

OPINION: GIST OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY P.24 | FEATURES: GREATER IPR PROTECTION P.36

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.64 NO.19 MAY 13, 2021

北方周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



SPACE TREK

China on track with its
extraterrestrial mission

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

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

02 A New Height of Cooperation

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 Another Giant Leap
China's space station vision closer to reality

18 Sharing the Pie In the Sky
Industry players call for fixing problems together

20 Sky Rocketing
Private sector finds opportunity in launch vehicles

Cover Photo: The Long March-5B Y2 rocket, carrying the core module of China's space station, blasts off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan Province on April 29 (XINHUA)

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OPINION

24 How People's Democracy Works in China

It outperforms the Western model in many ways

26 China's Cooperation Initiative Beneficial to All
Belarus' ambassador shares his thoughts

27 Australia Misses the Wood for the Trees
Domestic political competition scuttles Belt and Road MOUs

28 Challenge the Challenger
New bill creates more hurdles in China-U.S. ties

FEATURES

32 Progress on a New Front
SCO expo boosts regional trade and beyond

36 On the Fringes of Public Property
IPR protection strengthens

40 Life-Saving Drugs
Drive to ensure supply of scarce medicines

42 An Injection of Hope
China develops vaccines for hand, foot and mouth disease

CULTURE

46 A Transboundary Trial
Kunqu Opera meets the ballet

EXPAT'S EYE

48 Vaseline on the Lens
An American bride becomes an album star



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BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

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Published every Thursday by
BEIJING REVIEW, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,
Beijing 100037, China.

Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading
Corporation (Guojì 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

A New Height of Cooperation

Sixty years ago, Soviet astronaut Yuri Gagarin journeyed into outer space, ushering Earth into the era of space flights.

Five years prior to that, Qian Xuesen, father of China's space technology, set up China's first rocket and missile research institute, marking the start of China's space explorations.

From the pioneering effort, China's space odyssey reached a new technology milestone on April 29, when construction of the Chinese space station *Tiangong* started with the launch of its core module, *Tianhe*, which will function as the management and control center of the space station.

Building a space station and space laboratory is the final stage in the three-step strategic plan for manned space projects. The first step was sending astronauts into space, following in Gagarin's footsteps, and the second was accomplishing extra-vehicular activity, and docking and rendezvous in space.

Now, as part of the third stage, the Chinese space station is expected to be ready for service in 2022. That is the year the International Space Station, run by the space agencies of Europe, the U.S., Russia, Canada and Japan, may retire after over 20 years of operation, and *Tiangong* may become the only space station working as a space laboratory for the world.

In the past 65 years, China has made substantial progress in rockets, satellites, manned spaceflights and extraterrestrial planetary probes. It has become a leading country in a number of important technologies via self-reliance and independent innovation.

China seeks to utilize outer space for peaceful purposes, economic development, national security, and science and technology development. Its ultimate aim is to raise domestic scientific ability, protect national interests and rights, and promote human civilization and social progress.

All countries have equal right to peacefully explore, develop and utilize outer space and celestial bodies. China maintains that international exchanges and cooperation should be strengthened on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, peaceful utilization and inclusive development.

China's space technologies and activities are independent but not exclusive. During the past decades, it has been participating in space activities sponsored by international organizations including the United Nations, and supported international commercial cooperation in space. Its space missions will also open up to foreign astronauts who will work in the Chinese space station, taking global cooperation to a new height. **BR**



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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

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印刷: 北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2021年 第19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



BOOMING TOURISM

Young travelers pose for photos at the site of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which was held in late July 1921 in Shanghai, on May 4.

The country witnessed a total of 230 million domestic tourist trips during the May Day holiday from May 1 to May 5, up 119.7 percent from last year. Tourism revenue reached 113.23 billion yuan (about \$17.5 billion), up 138.1 percent from last year, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism on May 5.



Bicycle Fair

Visitors view bicycles during the 30th China International Bicycle Fair in Shanghai on May 5. The four-day event kicked off that day, drawing over 1,000 enterprises to participate.

Sea Levels

China's coastal areas face increasing risks as sea levels along the coast have continued to rise at an accelerated pace in the past 40 years, according to official accounts, Xinhua News Agency reported on May 3.

The sea level will rise by 55 to 170 mm in the next 30 years, according to a bulletin released by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

From 1980 to 2020, sea levels along the coast climbed at a rate of 3.4 mm per year with fluctuations, the report said, adding that the rise exceeded the global average during the same period.

In 2020, sea levels along

China's coast were 73 mm higher than in normal years, reaching their third highest point since 1980.

China should protect its shores based on the ecological concept and comprehensively improve the adaptability to rising sea levels, the report added.

Logistics Port

An international land-sea logistics port has started operations in Guizhou Province with an annual transportation capacity of approximately 5 million tons, Xinhua reported on May 3.

The Dulaying international land-sea logistics port, located in the provincial capital Guiyang, recently saw its first train loaded

with 1,650 tons of bauxite depart for Qinzhou Port in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from where the cargo would be shipped abroad.

The port is a key station listed in the development plan of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a trade and logistics passage jointly constructed by Singapore and provincial-level regions of west China.

The port connects some of China's major railway lines and the Yangtze River Economic Belt, and is expected to strengthen Guizhou's link with economic hubs of west China such as Chengdu in Sichuan Province and Chongqing Municipality, the Guizhou provincial development

and reform commission said.

Fishing Ban

An annual summer fishing ban began on May 1 in China's major seas in the north, east and south to preserve marine fishery.

The fishing ban covers the Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and the waters north of 12 degrees north latitude in the South China Sea.

The moratorium in the South China Sea lasts until August 16. During the ban, safety inspections on fishing gear and a clean-up of illegal fishing vessels will be implemented across Hainan Province. China first imposed its annual fishing ban in the South China Sea back in 1999.

More than 50,000 fishing boats in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the provinces of Guangdong and Hainan suspend operations during the fishing suspension.

On April 30, a joint special law enforcement action executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security, and the China Coast Guard launched in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, to prevent illegal marine fishery activities during the fishing ban.

The fishing ban lasts until September 1 for the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea waters north of 35 degrees north latitude.

The summer ban involves more than 100,000 fishing ships and nearly 1 million fishermen nationwide.

Leashing Dogs

Dog owners must now keep their furry friends on a leash in outdoor areas as China's revised Law on Animal Epidemic Prevention took effect on May 1.

Previously, only local regulations in selected provincial regions required dog owners

to keep their pets on a leash in public areas.

Chinese lawmakers adopted the revision in January in a bid to prevent dogs from harming people, as well as to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases.

Dogs should also wear a dog tag, be inoculated against rabies and registered with local authorities, according to the law.

Many people took to social media to voice their support for the new provisions. “Finally, I won’t be bothered by dogs that run into me abruptly,” reads one comment on China’s Twitter-like platform Weibo.

“Ultimately, it’s not a bad thing for dog owners and their pets,” wrote another netizen who claimed that she always uses a leash to walk her dog, adding that “it will keep dogs from hurting each other and prevent them from car accidents.”

Some dog lovers also called for the creation of pet-friendly parks in cities for dogs to play off-leash.

Rescued Children

Chinese authorities have rescued more than 700 missing or abducted children, and arrested 86 suspects since the beginning of 2021, the Ministry of Public Security announced in a

statement on May 3.

Some of the rescuees had been separated from their families for several years. They have been sent back home with the help of local public security bureaus, the statement added.

In a nationwide campaign targeting child abduction, public security organs across the country have managed to crack numerous child trafficking cases with the help of an “anti-abduction DNA system” and an online platform for releasing the victims’ information.

Calling for more efforts to investigate and detain suspects, the ministry urged the public to support anti-abduction operations and help reunite missing children with their families.

Monkey Conservation

Yunnan Province has achieved remarkable results in the conservation of snub-nosed monkeys, also called “golden hair monkeys,” and the population of the species has now increased to more than 3,300, covering 23 varieties.

A green book on the outcomes of conservation efforts involving the endangered species in the province revealed the most recent numbers. It documents the entire process of comprehensive and systematic



Animation Carnival

Cartoon characters and cosplayers parade in Jingshan Township in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province, on May 2 during an animation carnival. The event was held from May 1 to 5.

monitoring and evaluation of Yunnan golden hair monkeys, according to the provincial forestry and grassland bureau.

The Yunnan golden hair monkeys are listed as national first-class rare and endangered protected species by China and as vulnerable on the International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. The monkeys inhabit the mountainous forests of the province and its neighboring Tibet Autonomous Region.

There were around 1,000 to 1,500 Yunnan golden hair monkeys of 13 varieties in 1996, and 3,000 of 18 varieties in 2006, the bureau said.



Tea Stir-Frying Competition

People stir and roast fresh tea leaves during a competition in Sanshi, a village in Lishui, Zhejiang Province, on April 30.

Gold Consumption

Gold consumption soared 93.9 percent year on year to 288.2 tons in China in the first quarter (Q1) of the year, recovering to the level in the same period of 2019, according to data from China Gold Association (CGA) on May 1.

In Q1, consumption of gold jewelry surged 83.81 percent from a year earlier to 169.18 tons, while that of gold coins and bars went up 155.67 percent to 96.31 tons.

Gold used for industrial and other purposes amounted to 22.71 tons, up 20.03 percent year on year.

The CGA attributed the strong gold demand to a stable recovery of the domestic economy and lower gold prices.

China produced 74.44 tons of gold in Q1, down 9.92 percent compared with the same period last year.

Manufacturing PMI

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on April 30 showed the purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector came in at 51.1 percent in April, slightly down from 51.9 percent in March.

A reading above 50 percent indicates expansion, and below that mark, contraction.

The manufacturing PMI continued to expand on the basis of the apparent rebound in March, weakening somewhat but still higher than the level of the same period of 2019 and 2020, according to NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe.

The sub-index for production stood at 52.2 percent, down 1.7 percentage points from March, while that for new orders shrank 1.6 percentage points to 52 percent. The sub-index for inventory of raw materials was 48.3 percent, down 0.1 percentage point.

The non-manufacturing PMI stood at 54.9 percent in April, down 1.4 percentage points from the March figure, according to the NBS.

But the sub-indexes for business activities in rail services, air transportation and accommodation exceeded 60 percent, indicating the rapid growth of business volumes in these areas, according to Zhao.

Renewable Energy

As of the end of March, China's installed capacity of renewable energy totaled more than 948 million kw, data from the National Energy Administration showed. Wind, solar, hydro and biomass power accounted for 287 million kw, 259 million kw, 371 million kw and 31.49 million kw, respectively.

In Q1, 475.47 billion kWh of electricity were generated from these sources.

China is forging ahead in

renewable energy development amid its transition to a low-carbon economy. It has announced that it will peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Inclusive Finance

In Q1, inclusive finance loans increased 1.96 trillion yuan (\$302.9 billion), 925.9 billion yuan (\$143 billion) more than during the same period last year, according to the People's Bank of China.

By the end of the period, outstanding inclusive finance loans stood at 23.46 trillion yuan (\$3.6 trillion), up 28 percent year on year.

Inclusive finance lending refers to loans to micro, small and self-employed businesses, farmers, students and people living in poverty.

The government has rolled out various measures to offer much-needed credit to firms

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

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



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



and individuals affected by COVID-19, including targeted reserve requirement ratio cuts for small banks.

IPR Protection

Two new intellectual property right (IPR) protection centers will be established in the cities of Zibo and Dezhou, Shandong Province, the National Intellectual Property Administration (NIPA) said on April 30.

They will provide more efficient services for enterprises in the industries of new materials and biomedicine, according to the administration.

By setting up IPR protection centers in cooperation with local governments since 2016, the NIPA aims to solve difficulties in the collection of evidence, as well as reduce the duration and cost of investigations.

China has 43 IPR protection centers nationwide, including those currently under construction.

SME Recovery

The vitality of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) improved in Q1 as the economy further recovered from the impact of COVID-19, according to China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Index, based on a survey of 3,000 companies, hit 87.5, the highest level since the same period last year.

The index contains multiple sub-indexes to gauge the performances and expectations of SMEs. A reading above 100 reflects an upward trend in business, and below that mark, a downward trend.

The macroeconomic, financing, cost and labor force sub-indexes were all above 100 in the January-March period.

During the period, business confidence among SMEs was further restored, market

expectations continued to improve, and cash strains were eased, the association said, citing stimulus measures such as targeted monetary policies from the central bank that lowered financing pressure.

Wealth Management

The banking wealth management market expanded and saw more new investors in Q1, according to China Banking Wealth Management Registration and Depository Center.

The banking system had 25.03 trillion yuan (\$3.87 trillion) of outstanding wealth management products at the end of March, up 7.02 percent year on year.

In the January-March period, investors in these products rose to 49.8 million, up 19.63 percent from the beginning of the year.

The outstanding funds channeled to the real economy stood at 22.21 trillion yuan (\$3.4 trillion) at the end of 2020.

Conservancy Funds

The Ministry of Finance has allocated 57.4 billion yuan (\$8.88 billion) to subsidize local water conservancy projects so far this year, up 3.1 percent from the same period of 2020.

To reduce damage caused by floods and droughts, 45 percent of the funds, or 25.9 billion yuan (\$4 billion), will be used to reinforce small dilapidated reservoirs, harness small and medium-sized rivers, and enhance the prevention of mountain torrents.

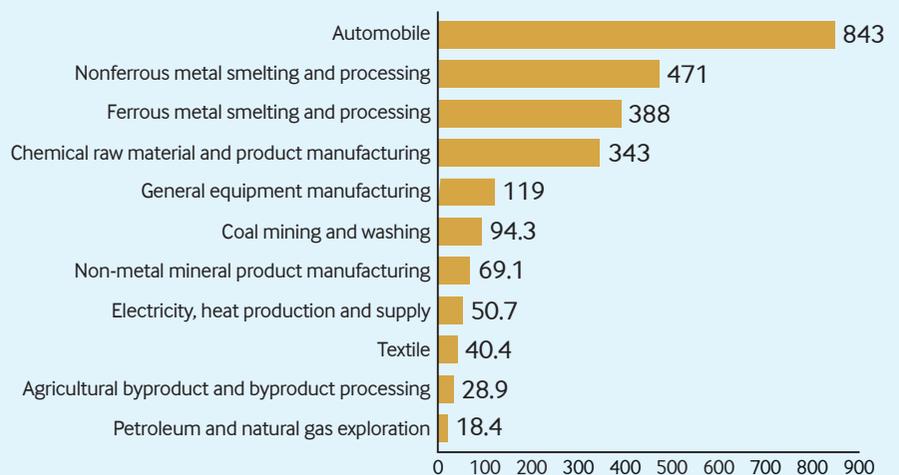
Better efforts will be made to control the overextraction of groundwater in north China.

The funds are expected to raise water use efficiency and upgrade water-conservation facilities in medium-sized irrigation areas, while soil erosion and rural drinking water safety will also be addressed.

Industrial Enterprises' Profit by Sector
January-March (bn yuan)



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



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



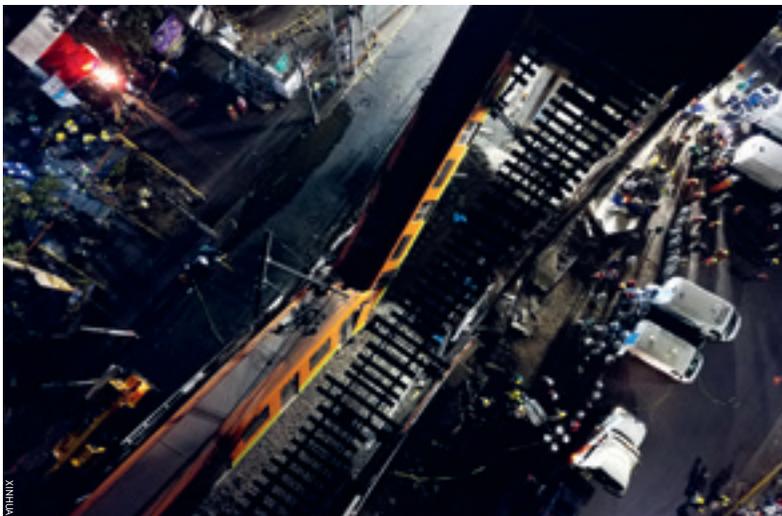
INDIA

People wait to refill empty medical oxygen cylinders for COVID-19 patients in front of a shop in New Delhi on May 5. India's total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 20.7 million on May 6, with 226,188 deaths



MEXICO

The site of a partially collapsed metro overpass in Mexico City on May 4. At least 25 people were killed and 80 others injured in the accident



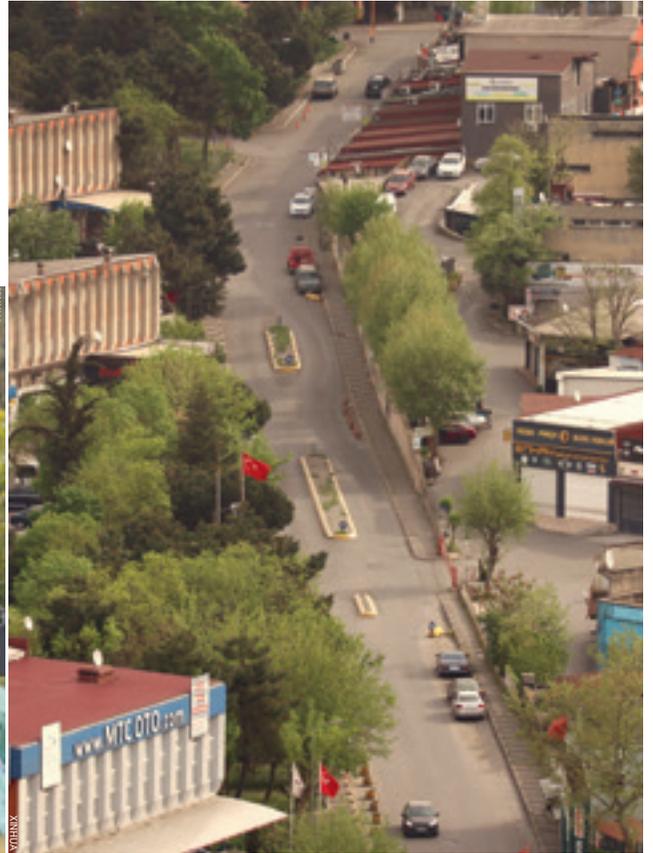
RUSSIA

Unmanned aerial vehicles spell out St. Petersburg in the sky during the First International Drone Festival in St. Petersburg on May 2



AUSTRALIA

A band performs at the Canberra International Music Festival on April 30. The 10-day event ended on May 9



TURKEY

A picture taken in Istanbul on May 3 shows the result of a full lockdown that began on April 29 and is set to last until May 17. The measure is hoped to help reduce COVID-19 cases ahead of the tourism season



BRITAIN

Participants pose for a group photo during the first in-person meeting of the foreign and development ministers of the Group of Seven in two years in London on May 4



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

ALL EYES ON MEITUAN DIANPING

China's State Administration for Market Regulation on April 26 launched an investigation into the shopping platform and food delivery giant Meituan Dianping for alleged monopoly conduct including the implementation of an "exclusive dealing agreement."

Meituan was also found to have coerced merchants into ending their transactions with its competitors.

Wang Xing, 42, born in Fujian Province, is the founder and CEO of Meituan. He graduated from Tsinghua University with a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering in 2001, and went on to receive his master's degree in computer engineering from the University of Delaware in 2005.

In 2010, he founded the group-buying site Meituan. It was hugely successful and merged with Dianping in 2015 to become Meituan Dianping, which went public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 2018. As of January 2021, *Forbes* estimated Wang's net worth at \$28.8 billion.



Shared Parking

Economic Daily

April 26

Searching for parking space has long been a headache for those residing in China's metropolises, especially for those working in the central business districts of the first- and second-tier cities. Data show that as of late 2020, there was a shortage of some 80 million parking spaces across the country.

Most recently, Haidian District in Beijing launched a shared parking initiative accompanied by a kind of "parking subsidy." Residents can get a subsidy of 150 yuan (\$23.14) per month, provided by parking management companies,

for choosing staggered shared parking. About 25 to 30 percent of Beijing parking lots are left empty; by sharing parking space, the crush on parking lots will be alleviated and their actual usage rate will go up.

Smart technologies, too, can come in handy when solving China's parking problems. With shared parking services such as smart apps in place, users can rent surplus parking spots for a time span as short as one hour or as long as a few months.

Expectations are that all regions will come up with more measures to improve governance efficiency, to form a shared parking development model that benefits citizens and activates parking space resources.



Mission of Universities

Outlook Weekly

April 26

China's esteemed Tsinghua University celebrated its 110th anniversary on April 25. Over the past 110 years since its inception, Tsinghua has cultivated pioneers in the fields of science, engineering, business, culture and politics.

Tsinghua's reform, human resources development, education innovation

"A new stipulation has been added to guarantee seed safety, which includes strengthening the protection and use of germ plasm resources and building seed banks."

Li Fei, a senior legislator with the Constitution and Law Committee of the National People's Congress, explaining a draft law on promoting rural vitalization, in an interview with *China Daily*, on April 29.

"We will take all necessary countermeasures against such moves. This warning should be heeded before it is too late. This will only aggravate the tension across the Taiwan Strait..."

Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, commenting on Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party authority amending the island's so-called "constitution," on April 29