

OPINION: CPC'S SOURCE OF STRENGTH P.24 | FEATURES: APEC LEADERS' MEETING P.34

# BEIJING REVIEW

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## TRACES OF HISTORY

A look at some of China's greatest World Heritage Sites

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Cover Design: Cui Xiaodong

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## Heritage Protection

The 44th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is currently underway in Fuzhou, Fujian Province. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this is the first time for UNESCO to review World Heritage applications online. A series of operational norms for online review were established and adopted at this session and will become an important reference for the combination of online and offline platforms in the World Heritage field.

This year's event has been postponed and extended to cover the agendas of both 2020 and 2021, with 45 nominations under consideration to be added to the 258 sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List. The session also passed the Fuzhou Declaration that reiterates the significance of World Heritage protection and international cooperation.

Since ratifying the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1985, China has contributed 55 sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List, tying for first place with Italy. These World Heritage sites demonstrate China's history, culture and progress in social development, and promote communication

and mutual trust between China and the rest of the world.

In the protection and inheritance of World Heritage, China is devoted to improving its management and reforming laws and regulations. The Central Government has appropriated special funds for the protection of cultural artifacts, initiated a number of major protection projects and attached importance to the application and innovation of technologies. Through multi-disciplinary and cross-field cooperation, China's capability of cultural heritage protection has been significantly enhanced.

China should properly address the relationship between urban development and the protection and utilization of historical and cultural heritage, advance protection and development in parallel, and provide time and space for the natural ecology to rehabilitate.

World Heritage is testament to the development of human civilization and the importance of nature. China will work together with UNESCO as well as other countries to jointly safeguard the treasures of all humanity. **BR**



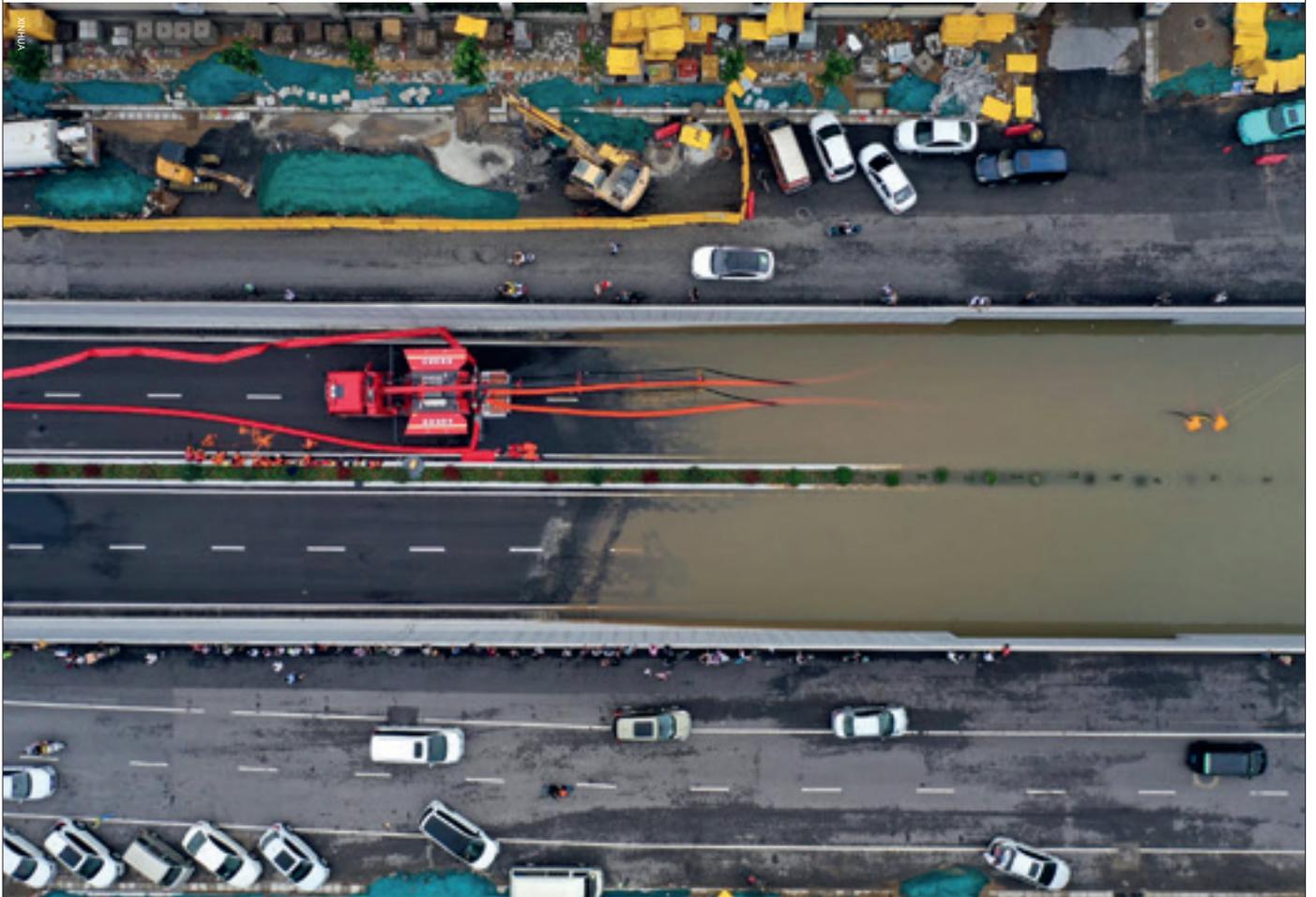
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## FIGHTING THE FLOODS

Firefighters use high volume pumps to clear excess rainwater from a road in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province, on July 21. Extremely heavy rainfall battered Henan on July 20, with precipitation in Zhengzhou exceeding the highest level on local record.

On July 21, the Ministry of Emergency Management raised the emergency response for flood control to its second-highest level. A rescue team of 1,800 firefighters has been deployed to the flood-hit region from seven neighboring provinces, together with boats, pumping vehicles, and flood rescue kits.



YINHX

## Cross-Desert Expressway

Aerial photo taken on July 16 shows the construction site of a cross-desert expressway in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The expressway, linking Altay Prefecture and the regional capital city of Urumqi, stretches along some 343 km, with more than 150 km constructed across the desert.

## Malware Attacks

More than 42 million malware attacks were detected in China in 2020, said a cybersecurity report released on July 21.

The United States and India are the leading sources of foreign malware attacks against China in 2020, according to the report released by the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center of China (CNCERT/CC).

The number of malware attacks from the U.S. accounted for 53.1 percent of the total foreign attacks, and 7.2 percent of the foreign attacks were from India, said the report.

The U.S. also takes the lead in the number of servers

controlled by foreign malware that launched cyber attacks against China, the report said, adding that the U.S. had 19,000 such servers in 2020, followed by the Netherlands with 2,083 servers and Germany with 1,923 servers.

Founded in 2001, the CNCERT/CC is a non-governmental, non-profit cybersecurity technical center and the key coordination team for China's cybersecurity emergency response community.

The CNCERT/CC started compiling the annual cybersecurity report of China back in 2008.

## Diversion Project

As of 8 a.m. on July 19, the middle route of China's South-

to-North Water Diversion Project has transferred more than 40 billion cubic meters of water to the country's arid north, official data showed.

Since its launch in December 2014, the middle route has directly benefited 79 million people and has emerged as the key water source for large and medium-sized cities along the route.

The middle route, the most prominent of the three due to its role in feeding water to the nation's capital, starts from the Danjiangkou Reservoir and runs across Henan and Hebei before reaching Beijing and Tianjin.

The middle route has provided 5.9 billion cubic meters of water to 48 rivers in the north for

ecological restoration.

About 13 million residents in Beijing benefit from this project, which provides more than 70 percent of the water supply in the city's main urban areas.

The eastern route of the project began operations in November 2013, transferring water from Jiangsu Province to feed areas including Tianjin and Shandong Province.

The western route is at the planning stage and is yet to be constructed.

## Marxist Classics

China has so far published 14 volumes of *Ma Zang*, a collection of Marxist classics and related documents, featuring a total of 9 million Chinese characters, according to its compiler.

Launched in 2015 by Peking University in cooperation with several domestic and overseas research institutions, the compilation of *Ma Zang* intends to provide the complete picture of the evolution of Marxism. The whole project will take about 20 years.

The published volumes include original works and translated versions, articles, reports, files, notes and letters, as well as relevant documents of the Communist Party of China.

The compilation of *Ma Zang* is expected to facilitate a systematical review and a thorough understanding of the adaption of Marxism to China's context, and lay a more solid theoretical foundation for the development of Marxism in the 21st century, Gu Hailiang, Editor in Chief of *Ma Zang*, said.

## Online Environment

China's cyberspace watchdog vowed to address the phenomenon of promoting underage influencers on the Internet, as

part of its campaign that kicked off on July 21 to clean up the online environment for minors.

Launched during the summer vacation, the campaign targets minor-related issues on live-stream and short-video platforms and prohibits minors under 16 from engaging in live-streaming performances, according to the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Activities such as persuading underage viewers to tip online, misleading them by flaunting wealth or advocating hedonism or sensational content will also be cracked down upon in the campaign, the administration said.

Regarding online education platforms, the campaign will remove any erotic, vulgar and violent content on them, and ban them from advertising online games and offensive publications and shows to underage users.

## Autonomous Taxis

The southern Chinese metropolis of Shenzhen has for the first time launched a pilot autonomous taxi service for the public.

Shenzhen-based company DeepRoute said its robotaxi program is available to the public starting on July 19,

making it the first company to provide this type of service in Shenzhen.

The company worked with the Futian district government to deploy 20 self-driving taxis in the city.

DeepRoute said the vehicles have nearly 100 pick-up and drop-off points, including popular landmarks and COVID-19 vaccination centers, with the service covering over 200 km of public roads in Shenzhen.

The taxis are free of charge and open to people aged over 18 through an application process on DeepRoute's official WeChat account.

## Birth Policy

A decision was released on July 20 allowing a couple to have three children and rolling out a slew of support measures, ranging from tax breaks to more nurseries and flexible work leave to encourage births.

The decision on improving birth policies to promote long-term and balanced population development, dated June 26, was adopted by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council.

China has been adjusting its family planning policy over the past decade. The two-child



## Mine Tour

Tourists ride a mini sightseeing train around a deserted mine transformed into an ecological park in Qian'an, Hebei Province, on July 21.

policy was partially introduced in 2013 and fully implemented in 2015.

According to the decision, by 2025, China will basically establish a policy system that actively supports births with better services and lower costs in childbearing, care and education. The gender ratio of newborns will be more balanced and the population structure will be improved.

To legitimize the three-child

policy, China will revise its law on population and family planning.

The government will no longer charge a fine for couples who violate the family planning law to have more children than allowed.

How many children an individual has will no longer be a reference when he or she registers for a household account, enrolls in school, and applies for a job, the document further said.



## Sports Fun

A fun sports meeting is held for deliverymen in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on July 21.

## Fiscal Revenue

China's fiscal revenue saw a year-on-year increase of 21.8 percent in the first six months of the year to exceed 11.7 trillion yuan (\$1.8 trillion), official data showed on July 20.

It rose 8.6 percent from the corresponding pre-pandemic level in 2019, according to the Ministry of Finance.

Fiscal expenditure went up 4.5 percent in the first six months from a year earlier to 12.17 trillion yuan (\$1.9 trillion).

## Trade Corridor

A China-Singapore land-sea trade corridor has expanded its reach to 304 ports in 106 countries and regions worldwide.

The New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is a trade and logistics passage jointly constructed by Singapore and provincial-level regions of west China. Chongqing is the center of operation.

Goods are transported via

various modes including railways, highways and water routes to the Beibu Gulf in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, before being shipped off to other parts of the world along the sea routes. The corridor offers a faster alternative for western Chinese provinces and autonomous regions other than transporting goods via the eastern coast.

From January to June, the Chinese section of corridor transported 47,880 20-foot equivalent units of cargo, a notable year-on-year increase of 147 percent, according to official data.

In the same period, land-sea freight trains departing from Chongqing made 952 trips, surging 147 percent year on year.

## Cross-Border Payment

Pilot cross-border payment programs for the digital yuan will be launched based on the experiences of domestic trials and international demand, the

People's Bank of China (PBC) said on July 16.

Though technically ready for cross-border use, the digital yuan is currently designed mainly for domestic retail payments, the central bank said in a white paper on the progress of the digital yuan.

"Looking ahead, the PBC will actively respond to initiatives of G20 and other international organizations on improving cross-border payments, and explore the applicability of central bank digital currency in cross-border scenarios," the report read.

The PBC will also work with relevant central banks and monetary authorities to set up exchange arrangements and regulatory cooperation mechanisms on digital fiat currency, according to it.

## Carbon Market

The national carbon market started online trading on July 16, a significant step toward helping China reduce its carbon footprint

and meet emission targets, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

Carbon emissions by more than 2,000 power companies involved in the first trading group are estimated to exceed 4 billion tons per year, making the market the world's largest in terms of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions covered.

Carbon trading is the process of buying and selling permits to emit carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases.

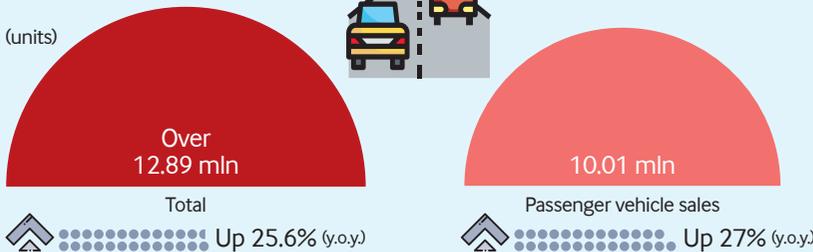
The market was launched in 2017 after pilot operations in seven provincial-level regions in 2011. Companies are assigned quotas for carbon emissions and can sell surplus emission allowances to those that expect to exceed their pollution quotas.

It is necessary to further strengthen the top-level design, refine the roadmap, arrange for more industries and trading entities to be brought into the market, and enrich trading varieties to help the carbon market

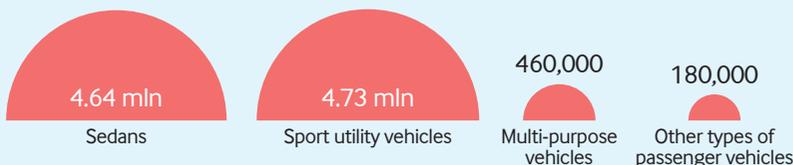
## NUMBERS

### Chinese Auto Sales (H1)

(units)



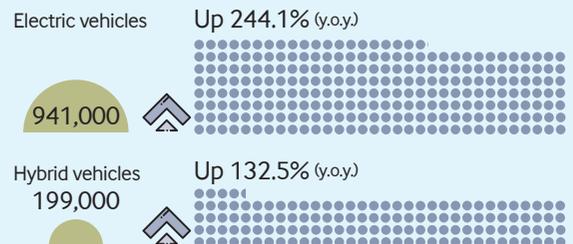
### Sales by type (units)



### Sales of new-energy passenger vehicles (units)



### Sales by type



improve its role in controlling greenhouse gas emissions, said Liu Jie, General Manager of the Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange.

## Rural Development

The per-capita disposable income of rural residents reached 9,248 yuan (\$1,426) in the first half of the year, up 14.1 percent year on year in real terms after allowing for inflation, Zeng Yande, a senior official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, told a press conference on July 20.

The pace of growth of rural residents' income is 3.4 percentage points faster than that of urban residents, he said.

China's agricultural production and the rural economy thrived in the first half of the year. Summer grain output increased 2.97 million tons from last year to 145.8 million tons, reaching a record high.

The total planting area of summer grain increased 265,500

hectares, reversing a five-year declining trend, while per-unit yield also saw expansion for three consecutive years to hit a new high.

The rural economy logged steady growth during the period. The added value of the agricultural and sideline food processing industry rose 10.7 percent year on year, while rural tourism basically recovered to the level of the same period of 2019. Online retail sales of farm produce also maintained a double-digit growth.

## Consumption Hubs

The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) announced on July 19 that Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin and Chongqing will take the lead in developing international consumption center cities.

The move will play a significant role in serving the establishment of a new development paradigm of dual circulation that allows the

domestic and overseas markets to reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao said at a meeting.

Efforts will be made to pool quality international market entities, goods and services as well as accelerate the cultivation of local brands, according to Wang.

MOFCOM will collaborate with other related departments to unveil a general plan on developing the international consumption center cities. The five designated cities will formulate their respective implementation plans, he said.

## Maglev Train

China's new high-speed maglev train, with a designed top speed of 600 km per hour, rolled off the production line on July 20, making it the world's fastest ground vehicle available today.

The new transportation system made its public debut in the coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong Province.

It was self-developed by China and marks the country's latest scientific and technological achievement in the field of rail transit, according to the China Railway Rolling Stock Corp.

The new breakthrough demonstrates that China has mastered a complete set of high-speed maglev train engineering technologies, including system integration, vehicle production, traction power supply, rail trails, and transport control and communication, the company said.

Launched in October 2016, the high-speed maglev train project saw the development of a magnetic-levitation train prototype with a designed top speed of 600 km per hour in 2019, and a successful test run was conducted in June 2020.

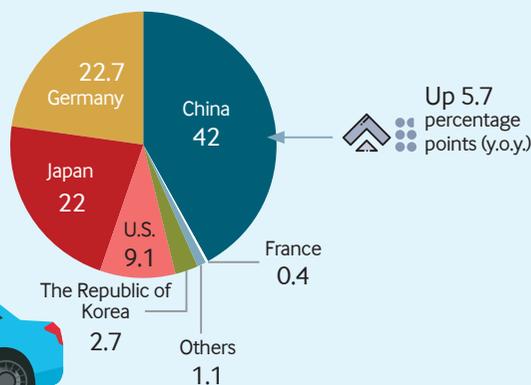
The train provides the best solution for trips within the range of 1,500 km, Ding Sansan, chief engineer of the project, said, adding that it fills the speed gap between aviation and high-speed trains.

### Market share of passenger vehicles

Sales of domestic brands (units)



Market share (%)



### Exports (units)

Total

828,000

Up 114.7% (y.o.y.)

Passenger vehicles

631,000

Commercial vehicles

197,000

88,000 New-energy vehicles

82,000 New-energy passenger vehicles

6,000 New-energy commercial vehicles



(Source: China Association of Automobile Manufacturers)



## JAPAN

A floating set of the Olympic rings at the Tokyo Bay on July 21. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Summer Games kicked off on July 23



## GERMANY

People clear a road damaged by floods in the western city of Bad Münstereifel on July 17. The death toll from disastrous flooding in Germany in mid-July exceeded 140



## AUSTRALIA

A police vehicle is seen near the Sydney Opera House on July 18. A rise in COVID-19 cases has sparked tougher restrictions with more retail outlets closed in New South Wales, the epicenter of the current outbreak in Australia





## THAILAND

A sparsely crowded street in Bangkok on July 20. The government announced the expansion of restrictive measures to cover three more provinces that day as Thailand's daily COVID-19 case tally surged sharply



## PERU

Pedro Castillo waves to his supporters in Lima on July 19. The National Jury of Elections officially declared him president-elect that day, a month and a half after the June 6 presidential runoff



## RUSSIA

The Russian Knights aerobatic demonstration team performs during the opening day of the MAKS-2021 International Aviation and Space Salon in Moscow on July 20



# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ CHINESE FLAG BEARER FOR TOKYO OLYMPICS

The Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) announced late on July 17 that it has selected China's first-ever Olympic gold medalist in taekwondo, **Zhao Shuai**, as one of the two national flag-bearers for the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Summer Games.

Born in 1995, Zhao began training in taekwondo at the age of 9. Today he is one of China's top taekwondo athletes. At the Rio Olympics in 2016, Zhao made history by winning China's first Olympic gold medal in men's taekwondo when he triumphed in the 58kg category. Later he won gold medals at the 2017 World Championships.

In addition to Zhao, volleyball star Zhu Ting has also been named as a flag-bearer for the Chinese delegation, becoming the country's first female flag-bearer at an Olympic Summer Games.



## Natural Disaster Census

**People's Daily**  
July 19

China has recently launched its first nationwide census on its overall natural disaster risks, which will be completed in two years. The census considers China among the countries most affected by natural disasters in terms of their variety, frequency and damage caused.

The census represents a comprehensive survey of the country's natural disasters and the overall resilience to them. It will acquire 22 types of disaster-causing information regarding seismic,

geological, meteorological and marine disasters, as well as floods, droughts and forest and grassland fires. The population, housing, infrastructure, public service systems, industries, resources and environment and other disaster-bearing bodies are also key subjects for study.

The census is regarded as laying the foundations for improving the country's ability to prevent and respond to natural disasters. It will also provide reference for the planning of national land use and help increase public knowledge on disaster prevention.



## Comic Charm

**Lifeweek**  
July 19

In the 1980s, China Central Television and Guangdong TV introduced two Japanese cartoons, *Astro Boy* and *Doraemon*. Both stories achieved success in China with a high audience rating.

Another phenomenon was the rise of the so-called rent-a-book stores, a paradise for comic readers as comics accounted for half of the books on the shelves. Getting a store membership became the thing to do, allowing fans to rent any comic book for 0.1 yuan (\$1.5 cents) a day. The new opportunity attracted many aficionados with a hunger for reading,

“Virology laboratories in the U.S. should be placed under international scrutiny.

The next-stage investigation of the World Health Organization (WHO) should focus on Fort Detrick, and the U.S. should cooperate with the WHO like China did.”

**Lu Shaye**, Chinese Ambassador to France, in an interview with French newspaper *L'Opinion*

“China has been shoring up ties with its Central Asian neighbors to deal with possible security threats in the post-U.S. era. In this regard, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization [SCO] has some great potential to offer solutions.”

**Wang Peng**, a research fellow at Zhejiang International Studies University, commenting on the role of the SCO to CGTN on July 18

especially students with little pocket money.

Some children would start creating their own stories, gaining them much attention from their peers. Some classmates would even ask those young artists to create characters based on their own looks. The creations basically became a tool for communication between comic lovers as well as a way of socializing on campus.

A major misunderstanding about comics is that they are all books for children. Usually, at the mere mention of the genre, people think of exaggerated expressions and bright colors in lots of pictures with very little text. Yet the comic classics are far more than that and can actually nourish the soul. The decoding of each picture is a complex process in which readers need to deal with the different components of comic book art.

Also, most comic books target adults, requiring people to have a high enough level of life experience. For instance, in the 1990s, when a bubble economy trapped Japan, many comic works took to describing society and politics.

Moreover, many cartoonists have also been widely exploring the fields of literature. Through accurate narrative rhythms and a visual language, they hope readers can really sense the change of space and time passing by.

## Summer Grains

***Guancha.gmw.cn***

**July 19**

China reaped a bumper summer harvest in 2021, with a 2.1-percent increase in total output, the National Bureau of Statistics said on July 14. Summer grains refer to grains, beans and potatoes harvested in summer.

Summer grain production totaled 145.8 million tons, an increase of 2.97 million tons from last year.

The output of wheat harvested this summer totaled 134.3 million tons, up 2 percent from that in 2020. The planting area of summer grain reversed from a declining trend

to witness growth, while per-unit yield also increased.

The output of China's summer grain accounts for about one fifth of the annual grain output, of which wheat production accounts for more than 90 percent of the overall summer grain output.

This year's summer grain harvest marks another bumper harvest against a backdrop of high-yield and bumper grain harvests for 18 consecutive years. Achieving this type of growth at a high starting point comes courtesy of favorable natural conditions, targeted scientific and technological support, and policy efficiency.

## ↓ SPENDING LIMIT ON LUCKIN COFFEE FOUNDER

**Lu Zhengyao**, founder of Chinese coffee retail chain, Luckin Coffee, has been named online after being found guilty of financial misconduct by the Beijing No.1 Intermediate People's Court. The court's decision on the case, which involved more than 935 million yuan (\$144 million) in funds, led it to impose limited spending on Lu.

Born in Fujian Province, 52-year-old Lu was also founder of Ucar, a car-rental company.

This is Lu's second order of limited spending this year. His first order resulted from a financial mismanagement case in January involving 1.3 billion yuan (\$200.9 million).

Lu founded Luckin Coffee in 2017 and launched it on the Nasdaq Stock Market in 2018. After opening approximately 4,500 stores in more than 40 cities across China, he was removed from chairmanship of Luckin Coffee in July 2020.



“Given that the Belt and Road Initiative involves a large number of countries and abundant capital, it is committed to better serving the developing world than the ‘Build Back Better World’ program launched by G7 leaders...”

**Liu Hui**, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in an article published on *China Daily* on July 20

“China today is a place where you can see that capitalism is not the end of history. There are other social and political regimes that should follow capitalism and imperialism, and this alternative is socialism.”

**Issam Makhoul**, former general secretary of the Communist Party of Israel, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on July 20



XINHUA

COVER STORY

# LISTING ON

Preserving world heritage will involve increased effort and more international cooperation By Yuan Yuan

**T**he 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) opened in Fuzhou, capital of China's coastal province of Fujian, on July 16, after having been postponed for a year due to the coronavirus pandemic.