapprochement

26 Help for Xinjiang or a Knockout Blow?

27 Forex Data Proves Economic Resilience

FEATURES

30 Call for Unity

What China's advocacy of multilateralism means

32 A Tightening Net

Anti-graft campaign receives a boost

34 Strengthening the Weakest Link

Healthcare shored up in rural areas

36 Record Inflow

China's allure for foreign investors continues

40 Business of Beauty

E-commerce helps domestic cosmetic brands rise

42 Diving Into the Unknown

British educator spreads the spirit of science

CULTURE

46 A Classic for Every Age

Play by Chinese trendsetter inspires cross-border venture

EXPAT'S EYE






48 Lines of Life

A nucleic acid test veteran traces its progress

Cover Photo: Children practice skating in a park in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on January 21 (VCG)

©2021 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



www.bjreview.com   Follow us on    YouTube

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader



EDITOR'S DESK

北京周报

BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine

Published Since 1958

President: Li Yafang

Associate Editor in Chief: Li Jianguo

Associate President: Yan Ying

Executive Editor: Yan Wei

Associate Executive Editors: Zan Jifang, Liu Yunyun, Ding Ying

Production Director: Yao Bin

Editorial Administrators: Zeng Wenhui, Hou Beibei

Assistant Executive Editor: Li Fangfang

Commentator: Lan Xinzheng

Editors: Wang Hairong, Li Nan

Editorial Consultants: Sudeshna Sarkar, Madhusudan Chaubey

Reporters: Tang Yuankai, Wang Jun, Pan Xiaoqiao, Yuan Yuan,

Ji Jing, Lu Yan, Wen Qing, Li Qing, Li Xiaoyang, Ma Miaomiao,

Zhang Shasha, Tao Xing, Tao Zihui

Visual Director: Pamela Tobey

Photo Editor: Wang Xiang

Photographer: Wei Yao

Art: Li Shigong

Design Director: Wang Yajuan

Chief Designer: Cui Xiaodong

Designer: Zhao Boyu

Proofreading: Ma Xin

Distribution Director: Hu Keqiang

Human Resources: Zhang Yajie

Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau

Chief: Yu Shujun

Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334

E-mail: yushujun@bjreview.com

Africa Bureau

Chief Correspondent: Ni Yanshuo

Tel: 27-71-6132053

E-mail: casa201208@hotmail.com

General Editorial Office

Tel: 86-10-68996252

Fax: 86-10-68326628

English Edition

Tel: 86-10-68996250

Advertising Department

Tel: 86-10-68996280

E-mail: ad@bjreview.com

Distribution Department

Tel: 86-10-68310644

E-mail: circulation@bjreview.com

Published every Thursday by

BEIJING REVIEW, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,

Beijing 100037, China.

Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading

Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,

Beijing 100044, China

Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)

Fax: 86-10-68412166

E-mail: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn

Website: <http://www.cibtc.com>

General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:

Peace Book Co. Ltd.

17/FI, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK

Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is distributed weekly in

the United States for US\$64.00 per year by Cypress Books,

360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080

News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*,

Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48,

South San Francisco, CA 94080

Snow Fever

With the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games one year away, the construction of competition venues has come to an end. On January 18, President Xi Jinping, while inspecting preparations for the Games, called for advancing the work against difficulties. China is pulling out all the stops to ensure the Games will be a success.

Despite the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, venue construction ran smoothly while adhering to stringent prevention and control measures. A striking feature of the venues is their environmental friendliness. This principle will be honored throughout, from their construction to operation and post-Games utilization.

To hit the green target, new assessment criteria were hammered out based on detailed discussions between Chinese experts and their counterparts from the International Olympic Committee. The innovative set of criteria can be a reference for others.

The Games have sparked a new Chinese interest. After successfully reeling in the bid for hosting the Games, the Chinese Government proposed to

encourage some 300 million people to participate in snow sports. Across the country, these sports are sliding full steam ahead. Even in Guangzhou, a city boasting a subtropical climate, pitches filled with artificial snow have sprouted. As they gain popularity, winter sports events are helping increase the public's understanding of the Games as well as the Olympic spirit.

Snow fever is creating a demand for more professionals. Many schools offer training classes on snow sports. Sports venues have brought in professionals to organize workouts. The call for more athletes, coaches and referees is also getting louder.

Snow sports have given a boost to the economy. According to a report released by the China Tourism Academy in January, despite repercussions from the ongoing pandemic, revenues from ice and snow tourism could surpass 390 billion yuan (\$60 billion) during the 2020-21 winter season. Right now, there is a big demand for all that is snow sports-related in China. These huge business opportunities are beckoning investors both from home and abroad. **BR**



WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: editorsoffice@bjreview.com

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

CHINA.....RMB6.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70

AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20

CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60

JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EURO1.90

TURKEY.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位: 中国外文出版发行事业局

主办单位: 北京周报社

地址: 北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编: 100037

编委会: 李雅芳 李建国 闫颖 曾文卉

社长: 李雅芳

总编室电话: (010) 68996252 发行部电话: (010) 68310644

印刷: 北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2021年 第5期 ISSN 1000-9140

国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号: 2-922

广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证第733号

国内零售价: 人民币6.00元



THE WAY HOME

Passengers at a railway station in Chongqing on January 28, the day the Spring Festival travel season began. The 40-day period is expected to see 1.7 billion passenger trips. The number, though projected to rise 10 percent year on year, is also expected to be 40 percent less than in 2019 as new measures reduced mass gatherings to strengthen novel coronavirus disease control. The journeys are for families to meet and celebrate the Lunar New Year, which falls on February 12 this year.



Fully Prepared

High-speed trains receive a thorough cleaning in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province in southwest China, on January 26, to prepare for the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush from January 28.

Security System

China had included 253,000 unsupported children, whose parents are unable to care for them, in a special security system by late 2020, an official with the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on January 25.

A monthly subsistence allowance of 1,140 yuan (\$176) is provided per child, the same as that provided to an orphan, Ni Chunxia, Deputy Director of the ministry's child welfare department, said at a press conference.

Ni clearly defined the "unsupported child" classification.

Children are considered unsupported if their parents are both seriously disabled, gravely ill, in prison, in drug rehabilitation, missing or subject to other measures restricting their personal freedom, if they have had their guardianship revoked or

have been repatriated (expelled) from the country, or where one parent is dead or missing and the other parent falls into one of the eight outlined categories.

Statistics show that 45.1 percent of the 253,000 unsupported children are those with one parent dead and the other missing, severely disabled or in one of the other circumstances mentioned, according to Ni. Children whose parents are both seriously disabled account for 27.4 percent, and those whose parents are in prison, 8.3 percent.

In terms of regional distribution, 85 percent of unsupported children are rural residents.

Industrial Upgrades

The National Development and Reform Commission released a revised catalog of industries whose development is to be

encouraged in the western region on January 26.

The move aims to promote industrial upgrades and the development of characteristic industries across the vast western areas.

Effective from March 1, the revised catalog will enable eligible enterprises to have their corporate income tax reduced by 15 percent.

Industries including automobile and parts production, smart and green textile, garment processing, as well as household appliances and consumer electronics manufacturing have been added to the list, the commission said.

To push the western provinces to better employ their unique advantages, industries such as agriculture, forestry, husbandry and fishery, health and tourism are also featured in the newly

drafted catalog.

Businesses revolving around energy conservation, environmental protection and livable construction have been incorporated, along with light industrial textiles, special handicrafts, and other industries that promote employment and boost residents' incomes.

The enterprises eligible for preferential tax policies are those whose main business is in the aforementioned industries, and those whose core business income accounts for more than 60 percent of their total revenue.

Drought Monitoring

As of January 26, over 475,333 hectares of arable land had been affected by drought, with some 170,000 villagers having difficulty in accessing clean drinking water, according to data from the Ministry of Water Resources.

Several cities and counties across Zhejiang, Guangdong and Yunnan provinces recently were faced with a tight water supply, affecting around 1.4 million people, the ministry said.

Parts of south China will likely continue to see water shortages, partly due to less rainfall and inadequate reservoir water storage.

Local authorities should closely monitor any further drought developments, speed up the construction of emergency water projects, and ensure safe drinking water for all residents.

The ministry has dispatched three teams to Zhejiang, Guangxi, and Yunnan to help with drought relief.

Gambling Blacklist

A few more overseas destinations will be added to China's blacklist for cross-border gambling tourist destinations, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MCT)

announced on January 26.

The ministry, in conjunction with relevant departments, will draft a list of the second batch of overseas destinations attracting Chinese tourists for gambling purposes, which will be subsequently added to the system, the ministry noted.

In order to better regulate the tourism market and safeguard the lives and properties of Chinese citizens, the blacklist system was established through the concerted efforts of multiple departments, including the MCT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security.

Travel restrictions will be imposed on Chinese citizens heading to overseas cities and scenic areas on the list, the MCT added.

Water System

Chinese archaeologists have found the ruins of an ancient urban water system from the Shang Dynasty (1,600-1,046 B.C.) in Henan Province in central China. It is believed to be the earliest urban water system of the dynasty.

The system is part of the Yanshi ruins, an ancient city discovered by archaeologists in 1983. The city, covering about 2 square km, was built in three lay-

ers—a big city, a small city and the city palace.

“The internal water system was mainly used for drainage, and the external water system included a moat and two river courses,” said Chen Guoliang, an archaeologist with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and leader of the archaeological team at the Yanshi ruins.

According to Chen, the internal and external water systems were connected, which not only facilitated drainage and prevented waterlogging, but also landscaped the palace with a water surface area of nearly 3,000 square meters.

Archaeologists also confirmed that there were at least two east-west ditches running through the small city, which they speculate were dug during different periods.

The excavation of the Yanshi ruins is still in progress.

TV Drama

Minning Town, a TV drama depicting poverty-stricken villagers in northwest China who built their new homes from scratch after relocating from Xihaigu, one of the country’s most uninhabitable areas, has become an online sensation.

Set in Ningxia Hui



A Beautiful Sight

Swans rest in a wetland at the foot of the Huashan Mountain in Weinan, Shaanxi Province in northwest China, on January 26.

Autonomous Region from the 1990s to the present day, the production shows how the people of Ningxia’s remote areas, under the guidance of China’s poverty alleviation policies and with assistance from the coastal province of Fujian in southeast China, triumph over destitution.

The Chinese title *Shan Hai Qing*, literally *Mountain and Sea Love*, denotes the cooperation between Ningxia and Fujian.

Produced by Daylight Entertainment, the drama first hit the screen on January 12 and

has since won the applause from both major media outlets and netizens.

The show topped the weekly popularity charts for Chinese-language TV series on Douban, a social networking website, with a rating of 9.4 out of 10 based on more than 70,000 reviews, according to the latest ranking results.

The year 2020 marked the completion of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period and the mission to end absolute poverty in China.



Welcoming Spring Festival

Workers of a textile factory in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China, make dumplings on January 26. The local government has organized cultural activities for those choosing not to return to their hometowns for the festival.

THIS WEEK ECONOMY

High Expectations

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on January 26 projected that China's economy will grow 8.1 percent in 2021, 0.1 percentage point below the forecast in October 2020, according to the latest revision of its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.

China is one of those economies that bounced back to their pre-pandemic projected level in the fourth quarter of 2020, "well ahead of" other major economies, IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said at a virtual press briefing.

"China has been very successful in containing the pandemic and that has played a very important role in restoring activity much more quickly," Gopinath said. "There's been effective support both in terms of fiscal and monetary policies."

Echoing Gopinath's remarks,

Malhar Nabar, division chief with the IMF's Research Department, told reporters that China's policy support has been "a big driver" of its "impressive rebound" in 2020.

The support in terms of public infrastructure expenditure, and also the funding that was extended to affected households and to businesses, reinforced by aggressive actions by the People's Bank of China to provide liquidity support and ensure that credit provision remained strong, Nabar said.

"Going forward, we see a gradual handoff to private sector activity, starting out with a pickup in private investment activity," he said. "That's in fact already been noted in the second half of last year, and we expect that to continue."

Nabar added that to secure the recovery path, it is "of vital importance" for China to ensure the rebalancing toward private consumption continues

and "perhaps even is accelerated to an extent, with efforts to strengthen the social safety net."

According to the latest WEO update, China will grow 5.6 percent by 2022, while the global economy is expected to expand 4.2 percent.

The IMF also revised up its forecast for the global economic growth in 2021 to 5.5 percent, up 0.3 percentage point from the projection in October 2020.

Capital Bonds

The People's Bank of China, the central bank, has authorized two local lenders to issue equity-conversion capital bonds in the interbank bond market to replenish capital, it said in a statement on January 25.

On January 20, Ningbo Commerce Bank in Zhejiang issued such bonds with no fixed maturity worth 500 million yuan (\$77 million).

Zhejiang Chou Zhou Commercial Bank in the same province has also obtained approval for the issuance of this kind of bond.

Holders of the bonds will be able to convert debt into stock and participate in the distribution of the issuer's remaining assets if specific risk events arise. It is a tool forged to help the undercapitalized smaller banks.

Financial regulators will encourage qualified small and medium-sized banks to issue such bonds to replenish capital and bolster their capabilities to serve the real economy and defuse risks, the statement said.

New GDP Giants

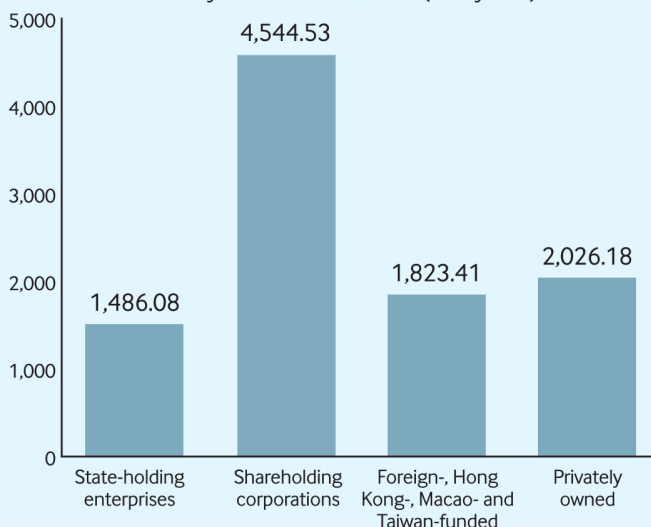
Six more cities crossed the landmark of annual GDP of 1 trillion yuan (\$154.8 billion) in 2020, local governments said.

Hefei, capital of Anhui Province in east China, reported its GDP sat at nearly 1.0046 tril-

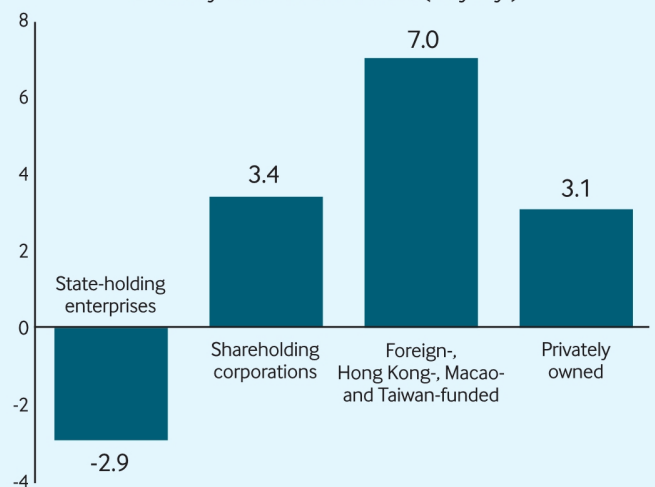
NUMBERS

(\$1=6.4 yuan)

Industrial Enterprises' Profit by Business Type
January-December 2020 (bln yuan)



Industrial Enterprises' Growth by Business Type
January-December 2020 (% y.o.y.)



lion yuan (\$155 billion) in 2020, an annual increase of 4.3 percent, the municipal government said on January 26.

That very day, Jinan, capital of Shandong Province in the east, announced its GDP grew 4.9 percent year on year to reach nearly 1.0141 trillion yuan (\$157 billion) last year.

Earlier, Nantong in Jiangsu Province in the east, Quanzhou and Fuzhou in Fujian Province in the southeast, and Xi'an in Shaanxi Province in the northwest all reported their annual economic aggregate exceeded 1 trillion yuan last year, raising the total number of Chinese cities in the club to 23.

Eight of these cities are in the Yangtze River Delta region, including Shanghai and the provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Anhui.

Shanghai became the first city to hit an annual GDP of 1 trillion yuan on the Chinese mainland in 2006. In 2020,

its GDP was 3.87 trillion yuan (\$596.3 billion).

Beijing's GDP topped 3.6 trillion yuan (\$554.7 billion) last year.

5G Empowerment

The 5G industry will receive a boost in 2021 from improvements in the capacity of overall network coverage, application innovation and industrial support, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

With ever-increasing investment, China's 5G commercial development made solid strides forward last year, Zhao Zhiguo, Director of the Cybersecurity Management Bureau of the ministry, said at a press conference on January 26.

By 2020, 5G network had covered all cities above the prefecture-level, with more than 200 million 5G terminal connections and over 1,100 5G Plus

Industrial Internet projects, he added.

China will build more than 600,000 5G base stations in 2021, promoting 5G coverage across a wider range and more levels, Zhao said.

The country will foster emerging consumption models such as 5G Plus VR/AR and immersive gaming as well as promote the integration of 5G technology into services including healthcare, elderly care and housekeeping.

Programs will also be launched to carry out 5G millimeter wave tests, speed up the research and development of key technologies, shore up the weak links and ensure the safety of the industrial and supply chains, Zhao said.

Roots in China

Multinational chemical company LyondellBasell and China's largest oil refiner, China

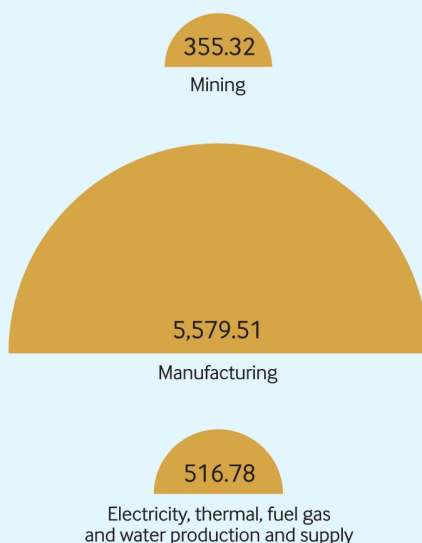
Petrochemical Corp. (Sinopec), will set up a 50-50 joint venture, according to an agreement signed on January 26.

The company will build a plant in the city of Ningbo, Zhejiang Province in east China, by the end of this year, with an annual output of 275,000 tons of propylene oxide and 600,000 tons of styrene monomer.

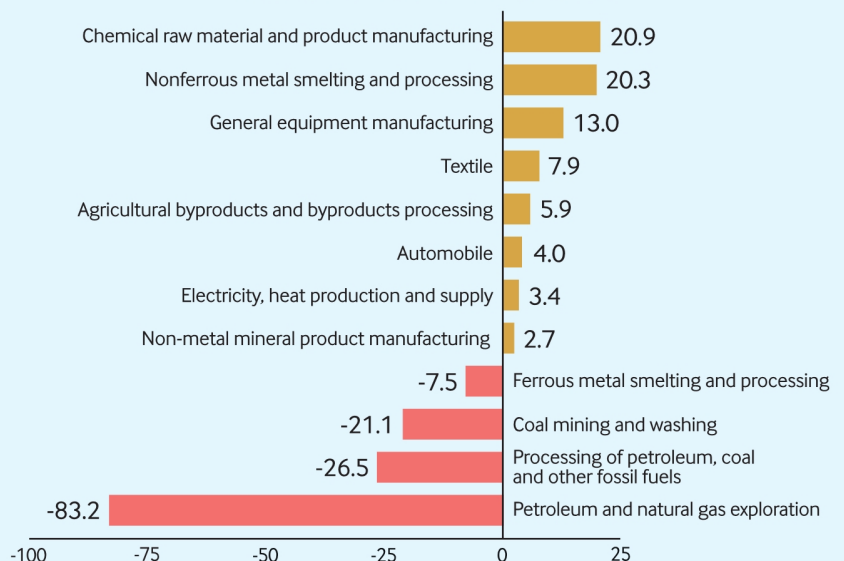
The demand for propylene oxide and styrene monomer in China will increase against the backdrop of its sustained economic growth, according to Torkel Rhenman, Executive Vice President of LyondellBasell.

With expanding investment across China, LyondellBasell now runs five wholly owned factories in the cities of Suzhou and Changshu in the Jiangsu Province in east China, Dongguan and Guangzhou in Guangdong Province in the south, and Dalian in Liaoning Province in the northeast.

Industrial Enterprises' Profit by Sector
January-December 2020 (bln yuan)



Profit Changes for Major Sectors
January-December 2020 (% y.o.y.)



THIS WEEK **WORLD**



GERMANY

A pedestrian walks past the Old Jewish Cemetery in Frankfurt on January 27, International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. On this day in 1945 Soviet troops liberated thousands of Jewish and other prisoners from the Auschwitz Concentration Camp run by Nazi Germany in Poland



ITALY

President Sergio Mattarella leaves following consultations with political leaders to form a new government after Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte submitted his resignation, in Rome on January 27



PORTUGAL

Prime Minister Antonio Costa waits to vote at a polling station in Lisbon on January 24. Incumbent President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa was re-elected





SLOVENIA

Teachers register at a novel coronavirus testing site in capital city Ljubljana on January 25. Mass testing was conducted for all teachers of kindergartens and the first three grades of primary schools who returned to in-person teaching



INDONESIA

President Joko Widodo receives his second dose of a China-developed COVID-19 vaccine at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta on January 27



INDIA

Paramilitary troops in face masks take part in the 72nd Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

91-YEAR-OLD GRANDMA HELPS POOR STUDENTS

Wu Litian, a retired teacher of *pingtan*, an old art form that combines singing and storytelling, lost her way in a railway station recently. When the police found the 91-year-old and took her home, they found the words “Giving will reap the greatest harvest” pinned on her door and, subsequently, discovered her story.

Eight years ago, Wu came across a decrepit primary school in the mountains in Guizhou Province in southwest China. She decided to create a better environment for the students and donated almost all her savings to the school.

Two years later, she sold her sole property in an urban district of Shanghai and donated that money to construct a primary school in a village in east China, relocating to Shanghai’s neighboring province Jiangsu.



No Need to Panic

Beijing Youth Daily
January 25

The center for disease control and prevention in Liangxi District in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, east China, announced on January 22 that a box of imported cherries had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. However, other samples from the same batch all tested negative.

In recent times, some cold chain products have been found to contain the virus, which has made people avoid imported food. But so far, there has been no report about consumers

getting infected from imported food.

To ensure that cold chains remain infection-free, enterprises and e-commerce platforms should fulfill their responsibility for prevention and control in accordance with regulations. They should trace the source of foods, monitor their employees’ health and disinfect the workplace frequently.

The authorities should conduct extensive tests and respond swiftly once the virus is detected by seizing the products and testing and quarantining the people who handled them. Also, they should foster a prudent public attitude toward the pandemic while releasing information in a timely and transparent way.



Online Medical Care

Oriental Outlook
January 21

The novel coronavirus disease epidemic has become a milestone in the development of online medical care in China. Patients with chronic disease can have their regular health checks without having to go to hospital,

“Chinese vaccines’ capability remains almost as effective in neutralizing the new variants of the virus that emerged in Europe, South America and the U.S. in the first half of 2020.”

Shao Yiming, a member of the Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization, to *Global Times*

“We believe the vast majority of countries in the world are sharp-eyed as they have an objective and fair assessment of Xinjiang’s development.”

Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Zhao Lijian** at a press conference on January 27, commenting on the Japanese Government not giving credence to a so-called U.S. panel saying China committed “genocide” in its northwestern autonomous region

which reduces the risk of infection. With the government's encouragement, public hospitals, in particular, have stepped up efforts to develop online treatment for patients' greater convenience.

Since February 2020, the Central Government has issued several policies to support the online medical care industry, and people have increasingly recognized its advantages. But online medical care in remote regions and less developed urban areas still has a long way to go. In such places, the services should focus on basic public health demands, such as disease prevention.

During the process, the differences between communities in cities and villages should be taken into consideration. Getting experts' guidance for doctors at the community level should be another highlight, as well as sharing the resources of top hospitals.

As some groups, such as senior citizens, find it difficult to cross the digital gap, hospitals should retain offline services while accelerating online business. They should also take care to protect patients' privacy. Experts say online diagnosis and treatment should be regulated by setting industry standards and enhancing supervision.

Choosing Knowledge Rationally

Economic Daily
January 25

Along with a growing awareness that one needs to pay for knowledge online, people's attitude toward its consumption has changed. Instead of subscribing to as many courses as possible, they now make demand-oriented decisions in a more rational way, opening their wallets only for quality content.

Successful companies such as popular audio-sharing platform Ximalaya

have expanded their business, targeting consumers' needs, from audio and video courses to content with entertainment features, such as Internet games. But this experience is not suitable for startups. They should carve a niche in the market based on their own strengths.

Quality content does not mean specialized academic courses alone as people hope to learn with ease and pleasure. So platforms should design products to meet the needs of different user groups. It is a test of platform operators' business acumen and requires communication with users.

↓ AMBASSADOR LEAVES OFFICE AFTER 11 YEARS IN BRITAIN

The Chinese Ambassador to the UK, **Liu Xiaoming**, hosted a farewell reception online due to the novel coronavirus pandemic prior to leaving office after 11 years in the post. "These 11 years have seen tremendous changes in both China and the world," Liu said.

Liu was appointed China's 11th ambassador to the UK in December 2009 and is the longest-serving ambassador in the history of China-UK relations.

In his speech, Liu spoke of the growing common interests between both countries on issues including climate change, multilateralism and free trade, and highlighted the importance of continued cooperation and mutual respect.

"Thanks to the concerted efforts of people from all walks of life in both countries, China and the UK have deepened mutual understanding and cemented public support for bilateral relations," he said.



"Local governments in China do not have to adopt a one-size-fits-all approach to stop residents from returning to their hometowns for Spring Festival reunions."

Zhao Chenxin, a spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission, at a press conference on January 27

"The economic fortunes of countries are interconnected, especially when things such as supply chains and consumer markets span multiple countries. When one major economy is hurt, others are hurt, too."

Tom Fowdy, a British political and international relations analyst, in an article in *China Daily* on January 28, stressing decoupling from China would only serve to alienate the U.S.

Gu Ailing competes in the women's freeski big air final run in freestyle skiing at the Lausanne 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Leysin, Switzerland, on January 22

