

OPINION: THE CPC'S COMMITMENT P.20

FEATURES: ALIBABA PENALTY P.40

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Trips down red memory lane help energize former revolutionary bases

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Cover Photo: A landmark sculpture in Jinggangshan, Jiangxi Province (VCG)

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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
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Red Memories in Green Mountains

Well before the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, the Communist Party of China (CPC) had set up many strategic revolutionary bases in its battle against first the Kuomintang (KMT) as early as the 1920s and later the Japanese invaders during the World War II. These bases, nowadays referred to as the old revolutionary bases, mostly lie in the nation's vast and remote rural areas. With poor access to transportation, they were extremely difficult for the KMT or Japanese troops to penetrate, spoiling and hampering enemy attacks and creating space for the CPC to develop a legacy of red memories that inspired a nation.

Nonetheless, after the founding of the PRC, these old revolutionary bases lagged behind other regions in terms of economic development, especially following the nation's process of reform and opening up that took off in 1978.

In their bid to reverse the state of underdevelopment across these revolutionary cores, governments at all levels have invested a great deal of manpower and material resources in the improvement of transportation access, industrial support, education, and medical facilities. In addition

to these, taking a tour of the bases, or the red tourism, has become a gradually flourishing approach to swap the poverty and underdevelopment of the old revolutionary bases for some epic red nostalgia found only in these regions.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the CPC. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the old revolutionary bases are now gearing up to receive an expected major tourist influx.

To the Chinese people, the old revolutionary bases are the cradle of the PRC and reflect the close relationship between the CPC and the people.

Without these old revolutionary bases from the past, there would be no today's PRC.

For the world at large, the nation's old revolutionary bases serve as an important window for the international community to better understand China. Furthermore, they set an example for all to strive for national independence and pursue peace and development. In this very notion lies the answer to the question of how one nation once humiliated by foreign invasion and colonization liberated itself and grew stronger. **BR**



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PEAR FLOWER FESTIVAL

Residents dance to welcome visitors to Awat Township of Korla City in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on April 10.

Located on the northern edge of the Taklimakan Desert, Korla is dubbed as the City of Pears. Its pear flower season attracts tourists from across the country. Visitors can also enjoy local cultural activities, produce and folk customs.



Salt Harvest

A view of a salt stack in the Changlu Hangu salt fields in Tianjin Municipality on April 13. Spring harvest season has recently started and is expected to last until mid-May.

Natural Gas Pipeline

China commenced the construction of its first natural gas pipeline bound for the Xiongan New Area on April 13, according to the China Oil & Gas Piping Network Corporation.

Running a total length of 413.5 km, the pipeline begins in Tianjin Municipality and stretches all the way to neighboring Hebei Province, where the new area is located, the company said.

Designed to have an annual transmission capacity of 6.6 billion cubic meters, the pipeline will require a total investment of 8.6 billion yuan (\$1.31 billion).

China announced its plan to establish the Xiongan New Area on April 1, 2017, aiming to relieve Beijing of functions non-essential to its role as national capital and

to advance the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

New Energy

An offshore wind power project with an installed capacity of 400,000 kW started operations on April 12 in the Yangtze River Delta region in east China, an economic powerhouse of the country.

The project in Yancheng City, Jiangsu Province, has brought the city's total installed capacity of new energy power generation to 10.04 million kW, making Yancheng the first city in the region to possess an installed new energy power generation capacity exceeding 10 million kW.

The Yangtze River Delta

is one of the country's most economically active regions and produces about one-fourth of the national GDP. Power consumption in the region has been long dependent on transmission from other areas because of its limited power resources.

The development of offshore wind power projects will greatly increase the proportion of new energy power consumption in the region and help China attain its carbon emission targets, according to Yan Huaidong, General Manager of State Grid Yancheng Power Supply Company.

At the end of 2020, the total installed capacity of new energy power generation in Jiangsu Province surged to 34.96 million kW, up 369.9 percent from the end of 2015.

Sports Competition

China is integrating technologies of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) into youth sports to inspire the sporting and scientific spirit of the younger generations, Xinhua News Agency reported on April 12.

The newly launched BeiDou Cup China Youth Sports Competition targets developing a new model of nationwide youth sports event empowered by BeiDou technologies, according to the organizer.

The competition is an innovative move to enhance people's physical fitness and scientific literacy, also in the meantime furthering the popularization of science as part of the upcoming 12th China Satellite Navigation Conference in 2021 (CSNC2021), Yang Jian, Vice Director of the China Satellite Navigation Office, said.

"It is expected to integrate BeiDou technologies and sports, as well as boost the potential of the innovative development of both sectors," Yang said.

All three competition rounds are designed to highlight the BDS and related technologies, including a science camp, smart running and orienteering. Thus, the positioning, navigation, timing and other functions of the BDS will merge with the world of sports.

The final of the CSNC2021 will take place on May 23 in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. The CSNC2021 will focus on the most recent technological and industrial application achievements of the BDS and development trends of global navigation satellite systems.

China officially commissioned the BDS on July 31, 2020, opening the new BDS-3 system to global users.

Fish Reappearing

It had been almost one decade since Wang Shengbian, an aquatic animal specialist, last saw an *ochetobius elongatus* in Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake.

The fish, about 23 cm long and weighing 47.4 grams, was spotted during a routine check.

Ochetobius elongatus used to be a common fish species in the Yangtze River basin. However, due to environmental destruction, overfishing and human disturbance, the fish stock has reduced rapidly. It has become a critically endangered species.

On January 1, 2020, a 10-year fishing ban took effect in the pivotal waters of the Yangtze, after 332 conservation areas along the river enforced the fishing ban a year ago, to help the river recover from dwindling aquatic resources and degrading biodiversity.

"*Ochetobius elongatus* is back just one year after the fishing ban was implemented, which means it's really worked," said Zhan Shupin, a professional with the department of agriculture and rural affairs in Jiangxi Province.

In June last year, scientists also saw a school of over 100 ribbonfish, the first time in nearly

a decade that such a large population of the species had been identified.

Vocational Education

China is home to 30.88 million students currently acquiring skills across 11,300 vocational education institutions, according to statistics from the Ministry of Education.

The ministry has approved 27 institutions offering vocational education at the undergraduate level since 2019 when the State Council released a plan to reform the vocational education system.

Among the 1,349 majors listed in a new catalog of vocational majors released by the ministry this year, 247 are undergraduate majors, it added.

The ministry has been working to promote the fair treatment of students receiving vocational education, ensuring they enjoy opportunities equal to those available to students of regular schools in terms of enrollment, employment and job promotions.

Ramadan

Muslims in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region began observing Ramadan on April 13 under anti-COVID-19 measures,



Unique Library

People reading at the Wormhole Library in the Haikou Bay in Haikou, capital city of Hainan Province on April 13. The Wormhole Library, designed as a landmark building in the Haikou Bay area, opened to the public on April 13.

Approximately 300 Muslims visited the Ak Mosque in the regional capital of Urumqi, said the mosque's Imam Abduxukur Rahmutula on April 13, noting that the mosque is disinfected three times each day.

Attendees have their body temperatures taken before entering the mosque and are advised to maintain social distance,

according to the mosque.

Fruits, hot tea and *naan* are provided after the evening prayer, said Mamatimin Rexit, Imam of a mosque in the city of Kashgar.

Ramadan is also observed in other regions of China such as Beijing, Gansu Province and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.



Rural Tourism

A villager arranges the traditional costumes of the Miao ethnic group in Huawu Village, Qianxi County of Bijie City, Guizhou Province, on April 13. With its beautiful natural scenery and distinctive ethnic features, Huawu Village has seen a continuous boom in tourism since this year's Spring Festival.

Smart Manufacturing

Large manufacturing firms with an annual business turnover of at least 20 million yuan (\$3.06 million) will have all introduced digitalization by 2035, according to a draft on intelligent manufacturing development issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) for public feedback on April 14.

By 2025, these firms will basically have achieved digitalization, while leading firms in key industries will basically have achieved intelligent transformation, the document read.

The intelligent manufacturing equipment will meet 70 percent of domestic demand, while the industrial software manufacturing will meet half of domestic demand by 2025, it added.

Residential PV

In order to reach the goal of carbon neutrality, China's residential

photovoltaic (PV) industry will embrace huge growth in the next five years and beyond, Wang Bohua, an official with the China Photovoltaic Industry Association, said at an industry forum on April 9.

The residential PV systems are expected to set a new record for total installation volume this year. It improved 48.2 gigawatts last year, with the volume for residential use accounting for 21 percent of the total, Wang said.

China has announced that it will bring its carbon emissions to a peak before 2030 and become carbon neutral before 2060. Therefore, with less than 10 years to go before hitting its first goal, emission control efforts in the next five years have become especially crucial.

Further efforts include the implementation of the rural vitalization strategy, which is expected to generate faster growth for the residential PV industry.

Industrial Uptrend

The electronic information manufacturing sector logged steady expansion in revenues and profits in the first two months of the year, according to the MIIT.

Combined operating revenues of firms with an annual operating revenue of at least 20 million yuan rose 55.8 percent year on year.

Profits of these firms amounted to 77.9 billion yuan (\$11.9 billion), 60 times the reading of the same period last year.

The added value of major electronic information manufacturers soared 48.5 percent year on year in the January-February period, and fixed assets investment in the industry registered a 41.6-percent year-on-year growth.

During the period, the output of smartphones rose 48.8 percent year on year, while that of

integrated circuits jumped 79.8 percent from a year earlier, MIIT data showed.

NEV Battery

The output of storage batteries to power new-energy vehicles (NEVs) rose 151.9 percent year on year in March, according to the China Automotive Battery Innovation Alliance.

The output stood at 11.3 gigawatt-hours in March. In the first quarter, total output reached 32.8 gigawatt-hours, up 296.5 percent year on year.

In March, the installed capacity of the batteries came in at 9 gigawatt-hours, soaring 224.8 percent from the same period last year.

Sales of NEVs in China increased by 2.8 times year on year in the first quarter to 515,000 units amid the steady recovery of the automobile sector, the latest data from the China Association of

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

Producer Price Index Growth (%)



Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth (%)



Automobile Manufacturers showed.

In March alone, NEV sales surged by 2.4 times year on year to 226,000 units.

Aerospace Growth

China will continue to exert great efforts to boost aerospace as a strategic emerging industry in the next five years, Zhang Kejian, head of the China National Space Administration (CNSA), said.

The CNSA is drawing up a plan for space development in the 2021-25 timeframe. Priority projects will be promoted. These will include the lunar exploration program's fourth phase, interplanetary exploration such as asteroid reconnaissance, heavy-lift carrier rockets, and reusable space transportation systems, Zhang told Xinhua.

China will also build a space infrastructure system for communication, navigation, and

remote sensing that is accessible worldwide, better contributing to humanity's peaceful use of space, he added.

ICV Facilitation

The Beijing Municipal Government has designated a demonstration zone for boosting the development of intelligent connected vehicles (ICVs).

According to a blueprint, a planned area of 225 square km in Yizhuang New Town, the Daxing International Airport area, and six highway sections in Yizhuang, Daxing District in south Beijing, will serve as a pilot zone for the initiative.

The zone is the first of its kind in China in terms of testing a series of management policies suitable for ICVs, which involve road testing, demonstration application, commercial operation service and roadside infrastructure construction.

The innovation will also

include traffic rules and the traffic management of unmanned vehicles on the road.

There are 200 public road sections in Beijing open for testing smart vehicles, totaling 699.58 km with the safety test mileage exceeding 2.68 million km in total.

The designation of the new zone is expected to help promote new applications, technologies, products and new models of intelligent network connections.

Land Port

The number of China-Europe freight trains traveling via Manzhouli, China's largest land port in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, reached 10,000 on April 13, according to local railway authorities.

In the first quarter of the year, 951 such trains passed through the port, up 60.4 percent year on year, according to the Manzhouli branch of China Railway Harbin

Group Co. Ltd.

Currently, Manzhouli is the border crossing point for 52 China-Europe freight train routes reaching 28 cities across 13 countries.

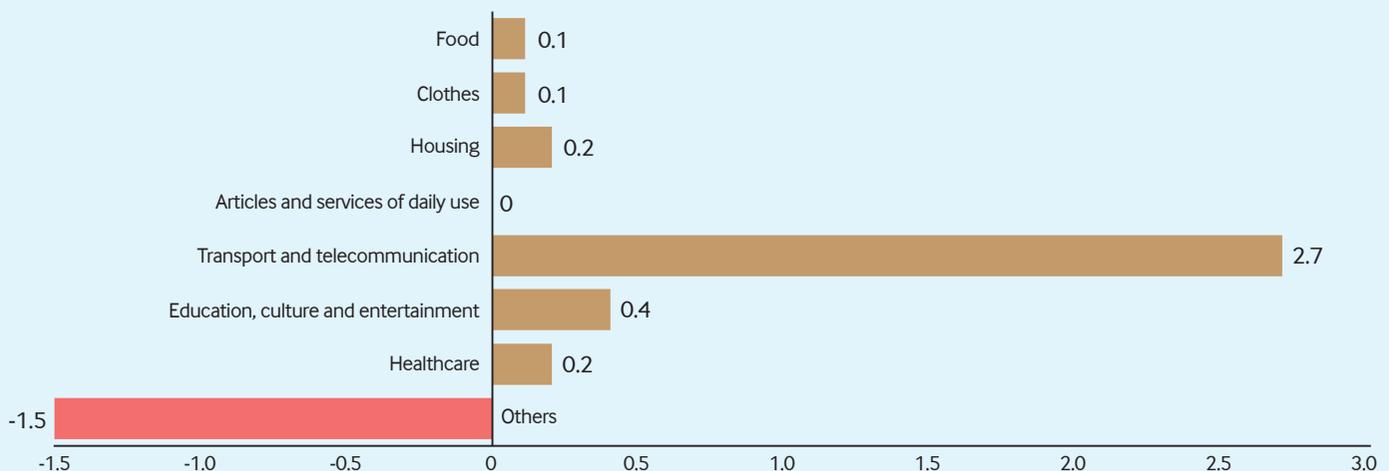
PC Shipments

The Chinese personal computer (PC) market improved 70 percent year on year in the first three months of the year, data from global research and advisory firm Gartner showed.

China-based PC giant Lenovo remained the world's top vendor by shipments in the period, with its global market share reaching 25.1 percent and shipments totaling around 17.55 million units.

In the first quarter, worldwide PC shipments totaled 69.9 million units, up 32 percent year on year. The growth was the highest since the company first began tracking the PC market in 2000, Gartner said.

CPI Growth by Type
March (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK WORLD



↑

JAPAN

Protesters rally in Tokyo on April 13 against the Japanese Government's decision to discharge contaminated water from the destroyed Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the sea amid domestic and international opposition

↓

CAMBODIA

Buddhists bathe a Buddha statue at the Ounalom Pagoda in Phnom Penh on April 14, the first day of the three-day Khmer New Year holiday



↑

BENIN

Election officials announce the provisional results of the presidential voting in Cotonou on April 13. Incumbent President Patrice Talon won the re-election with 86.36 percent of the votes



UNITED KINGDOM

A mourner views the official statement posted outside the Buckingham Palace in London on April 9. Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, died on April 9 at the age of 99



EGYPT

An archaeologist at the excavation site of the Lost Golden City on April 10. The 3,000-year-old ruins were discovered by an Egyptian archaeological mission in Luxor



RUSSIA

Enthusiasts witness the launch of a model rocket commemorating the 60th anniversary of the first human space flight in St. Petersburg on April 11



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

NEW STAR PLAYER OF CHINA'S NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wang Shuang, a midfielder on China's national women's soccer team, contributed one goal and one assist as the women's soccer team, nicknamed the Steel Roses, beat the Republic of Korea (ROK) by 4-3 on aggregate in the Olympic Qualification playoffs on April 13.

Wang's successful strike in the second half of the game was crucial to the team's victory in the first leg of the playoffs and cemented her reputation as a powerhouse in Chinese soccer. The opposition coach, Colin Bell, described Wang as a world class player.

Wang, 26, began her soccer career as a child living and training far away from home. Since turning pro and subsequently making her national debut in 2013, she has played for China's national team, and undertaken successful stints abroad, first in the ROK and then with Paris Saint-Germain in 2018-19.



Fly As You Wish

People's Daily
April 7

Domestic airlines in China have been rolling out ticket discount packages and plugging "Fly as you wish" deals to pierce the COVID-19 clouds since last year, in the hopes of rebooting the air travel industry.

These packages that come with a price tag of some 3,000 yuan (\$458.48) allow passengers to book a domestic flight for free, without restrictions on the time slot and number of trips taken within a given period of time. At least eight of China's dozens of airlines have introduced similar deals since last June.

Nevertheless, at the same time, consumer activities are besieged by growing problems related to the complexity, opacity, and uncertainty surrounding the actual use of ticket discount packages. The many restrictions on use, difficulties in redeeming flights, and even unexpected flight cancellations, prove to be another obstacle.

In response to the issues, local governments and airlines must make additional efforts to develop a suitable protection mechanism to enhance the management of companies and open up the channels of consumer rights protection, thus improving overall customer experience.



Power of Math

China Newsweek
April 12

As a basic science, mathematics is often obscure and seems a far cry from everyday life. However, mathematicians stress the importance of basic sciences.

China has developed advanced mathematics since ancient times. The country is believed to have been the first to employ a

"In line with its economic growth, China has increased overseas investments, including investments in infrastructure.

For the recipient countries, improvements in infrastructure and other development aid have also helped them in turn reduce poverty."

IMF Deputy Managing Director **Zhang Tao** in an interview with CGTN on April 10

"Several Western countries, including the U.S. and the UK, are in no position to judge Hong Kong's electoral system, as these countries, ill-informed about Hong Kong's actual situation on the ground, don't have universal suffrage themselves."

Alan Hoo Hong-ching, Senior Counsel and Chairman of the Basic Law Institute, with *China Daily* on April 13