

OPINION: WEB OF LIES OVER XINJIANG P.26 | CULTURE: 3,000 YEARS OF BEIJING'S HISTORY P.46

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.64 NO.21 MAY 27, 2021

北方周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



GENERATIONAL GROWTH

Tibet's seven decades of modernization

RMB6.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF1.60
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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Cover Photo: A villager in Xigaze, Tibet Autonomous Region, with her great granddaughter on April 16 (XINHUA)

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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

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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 Truth About Tibet

May 23 marked the 70th anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

During the past 70 years, Tibet has progressed together with the other regions of China, from a closed and underdeveloped society that practiced serfdom to a socialist region.

Today, it has 116,600 km of highways, with most villages linked to them. The autonomous region is also connected with 130 domestic and international air routes.

The healthcare system in Tibet has improved remarkably. There are 5.54 medical workers and 4.88 hospital beds per 1,000 people. The population of Tibet has increased from 1.23 million in 1959 to 3.5 million in 2019, and average life expectancy reached a record high of 71.1 years in 2020, double the figure in 1951.

The education system has been modernized. Before the peaceful liberation, less than 2 percent of school-age children went to school and the illiteracy rate was as high as 95 percent. By the end of 2019, there were 842,000 students on campus, accounting for 25 percent of the region's permanent population.

The freedom of religious belief is well protected. There are over 1,700 sites where Tibetan Buddhism is practiced and more than 46,000 resident

monks and nuns. Traditional religious activities are held normally and religious leaders take part in friendly international religious exchanges.

Tibet remains one of the regions with the best ecological environment in the world. Economic activities are required to be environmentally friendly and without exploiting natural resources. Last year, absolute poverty was eliminated in Tibet.

However, some anti-China external forces continue to ignore the progress and use Tibet to interfere in China's internal affairs. The so-called "Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020" of the United States is such an example. It distorts Tibet's social development, denigrates China's ethnic and religious policies, and interferes in the normal reincarnation procedure of the living Buddhas under the pretext of lobbying for human and religious rights.

Since ancient times, Tibet has been an integral part of China. Its peaceful liberation in 1951 marked an epoch-making turning point in its social development history.

China will never allow any malicious foreign intervention in the region's religious affairs or allow anyone to sabotage its stability and prosperity under any guise. **BR**



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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

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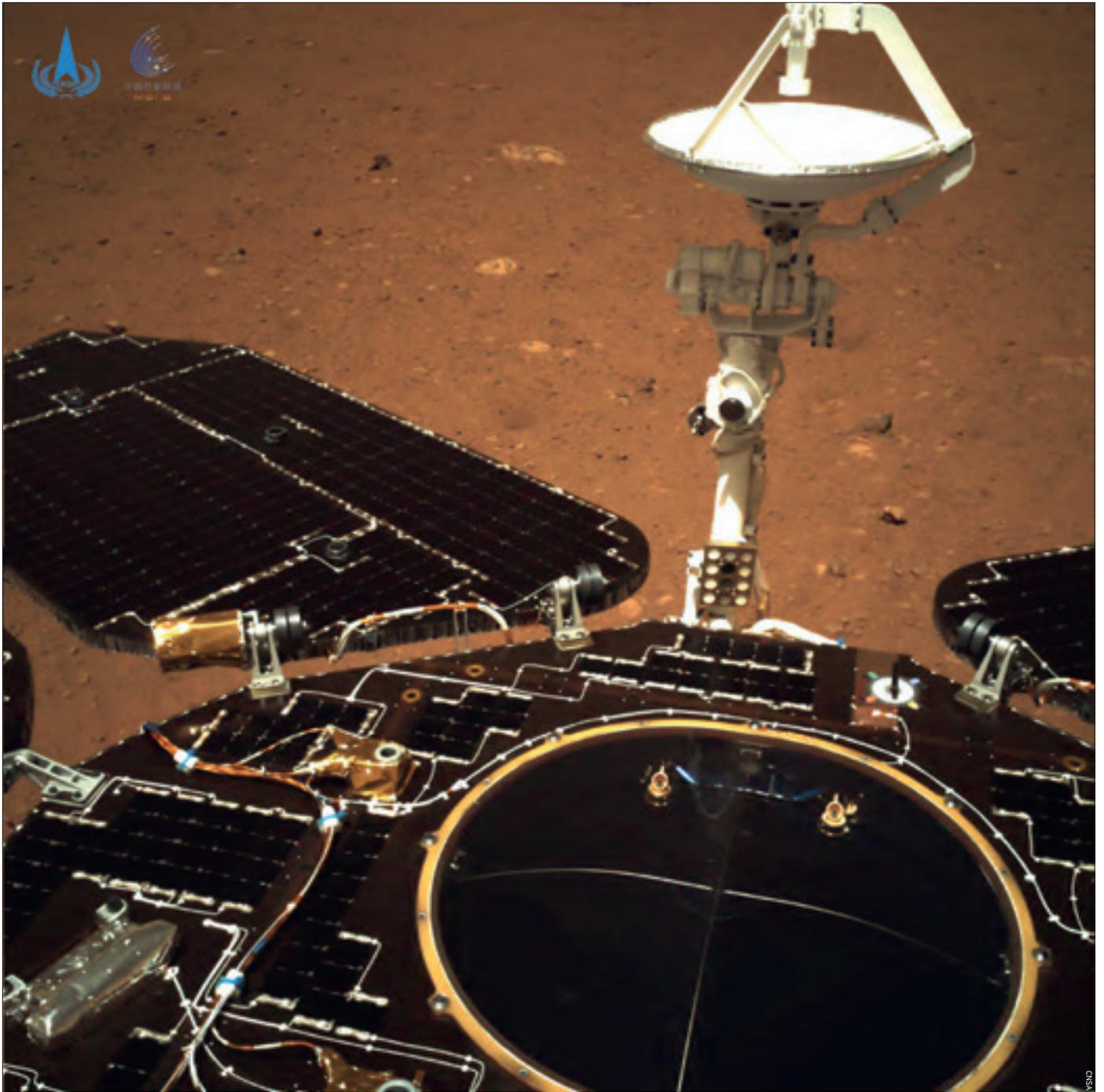
印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2021年 第21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



GREETINGS FROM MARS

Zhurong, the Chinese Mars rover, is seen with its solar panels and antenna unfolded, as well as the red soil and rocks on the red planet's surface, in this photograph taken by the navigation camera of the *Tianwen-1* spacecraft.

On May 19, the China National Space Administration released two photos and two videos taken by China's first Mars probe. China is now the second nation after the U.S. to have a rover on the surface of the planet.



Birds' Paradise

Egrets in the Xiangshan Forest Park in Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province, on May 18. It's currently bird breeding season.

Red Tourism Expo

Jiangxi and Hunan provinces will jointly hold a red tourism expo in October to display the latest developments in the industry.

The expo will be held in Jinggangshan in Jiangxi, which borders Hunan, Liu Qi, secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Jiangxi Provincial Committee, said at a press conference on May 14.

Red tourism, which refers to visiting historical sites with a modern revolutionary legacy, has gained popularity among tourists in recent years. It has been particularly brisk this year, which marks the 100th anniversary of the CPC.

Jiangxi will use its abundant red tourism resources to promote high-quality development of the sector, Liu said.

During this year's week-long May Day holiday, the number of visits to such tourist attractions in Jiangxi increased threefold year on year, Liu said. The province has plans to improve and upgrade its red tourism services.

In 2017, 24 provincial-level regions including Jiangxi, Beijing, Shanghai, Guizhou and Shaanxi formed a red tourism promotion alliance to enhance the service quality of the industry and strengthen regional cooperation.

New Route

A direct China-Europe freight-train rail route has been launched, linking the city of Liuzhou in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Russian capital of Moscow.

The maiden train departed on May 18 from Liuzhou for

Moscow. It is scheduled to arrive in Moscow in 20 days after traveling about 11,000 km, according to Luo Guobing, Vice President of Liugong Machinery Co. Ltd., a Liuzhou-headquartered machinery manufacturer.

The route is the first China-Europe freight-train service connecting Guangxi directly with Europe. The route will operate once or twice every month, according to the China Railway Nanning Group.

Beijing's Population

The population of Beijing stood at 21.89 million at the end of October 2020, an increase of 2.28 million from 2010, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics, reported Xinhua News Agency on May 19.

This represents an average

annual growth rate of 1.1 percent from 2010 to 2020, lower than the average annual growth of 3.8 percent from 2000 to 2010, said Meng Jingwei, head of the bureau.

Of the capital's permanent residents, nearly 11.2 million were males, about 51.1 percent. The gender ratio in the city reached 104.7 males to 100 females, more balanced than the ratio of 106.8 males to 100 females in 2010.

In terms of age composition, the number of residents aged 60 or above was about 19.6 percent of Beijing's permanent population, 7.1 percentage points higher than in 2010.

Private Schools

There were 186,700 private schools in China by 2020, accounting for more than one third of all Chinese educational institutions, the Ministry of Education said on May 17.

Private schools educated over 55.64 million students last year, nearly one fifth of all students in China, the ministry said at a press conference on the revised regulations promoting the development of the private education sector.

The regulations give equal rights to public and private educational institutions in terms of enrollment and labor contracts, and ensure teachers and students in private schools enjoy rights equal to those in public schools.

Garbage Treatment

The sorting and utilization of household garbage will be improved in urban areas in the next five years. The authorities have set specific targets for urban garbage treatment in the 2021-25 period, Xinhua reported on May 13.

The utilization rate of urban household waste is expected to reach around 60 percent by late 2025, according to a plan jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

By the end of 2025, capacity for household garbage sorting, collection, and transportation shall reach around 700,000 tons per day. The urban household garbage treatment capacity through incineration shall stand at 800,000 tons per day, the document said.

Prefecture-level cities and townships in regions including Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei and neighboring areas, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area shall see household garbage sorting and treatment systems established. Other regions shall also seek better garbage sorting and treatment facilities.

Nutrition Education

A nutrition and health guide for Chinese children and adolescents released on May 15 calls for improvement in children's diets and efforts to strengthen childhood nutrition education.

The guide, published by the

Chinese Association for Student Nutrition and Health Promotion, underlines the need to address undesirable eating patterns among children despite major progress in childhood nutrition and fitness in the country.

The undesirable eating patterns mainly include low intake of vegetables, fruits, aquatic products, eggs, beans and milk, which are more prevalent in rural and less developed areas.

It also notes unhealthy dietary behaviors such as skipping breakfast and increase in snack and beverage consumption, as well as the rising problems of child obesity and chronic diseases.

The guide urges efforts to promote the sustained development of childhood nutrition education through various means including policy improvement, supportive environment and talent cultivation.

New Discoveries

Chinese scientists have detected a dozen ultra-high-energy (UHE) cosmic accelerators within the Milky Way, a find that could overturn humanity's understanding of the galaxy. It could help reveal the origin of cosmic rays, which have puzzled scientists for a century.



Way to Development

Constructors celebrate the completion of the highway linking Pad Township in the city of Nyingchi with Medog County, Tibet Autonomous Region, on May 16. Construction of a highway passing through the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon in Tibet, the world's deepest canyon with a maximum depth of 6,009 meters, was completed on May 15. The project took almost seven years to complete.

The findings were based on the observations of the Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO), one of the key national science and technology infrastructure facilities under construction in Daocheng in Sichuan Province.

These discoveries were published in the journal *Nature* on May 17.

Scientists led by the Institute of High Energy Physics under the

Chinese Academy of Sciences made the discoveries after an 11-month observation period.

"These findings overturn our traditional understanding of the Milky Way and open up an era of UHE gamma astronomy. These observations will prompt us to rethink the mechanism by which high-energy particles are generated and propagated in the Milky Way," Cao Zhen, chief scientist of LHAASO, said.



Dishing It Out

Cantonese cuisine chefs cook at the SIAL China food and beverage expo in Shanghai on May 18. SIAL China, one of Asia's largest food and beverage innovation exhibitions, took place from May 18 to 20.

THIS WEEK ECONOMY

Retail Sales

National retail sales of consumer goods went up 29.6 percent year on year in the first four months of the year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on May 17.

The growth reversed from the declines witnessed in the first four months of last year, when consumer spending was disrupted by the COVID-19 epidemic. The average January-April growth for the past two years stood at 4.2 percent.

In April, retail sales surged 17.7 percent year on year and came in 8.8 percent above the 2019 level. The two-year average growth was 4.3 percent.

Most categories saw positive growth in sales. Of the total, the two-year average growth of 10 categories, including sports and recreational goods, gold, silver and jewelry, and telecommunications equipment, exceeded 10 percent.

In April, consumption in urban areas stood at some 2.89

trillion yuan (\$449.4 billion), up 17.6 percent from a year earlier. The figure for rural areas went up 17.8 percent to 426.5 billion yuan (\$66.3 billion).

The catering industry reported a 67.7-percent year-on-year increase in revenue in the first four months, as the hardest-hit sector continued to recover from COVID-19 disruptions.

Online retail sales improved 27.6 percent year on year to about 3.76 trillion yuan (\$585 billion) in the January-April period. Physical commodities accounted for 22.2 percent of the total, with their volume surging 23.1 percent.

Air Transportation

Domestic air passenger trips reached 51.09 million in April, soaring 205.5 percent from a year earlier, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said on May 14.

The number set a new monthly record since the start of

2020. It represented 96.2 percent of the level seen in the same period in 2019, accelerating from 89.4 percent in March.

Cargo and mail transportation volume was approximately 655,000 tons in the month, up 35 percent over the same period last year. The volume represented a 9-percent growth from the same period in 2019, picking up the pace from the 3.7-percent growth in March.

Total transportation turnover was 9.21 billion ton-km, up 132.8 percent year on year, or about 87.7 percent of the level seen in April 2019.

Bond Holdings

Overseas investors increased their holdings of Chinese bonds in April amid China's opening-up efforts.

The total amount of yuan bonds owned by overseas institutions reached 3.22 trillion yuan (\$499 billion) as of the end of April, up 64.86 billion yuan

(\$10.09 billion) from a month earlier, data from China Central Depository and Clearing Co. Ltd. showed.

Specifically, treasury bonds saw the largest month-on-month growth of 51.74 billion yuan (\$8.05 billion), followed by bonds issued by policy banks.

As the COVID-19 uncertainties continue to put pressure on the world economy, the stability of yuan-denominated assets will be a major focus of global investors, analysts said.

Wind Farm

The offshore Daishan No.4 Wind Farm near the Zhoushan Islands, Zhejiang Province, was commissioned and connected to the grid on May 16.

The farm has 54 wind turbines, with a total installed capacity of 234 MW. It is currently able to supply 618 million kWh of electricity to the power grid a year, equivalent to the power created by burning 170,000

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

Fixed Assets Investment Growth
(% y.o.y.)



tons of standard coal equivalent, cutting emissions by 470,000 tons.

The project is owned by the China General Nuclear Power Corp., which will further add two wind farms near Zhoushan in the future, bringing its total wind power generation in the area to 1.44 billion kWh once fully operational.

The green power is aimed at supporting the development of the oil and gas businesses in Zhoushan.

Carbon-Neutral Push

China is accelerating the formulation of the top-level design and industry-specific policies to further clarify its roadmap toward carbon neutrality, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said on May 18.

The country is drafting an action plan to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 while working on specific plans

for various industries and sectors, including power, steel, petrochemical and transportation, Jin Xiandong, a spokesperson for the NDRC, said.

Further strategic plans to develop low-carbon technologies and boost the carbon sink capacity are also under review, Jin added.

China previously announced it would strive to peak its carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Moving forward, the country will promote its social and economic development on the basis of higher resource efficiency and push the green transformation of production and lifestyle, Jin said.

Salary Rise

The average annual salary of urban employees experienced growth in 2020 despite the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, official data showed on May 19.

In non-private sectors, it rose 5.2 percent to 97,379 yuan (\$15,152) after adjusting for inflation, the NBS said.

In private sectors, it stood at 57,727 yuan (\$8,982), up 5.3 percent.

The growth rate in non-private sectors is at its lowest point since 1984, while that in private sectors dropped to its second lowest level since 2009, according to the NBS.

Employees engaged in the non-private software and information technology service sector saw an average salary growth rate of 10 percent, boosted by a new consumption demand for remote work and distance learning resulting from the impact of COVID-19.

The average salary of employees in the pharmaceutical, special equipment and instrumentation manufacturing industries improved 6.9 percent, 8.2 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The readings were

higher than those of the manufacturing sector at large.

In private sectors, the highest average salary growth rate was recorded in the software and information technology service industry. It logged a year-on-year growth of 18.7 percent.

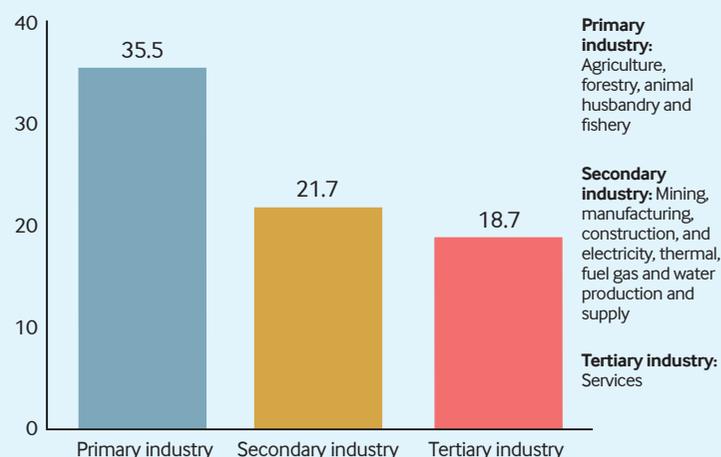
Transport Input

Fixed assets investment in the transport sector increased 7.1 percent year on year to nearly 3.48 trillion yuan (\$541.4 billion) in 2020, according to data from the Ministry of Transport. The growth was the highest in the past three years.

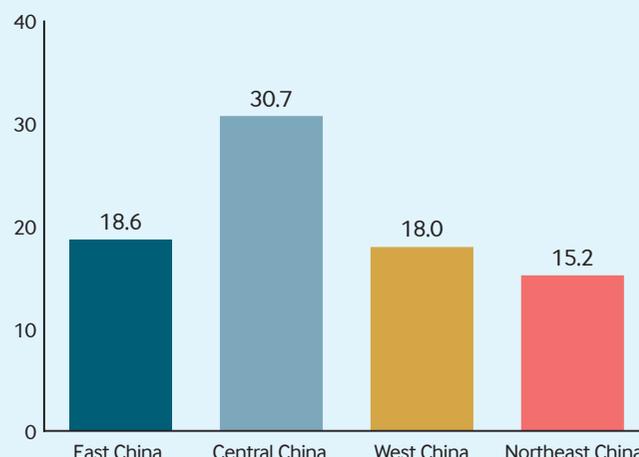
By the end of last year, the operating mileage of China's railway network reached 146,000 km. The country had 5.2 million km of highways, of which expressways accounted for 161,000 km.

There were 2,592 berths of 10,000-ton-class or above and 241 certified civil airports throughout the country.

Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Sector
January-April (% y.o.y.)



Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Region
January-April (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



AUSTRIA

A meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the Iran nuclear deal, in Vienna on May 19. Participants say current negotiations are generally progressing, but they are still a long way from reaching an agreement



ITALY

A tour guide tells the backstory of the Trevi Fountain in Rome on May 15. Italy has opened up restriction-free travel for visitors from designated countries



INDIA

Trees uprooted and damaged by cyclonic storm *Tauktae* near Una Town in Gujarat State on May 18. The storm killed at least 19 and injured many more across India's western coast



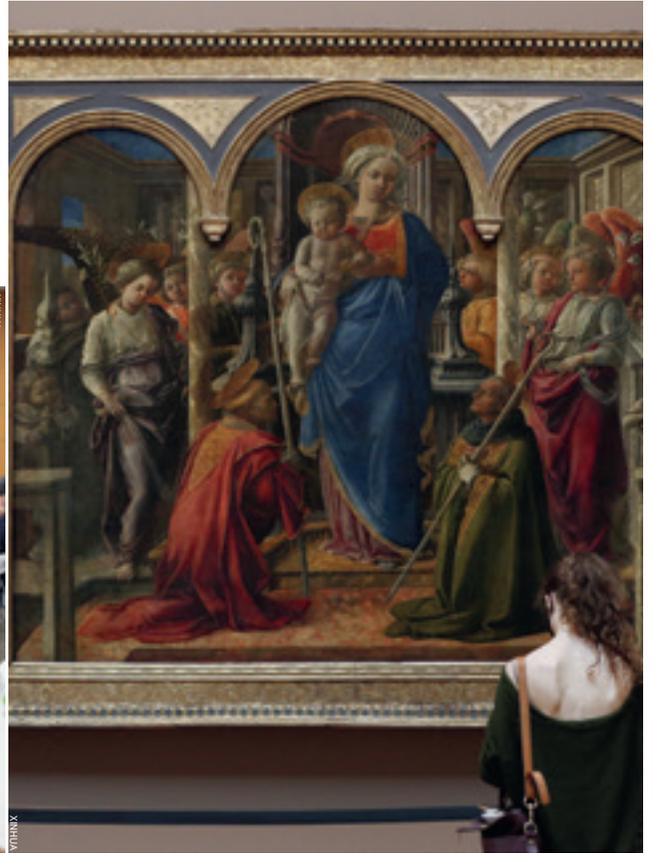
JAPAN

Tokyo Olympic organizers attend a virtual meeting with officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from Tokyo on May 19. IOC President Thomas Bach and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga both reiterated that the Tokyo Olympics would be held safely



SPINX

SPINX



FRANCE

A woman visits the Louvre Museum in Paris on its reopening day on May 19. The Louvre reopened as the nationwide lockdown eased



PALESTINE

Residents inspect a damaged building after an Israeli airstrike in the southern Gaza Strip city of Khan Younis on May 19. More than 250 have been killed in the Palestine-Israel conflict that started on May 10, according to the UN



SPINX

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ AUSTRIA HONORS CHINESE FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Wu Jiatong, President of Wu Promotion, a Chinese agency specializing in artistic and cultural exchanges between China and the world, was honored with the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art for building bridges between Austria and China. The award ceremony took place at the Embassy of Austria in Beijing on May 16.

Wu and his father established Wu Promotion in 1991. It was the first private event planning and promotional agency for the performing arts in China and today has become a leading agency in Asia. He started to organize tours of Austrian orchestras to China, and Chinese orchestras to Europe.



“This is a monumental day in my career, which started off by helping my father some 30 years ago. I gave up my major in engineering and devoted myself to the arts out of love, and the ambition to enhance mutual understanding between the people of both countries,” Wu said.

Mobile Population

People.cn

May 12

The seventh national population census shows that the mobile population in China exceeded 375 million, an increase of 69.73 percent compared with 2020. The rise in numbers reflects China’s sustained economic and social development over the past decade.

In the early days, the eastern coastal areas with better economic performance were the go-to destination of migrant people. Nevertheless, thanks to policies supporting the central and western regions, these areas have attracted many

talents and a large labor force. Such migration movements give full play to human resources’ value, and help balance public services between different regions.

Population mobility can inject impetus into regional development. Aside from providing a workforce, it usually boosts exchanges of intelligence, capital, information, services and culture, promoting resource sharing and cultural diversity.

Therefore, governments at all levels should develop channels for human resources integration, through which talents can return to their hometowns for the purposes of entrepreneurship and employment, whereas people from the rural areas come to the cities to find jobs.



A New Competition

Lifeweek

May 17

In 2005, Shenzhen in Guangdong Province hosted the first Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (UABB). It is a cooperative cultural event shared by Shenzhen and Hong Kong under a similar theme. Li Xiaojiang, then head of the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, visited the exhibition and

“China supports any action conducive to the equitable access to vaccines for developing countries. It presents the nature of COVID-19 vaccines as a global public good and proves necessary for the construction of a global community of health for all.”

Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Zhao Lijian** commenting on the hopes developing countries hold regarding the waiver of COVID-19 vaccines’ intellectual property rights, at a press conference on May 17

“China has become a serious actor in the Middle East... Peace-building cooperation between the West and China is more important than ever.”

Thomas O. Falk, a London-based political analyst, stressing the increasing importance of China on the global political stage in an article posted by CGTN on May 17