

OPINION: COVID-19 ORIGIN-TRACING MUST BE FAIR P.26 | CULTURE: SHIELD FOR HERITAGE P.44

# BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.64 NO.14 APRIL 8, 2021

北方周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



## HARMONY OF DIVERSE FREQUENCIES

Politics may divide but people-to-people bonds unite

RMB6.00  
USD1.70  
AUD3.00  
GBP1.20  
CAD2.60  
CHF2.60  
JPY188

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 The Power of Ping-Pong Diplomacy**

## THIS WEEK

### COVER STORY

**12 The Ping Is Still Heard**  
The little ball's role in bringing the big ball together

**18 Our Shared Cultural Legacy**  
How a unique publishing project united China-U.S. culturati

**22 Filling the Language Gap**  
An American teacher's perceptions in China

**23 Respecting Differences**  
A Chinese student's experiences in the U.S.

Cover Design: Wang Yajuan

©2021 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.

## OPINION

**26 COVID-19 Origin-Tracing Should Be About Science, Not Politics**

Joint WHO-China study debunks Western allegations

**27 Anti-Asian Hate Did Not Begin With Trump**

Community fights back after Atlanta killings

**28 An International Platform Of Consumption**

New expo in Hainan to promote opening up

## FEATURES

**30 Legislative Changes**

Hong Kong Basic Law annexes amended

**32 Curtains of Cotton**

Accusations of forced labor in Xinjiang rebutted

**36 Counting the Benefits**

China steps up preparations for RCEP

**38 Grow With the Snow**

Beijing 2022 nurtures new skills

**40 Survival of the Fittest**

Online teaching needs to re-strategize post-COVID-19

## CULTURE

**44 Invincible Against Time and Tide**

Technology boosts preservation of cultural heritage

**46 Fly Me to the Moon**

Space program explained

## FORUM

**48 What Role Can an Individual Pension System Play?**



[www.bjreview.com](http://www.bjreview.com)



amazon

Follow us on



YouTube

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader





## BEIJINGREVIEW

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

**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 Yanshou  
**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:** 86-10-68995807  
**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.

## The Power of Ping-Pong Diplomacy

Fifty years ago, when the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the United States had not yet established diplomatic relations but were keen to do so, a tiny table tennis ball created the first friendly people-to-people link since the founding of the PRC in 1949.

Fifteen Americans, including nine players and officials, as well as a team of journalists from the United States, arrived in China in April 1971 to take part in exhibition matches, opening the door to friendly exchanges between the two major powers in the eastern and western hemispheres.

It also paved the way for then U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972, followed by the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between the PRC and the United States seven years later.

Since then, frequent trade, culture, education and people-to-people exchanges have forged a community across the Pacific that has shared win-win cooperation and mutual benefits.

Occasional friction is inevitable when two countries have different systems, values and histories. But what is more important is to seek common ground while reserving or respecting differences to conduct state-to-state relations. If there is harmony and

coexistence of two different frequencies, it will contribute to the development of global civilizations and human welfare.

However, the United States began to regard China's rise on the global stage as a challenge. Unfounded accusations and efforts to suppress China and maintain U.S. hegemony have strained China-U.S. relations and the 50-year relationship is now going through a dark phase.

It's therefore a good time to recall the spirit of ping-pong diplomacy once again.

An important achievement of the ping-pong diplomacy is that it created a successful model of promoting exchanges and reconciliation between nations through friendship between their people. Despite some deterioration, the China-U.S. relationship is still much better than what it was five decades ago, and their citizens are better placed today to be friends.

Though a handful of U.S. politicians have been clamoring for the decoupling of the two economies, the vast majority of Chinese and Americans do not agree with them. It is also not feasible in today's age of globalization, when all economies are deeply intertwined.

The wheel of history cannot be reversed. China and the U.S. need to be on board again. **BR**



### WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: [editorsoffice@bjreview.com](mailto: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14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733号  
国内零售价：人民币6.00元



# A GLOBAL INVITATION

China's 500-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) *Tianyan* is under maintenance in Guizhou Province on March 28. The world's most sensitive radio telescope will have its observation time partially available to global scientists from August 1 onward, with online reservations having started on March 31, according to the National Astronomical Observatories of China.

After the collapse of the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico last December, FAST is now the leading radio telescope in the world. Located in a naturally deep and round karst depression in southwest China, it came into operation on January 11, 2020, and has since identified over 300 pulsars.



YINHX

## New Journey

A cargo train is ready to leave Changsha, Hunan Province, for Hanoi, the capital of Viet Nam, on March 31. On that day, a new freight train service linking Hunan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was launched.

## TCM Center

China plans to build a major center at the national level focusing on the use of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in epidemic prevention and treatment, sources with the top economic planner said on March 29.

Sun Zhicheng, a senior official with the social development department of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a press conference that the center will be tasked with building a talent pool, formulating technical protocols for epidemic prevention and treatment, conducting TCM therapy research and stockpiling relevant medical supplies.

The center is expected to

ramp up the country's capacity for rapid response, prevention, control, and treatment in the face of new or emerging infectious diseases and other major public health events by applying TCM, Sun said.

## Dryland Research

A global dryland research project overseen by Chinese researchers will serve as a reference for sandstorm source control, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The Global Dryland Ecosystem Program (Global-DEP), initiated by the CAS, published a series of research results on March 29, providing a roadmap for the research and

management of global arid areas.

Fu Bojie, chief scientist of the project and academician at the CAS, said there is a lack of long-term monitoring data for dryland areas, especially those located in some developing countries.

Sandstorms are closely related to land degradation, Fu said, adding that the project will help restore the ecosystem and facilitate sandstorm source control.

Through this project, local and global researchers have jointly formulated standards for global observation and research on dryland areas, as well as carried out case studies of dryland ecosystem protection in different regions.

The project will collaborate with the United Nations Environment Program and the Alliance of International Science Organization in establishing a database for dryland ecosystem management.

## Crime Crackdown

China has achieved significant results in its national crackdown on gang-related crime, with more than 3,600 mafia-like groups arrested over the past three years, 1.3 times the total of arrests made in the previous decade, Xinhua News Agency reported on March 28.

Additionally, a further 89,742 cases involving gang crime-related corruption and "protective umbrellas" that shield gangs were handled nationwide, according to official statistics.

In the past three years, Chinese courts have concluded 32,943 gang-related first instance cases, involving more than 220,000 suspects. A total of 53,405 defendants in connected cases were given sentences ranging from no less than five-year imprisonment to the death penalty.

Ever since China first launched its campaign targeting gang crime in 2018, the country has strived to fight this type of crime through a series of actions, including but not limited to the adoption of legal policies and the creation of a tip-off platform.

According to a poll conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in the first half of 2020, 95.1 percent of the Chinese people are satisfied with the results of the country's special campaign.

## Back to Nature

Over 3,000 captive-bred sturgeons were released into the middle reaches of the Yangtze

River on March 28 to revive the wild population of the endangered Chinese sturgeon and Dabry's sturgeon.

The release of 2,020 Chinese sturgeons and 1,000 Dabry's sturgeons took place in the city of Jingzhou, Hubei Province.

In recent years, China has stepped up efforts to rescue the Dabry's sturgeon and other endangered fish species in the river, such as the Chinese sturgeon, Wei Qi of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences that jointly launched the event, said.

Dabry's sturgeon, also known as the Yangtze sturgeon, has lost its natural ability to reproduce since 2000 due to overfishing and overcrowding on the river, among others. Nicknamed "aquatic pandas," Chinese sturgeons are thought to have existed for more than 140 million years. The size of their population in the Yangtze, however, plummeted in the late 20th century due to intrusive human activity.

According to Wei, about 7 million captive-bred Chinese sturgeons have been released into the Yangtze River since 1983.

## Memorial Hall

Tibet Autonomous Region on March 28 opened its first

memorial hall on the historic movement to end serfdom 62 years ago.

On March 28, 1959, the Communist Party of China (CPC) led the people of Tibet to launch democratic reform, abolishing Tibet's theocratic feudal serfdom.

In 2009, the regional legislature announced March 28 as the day to commemorate the emancipation of 1 million serfs.

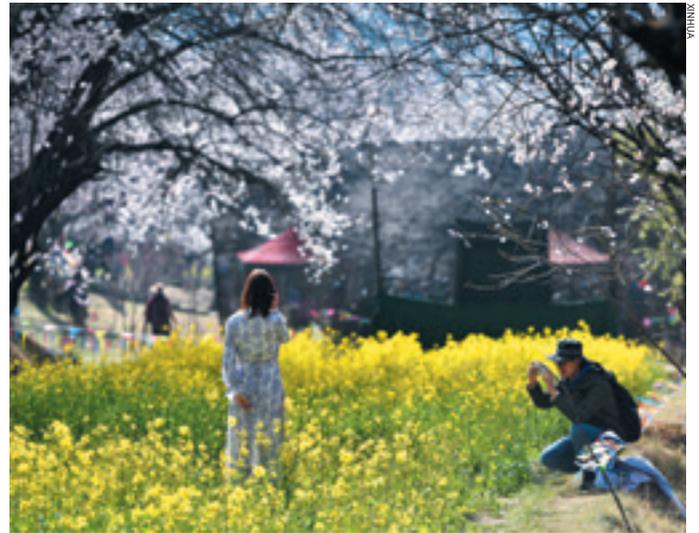
The memorial hall displays both photos and items from the serfdom era, including torture instruments and ritual artifacts made from serfs' bones and skin, as well as those recording the democratic reform and serfs' new lives.

"We hope the display can help visitors better understand Tibet's past and present, remember history and cherish today's good life," Li Hua, an employee at the hall, said.

## Figure Skating

China secured five spots for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 after achieving good results at the Figure Skating World Championships, which concluded in Stockholm on March 27.

China's PyeongChang Olympic runners-up Sui Wenjing and Han Cong took silver at



## In Full Blossom

Tourists take photos during the 19th peach blossom festival in Nyingchi, Tibet Autonomous Region, on March 28.

the world championships, while Peng Cheng and Jin Yang came in fifth, both qualifying for the Beijing Games. China still has a chance to take one more spot in pairs at the 2021 Nebelhorn Trophy.

Chen Hongyi finished 21st in the women's event, and Wang Shiyue and Liu Xinyu took 13th place in ice dance.

In the men's competition, veteran Yan Han obtained 13th place, qualifying for Beijing 2022, while two-time world bronze medalist Jin Boyang failed to secure another spot, finishing in 22nd place.

The 10 Olympic places for the team event will be determined at the 2021-22 Grand Prix Series.



## New Cub

A breeder takes care of a baby sloth at the Hefei aquarium in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, on March 30. The sloth, born on February 27 this year, was shown to the public after being reared privately for one month. It is the first naturally born sloth in an artificial feeding environment in Anhui.

## Bond Inclusion

FTSE Russell, a global multi-asset index provider, confirmed on March 30 that Chinese government bonds are to be included in the FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI) at the end of October.

According to a statement by the company, China's WGBI inclusion will occur over a period of 36 months to ensure an orderly transition for markets and investors.

"This confirmation is based on affirmation with members of the FTSE Russell advisory committees and other index users that ongoing reforms to the Chinese government bond market warrant inclusion in the WGBI," the statement said.

Chris Woods, head of policy and governance at FTSE Russell, said, "We commend China on the great progress it has made in market reforms and look

forward to the phased addition of Chinese government bonds to the WGBI."

During the semi-annual index review in March, FTSE Russell added China A Shares to the FTSE Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Index Series, the core equity benchmarks used by the MPF industry, for the first time.

FTSE Russell is a wholly owned subsidiary of London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) and is a unit of LSEG's information services division.

## CMIM Amendment

The amended Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) agreement, a regional financing deal, came into effect on March 31, according to the People's Bank of China (PBC), the central bank.

The CMIM agreement is jointly signed by member states of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3) and the Monetary Authority of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The amended agreement institutionalizes the use of members' local currencies in addition to the U.S. dollar, for CMIM financing on a voluntary and demand-driven basis, the PBC said in a statement.

The amendment increases the International Monetary Fund de-linked portion from 30 percent to 40 percent of each member's maximum arrangement amount, the statement said, adding that it also addressed other technical issues, including revisions related to the London Interbank Offered Rate reform.

The new deal serves to further enhance the CMIM, which is an essential part of the regional financial safety net of the ASEAN+3, making it more

effective and operationally ready for member economies, according to the PBC.

## SOE Profits

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) registered robust growth in the first two months of the year despite low base effects, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said on March 30.

The combined profits of SOEs rose 150 percent year on year to 548.94 billion yuan (\$83.92 billion) during the January-February period, MOF data showed.

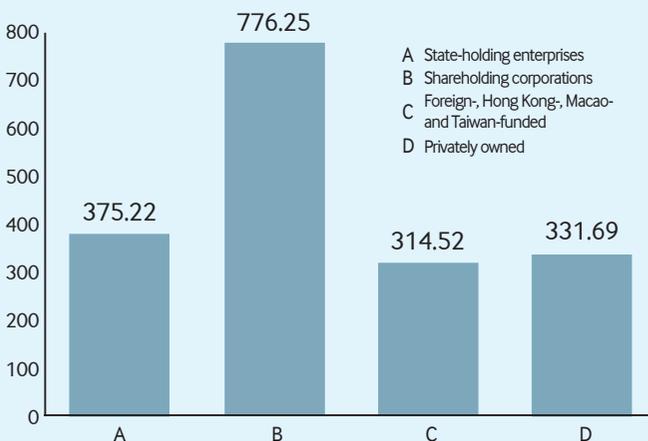
The growth rate offsetting base effects came in at 10.2 percent. This refers to the two-year average growth rate based on the figure from the same period in 2019, due to a low comparison base last year, the ministry said.

SOEs saw their total revenue surge 33.7 percent year on year to over 10.19 trillion yuan (\$1.5

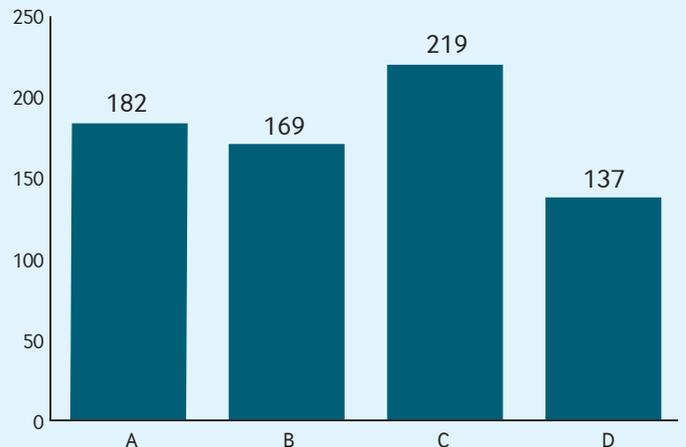
## NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

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



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



trillion) in the two months, an 8.2-percent growth offsetting base effects.

SOEs' debt-to-asset ratio came in at 64.3 percent at the end of February, flat with the level seen during the same period of last year.

## Loan Demands

The overall loan demand index hit 77.5 percent in the first quarter of the year (Q1), up 5.9 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2020 (Q4), a report by the PBC showed.

The Q1 loan demand sub-indices for the sectors including manufacturing, infrastructure and wholesale and retail all rose from the Q4 levels, according to the PBC's banker survey report.

It showed increased confidence among bankers in China's economy in Q1, with their macroeconomic heat index reaching 42.4 percent, up 8.8 percentage

points from the previous quarter.

Entrepreneurs also showed greater enthusiasm for China's economic development, according to the PBC's entrepreneur survey report.

In Q1, the entrepreneur macroeconomic heat index stood at 38.9 percent, up 4.5 percentage points from Q4 and up 26.5 percentage points from the same period last year, the report said.

## CA Surplus

China reported a current account (CA) surplus of \$274 billion in 2020 as the economy recovered amid effective epidemic control, according to data released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on March 26.

Trade in goods posted a surplus of \$515 billion, while trade in services saw a deficit of \$145.3 billion. The capital and financial account recorded a deficit of \$105.8 billion.

By the end of 2020, China's net external financial assets stood at \$2.15 trillion.

## Renewable Energy

The installed capacity of renewable energy power generation totaled 930 million kw by the end of 2020, accounting for 42.4 percent of the national total, Zhang Jianhua, head of the National Energy Administration, told a press conference on March 30.

China's installed capacity of hydropower generation has ranked first globally for 16 consecutive years, while its installed capacity for wind and photovoltaic power generation has led the world for 11 and six consecutive years, respectively, Zhang said.

Last year, renewable energy use came in at 680 million tons of standard coal equivalent in the country. This helped reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide,

sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide by about 1.79 billion tons, 864,000 tons and 798,000 tons, respectively.

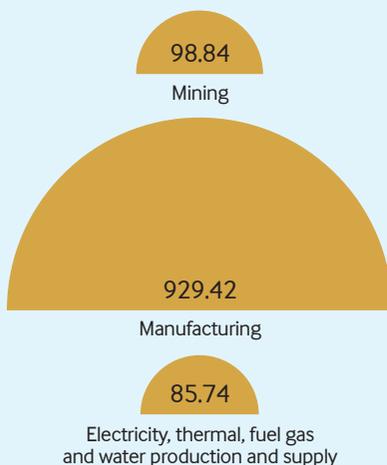
Power generated by renewable energy sources hit 2.2 trillion kWh in China last year, accounting for 29.5 percent of the total electricity consumption, up 9.5 percentage points from 2012, he said.

Zhang added that more efforts will be made to accelerate wind and solar power generation, enhance hydropower generation according to local conditions and actively promote the orderly generation of nuclear power while ensuring safety.

Meanwhile, stricter energy consumption standards will be adopted to support and promote the use of non-fossil energy and change energy use in key sectors and areas, such as industry, construction and transport, he said.

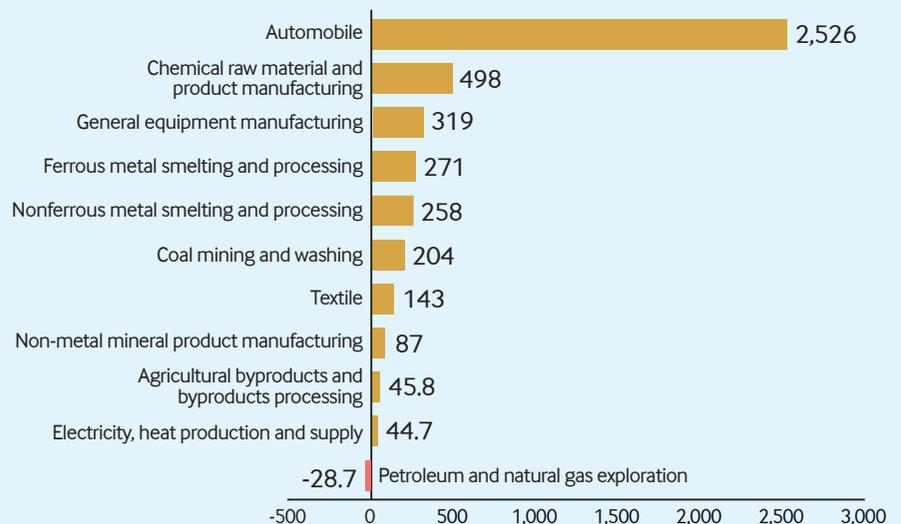
### Industrial Enterprises' Profit by Sector

January-February (bIn yuan)



### Profit Changes for Major Sectors

January-February (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

# THIS WEEK **WORLD**



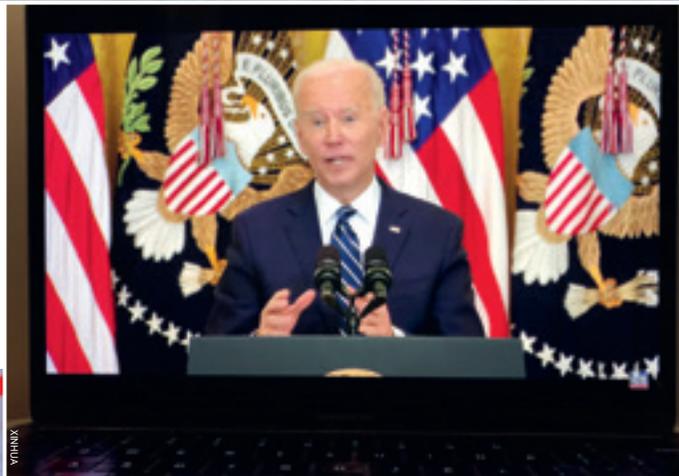
## EGYPT

A ship sails through the Suez Canal on March 30. Traffic resumed in the crucial marine passage after a stranded cargo vessel blocking it was removed on March 29



## SRI LANKA

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa (fourth right) attends the handover ceremony of the COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese Government at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo on March 31



## UNITED STATES

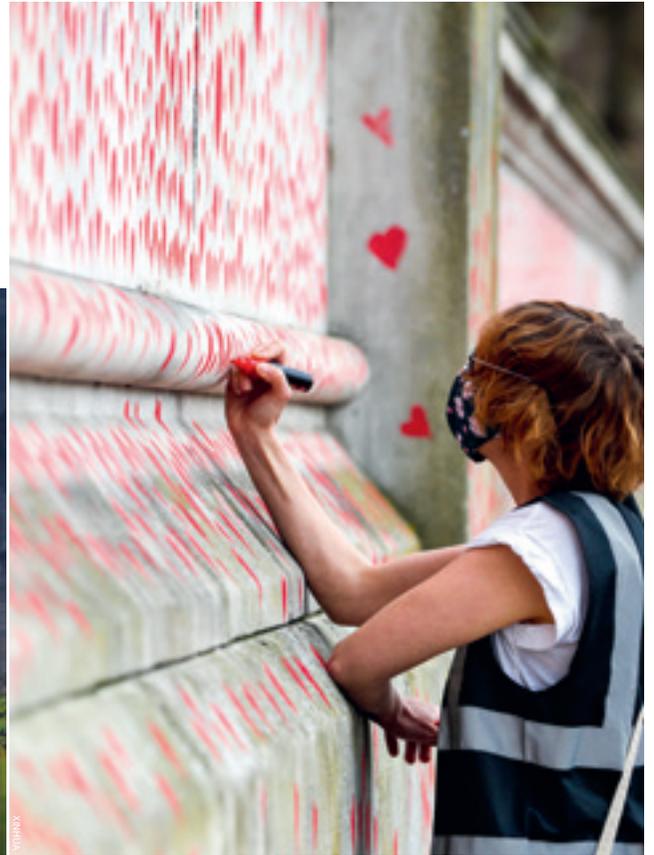
A television screen broadcasts the first press conference of President Joe Biden since taking office in Washington, D.C. on March 25





## INDONESIA

Smoke and massive fire arise from an oil refinery in Indramayu, West Java, on March 29. Three people went missing and 19 others were wounded, with a further 1,000 residents evacuated



## UNITED KINGDOM

A volunteer paints hearts on the National COVID Memorial Wall outside St Thomas' Hospital in London on March 31 in remembrance of those who died of the epidemic



## NEW ZEALAND

People watch a lion dance during the outdoor arts and music festival CubaDupa in Wellington on March 27



# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ XIAOMI CEO DECLARES EV VENTURE

**Lei Jun**, CEO and founder of tech giant Xiaomi, has announced the company will now foray into the smart electric vehicle (EV) business.

Xiaomi is one of the largest smartphone and consumer electronics companies in the world today.

Lei, who started out with Beijing-based antivirus software company Kingsoft in 1992 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science, founded Xiaomi in 2010.

Xiaomi went public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 2018.

Lei, 51, said on March 30 that entering the EV market would be his last venture. He will serve as CEO of the wholly owned new subsidiary that will have an estimated investment of \$10 billion in the next 10 years.

Xiaomi's strengths like its smart ecosystem and research and development ability will boost the new business, Lei said.



## Protecting Consumers

**GuanCha.gmw.cn**

**March 29**

Making all kinds of monetary transactions by using the QR code is common in China. Registrations, scanning codes and similar digital processes have become essential for consumption. But the growing popularity of the payment method has also brought some worries such as security issues, personal information leakage and unfair market competition.

Take restaurant ordering, for example. Customers who want to order food at a restaurant are asked to scan a code, which makes them followers of the restaurant's WeChat

account automatically. Then they are bombarded with advertisements long after they have eaten and gone. Some restaurants even ask customers to provide their phone number and address.

The Cyberspace Administration of China and three other regulatory agencies issued a document on March 22 to crack down on excessive collection of personal data by mobile apps.

The local governments should improve the legal system to protect consumers' personal information, and increase penalties for restaurants illegally collecting and using such information.



## The Lonely Economy

**Lifeweek**

**March 29**

With a growing number of single people in their 20s and 30s living alone in big cities, solo living is becoming a common phenomenon.

With the development of urbanization, the rise of individualism and improvement in women's status, living alone has become a new normal worldwide. The trend is most evident in

“Of the many lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, an important one is that while there is any mileage remaining in Sinophobic narratives, they will continue to be perpetuated by political actors at the highest levels, science be damned.”

**Timothy Kerswell**, a researcher at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, in an article on the CGTN website on March 31

“Trapped in the politics of the U.S. bipartisan groundswell of anti-China sentiment, U.S. President Joe Biden's team appears to be staying the course set by the previous administration, even upping the ante on the trade and technology conflict by raising human rights and geopolitical concerns.”

**Stephen Roach**, a senior fellow at Yale University and former Chair of Morgan Stanley Asia, in an article on the *China Daily* website on March 30

Europe, with single-person households making up more than 40 percent of all households in many countries across the European Union.

The rise of living alone has been a transformative social experience in China. It is playing catch-up with industrialized countries where individuals, rather than traditional families, have become the society's building blocks.

China's single population has reached 240 million, with more than 77 million adults living alone, according to statistics from the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The number of adults who live alone is expected to rise to 92 million by 2021.

The trend, correlating with a steady decline in marriage and the birth rates, is driven by young people's decision to delay or opt out of marriage entirely, a rising divorce rate, and a profound change in their perception of remaining single.

With Internet-based entertainment getting wildly popular in China, today's young people, millennials particularly, can now stay alone without being lonely.

There are other reasons why living alone is becoming more accepted. Single people spend more money on eating out, hobbies and entertainment than their married counterparts, contributing to a fast-growing lonely economy.

However, running parallel to this is the heightened awareness of loneliness as an issue.

## An Elevated Lifestyle

**Economic Daily**  
**March 29**

Lack of elevators is a sore inconvenience for people living in multistoried buildings that were mostly built in the last century. Numerous elders living in buildings without elevators are unable to climb long flights of stairs and become confined at home.

Making provisions for elevators is an aspect of people-oriented development. Renovation of old neighborhoods and putting in elevators can substantially improve residents' quality of life. Besides, the program will also lead to investment and job opportunities.

As a measure to expand investment, the country began renovating 39,000 old urban residential communities last year, supporting plumbing and wiring upgrading in old residential buildings and installing elevators.

The work is demanding and the government has to solve numerous disputes over the rights and interests of different parties. Recently, various localities have issued policies and guidelines to help old communities install elevators.

More experience is needed to deal with people's problems and concerns, and become better at reaching an agreement with residents during negotiations.



### CHINESE PLAYER'S MAIDEN F2 VICTORY

Chinese contender **Zhou Guanyu** started from pole position and earned his maiden Formula 2 feature race victory at the Bahrain International Circuit on March 28.

"The victory is for everyone who has been supporting me," Zhou wrote on his Chinese social media account. "This is a long and tough journey but I will keep at it and push my limits until I reach the top."

Starting on hard tires, he was overtaken on the first corner and dropped to fifth place. But he narrowed the gap after he switched to soft tires and claimed the lead on turn four with only five laps remaining.

"What a race," Zhou said on the podium. "We kept our heads... [and I] took my chances to move forward! Just so happy!"



"[Australia] is inwardly focused and narrow in outlook. It seeks to use the United States as a buffer against the rest of the world, particularly Asia and China, which it fears because of enterprise and the numbers of people."

**Bruce Haigh**, an Australian political commentator and former diplomat, in an interview with *Global Times* on March 29

"Don't think about national boundaries if we really want to defeat pandemics. We have to come together with other countries to focus on how they emerge and try and stop them for the future."

**Peter Daszak**, British zoologist and a member of the World Health Organization-China joint research team, during a briefing on the team's report on tracing the origins of COVID-19, on March 30

Connie Sweeris (fourth right, second row) and her fellow players of the U.S. table tennis team visit a section of the Great Wall in Beijing on April 12, 1971

