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FEATURES: TIBET, THEN AND NOW P.34

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EDITOR'S DESK

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Joining Hands for a Shared Future

The 2022 Annual Conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) will take place from April 20-22 in Boao, Hainan Province, themed The World in COVID-19 and Beyond: Working Together for Global Development and Shared Future. The annual conference will be an on-site occasion supplemented with online links.

The global economy has been lifted from the pandemic-induced recession with a non-balanced recovery momentum; the economic recovery of countries largely hinges on the pandemic's evolution. The BFA Annual Conference will probe into the trend of world economy and issues including industrial chain and inflation.

Following the COVID-19-dominated narrative of the past two years, countries are shifting their focus to green, innovative and sustainable development. Peaking carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality, together with green and low-carbon economic restructuring, have become prevailing objectives. The BFA this year will home in on the different approaches to go carbon neutral.

Digital economy is on the up and up, lending worldwide economic recovery a newfangled helping hand. The development of China's digital economy has taken the lead, producing new industries, businesses and business models, as well

as generating eye-catching new technologies and applications. Major economies all emphasize market regulation and anti-monopoly efforts, committing themselves to the promotion of a long-term and healthy expansion of the digital economy under sector guidelines. How to coordinate policy-making, how to enhance development, how to promote fair competition and how to protect personal information security, are all questions the BFA Annual Conference will seek to answer.

The world today is plagued by setbacks in globalization, tensions in international relations and an increasing global governance deficit. The BFA will further rally all parties involved for multilateralism and international cooperation, aiming to promote global governance.

The 15-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade deal, took effect on January 1, marking a milestone in Asia-Pacific regional cooperation as well as a boost to global recovery. Countries in the region have reinforced their support for free trade and multilateralism with actions. The BFA assembly will also explore the RCEP's multifaceted potential and application to deepen regional cooperation. **BR**



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SPRING SWEEPS IN

Children play in a blooming field in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, on April 5, during Qingming Festival. Also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day, the festival is not only a time for people to pay tribute to their deceased relatives and ancestors, but also a time to venture outside and enjoy a spot of spring.



XINHUA

the degree are all revered Buddhists from Tibet Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province.

Lozang Taktra, a 47-year-old monk from the Sera Monastery in Lhasa, received the best mark and said he planned to continue improving his religious learning and maintain his love for the country and the religion.

Outfall Screening

China will finish screening outfalls in seven major river and lake basins and water near the coastline for problems by the end of 2025, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment Qiu Qiwen said on April 2.

Treatment of outfalls in the seven basins, including the Yangtze River, Yellow River and Taihu Lake will also be largely completed by then, Qiu told a press briefing.

The announcement followed an earlier State Council guideline on tightening oversight and regulation on outfalls.

Since 2019, the country has successively launched screening and treatment of outfalls in the Yangtze River, Bohai Sea and Yellow River, and obtained a more accurate tally.

China will carry out differentiated treatment of the outfalls, removing, combining or rectifying problematic ones based on their types, said Qiu.

Ice Cream Factory

Consumer goods giant Unilever's ice cream brand, Wall's, has unveiled its new "lighthouse factory" in Taicang City, Jiangsu Province, Xinhua News Agency reported on April 2.

The intelligent factory, the world's first "lighthouse factory" in the ice cream industry, adopts smart manufacturing technology that can help reduce carbon

Plowing Ahead

A farmer plows the field in Tongren, Guizhou Province, on April 5. As temperatures rise, farming activities are coming into full swing across China.

Air Quality

Air quality in Chinese cities improved in the first two months of the year, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), Xinhua News Agency reported on April 5.

For 339 cities monitored by the ministry, the share of good air quality days stood at 81.9 percent in the January–February period, up 1.5 percentage points year on year, MEE data showed.

The average PM2.5 density, a key indicator of air pollution, dropped by 2.1 percent year on year to 47 micrograms per cubic meter, and the average density of PM10 shrank 15.4 percent year on year to 66 micrograms per cubic meter.

In February alone, the share of good air quality days in these 339 cities hit 91.3 percent, rising 4.5 percentage points over one

year earlier.

During the same period, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the neighboring area saw their share of good air quality days increase by 16.4 percentage points to 85.7 percent. The share of good air quality days in Beijing reached 100 percent.

Virtual Tomb-Sweeping

Virtual tomb-sweeping has gained more acceptance among Chinese, data from the Ministry of Civil Affairs showed.

Qingming Festival, or Tomb-Sweeping Day, on April 5 this year, is a traditional Chinese holiday for people to pay tribute to those departed and worship their ancestors.

On April 3, the first day of the three-day holiday, 6.95 million Chinese held virtual memorial

ceremonies across 2,304 online platforms, growing by 275.7 percent from a year earlier, said the ministry.

Meanwhile, 5.83 million people had traditional tomb-sweeping ceremonies across the country that day, 69.8 percent fewer than the previous year.

Tibetan Buddhism Degree

Thirteen monks were awarded the degree of Geshe Lharampa—equivalent to a doctoral degree in modern education—on April 2 in Tibet Autonomous Region.

The award ceremony took place inside the Jokhang Temple in downtown Lhasa, the regional capital. Geshe Lharampa is the highest degree in exoteric teachings of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism.

Those monks who received

emissions and energy and water consumption by 83 percent and 14 percent, respectively, according to the city's Bureau of Commerce.

In September 2021, the factory, upgraded from the former Unilever ice cream plant in Taicang, was added to the World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network, which recognizes factories showing leadership in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Zhang Jiukui, President of the China Association of Bakery and Confectionery Industry, said the upgraded production base can be an example for improving the current ice cream production model and for upgrading the industry.

New Theme Park

The construction of a theme park featuring ancient Chinese mythology has kicked off in Wuhan, Hubei Province, Xinhua News Agency reported on April 2.

The first of its kind in the country, the park, with a total investment of 150 million yuan (\$24 million), is expected to complete construction in September and launch shows starting from October.

The park will cover a planned area of 5,600 square meters in

its first construction phase and will feature a theater and an exhibition hall.

The park is themed on the ancient literary classic, *Shan Hai Jing* or *Classic of Mountains and Seas*.

Shan Hai Jing, which dates back 2,200 years, gives both a cultural and geographical account of China before the Qin Dynasty (221–206 B.C.). It features geography, folklore, and a wealth of legends and fairy tales, and is often regarded as a primary source of Chinese mythology.

Tales including those of Nu Wa, the mother goddess in Chinese mythology, will be adapted into shows through the use of advanced digital technologies. Staff members will dress up as mythical characters and parade through the park, creating a fantasy world for the audience.

The theme park is expected to become Wuhan's new landmark, boosting the city's tourism growth, with about 350,000 visitors annually after it officially opens to the public.

Asian Games Venues

With almost half a year to go before the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games, venues are ready for a Green, Smart, Economical and



Patching Up Production

Workers make sweaters for export at a factory in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, on April 6.

Ethical Asian Games.

Yangshan Sports Climbing Center, located in Keqiao District, Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, was completed by late March. As the venue passed inspection on March 31, all 56 venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games and the Asian Para Games have been completed.

According to the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee, a total of 56 competition facilities will be used at Hangzhou 2022, including 12

newly built venues, and 44 renovated and temporary facilities.

In addition, 31 training venues and five Asian Games villages are also ready for service.

The 19th Asian Games will take place in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, from September 10 to 25, and the fourth Para Asian Games will be staged from October 9 to 15.

There will be the third Asian Games to be hosted in China, after Beijing 1990 and Guangzhou 2010.



Cotton Picker

A worker inspects a cotton picker at Xinjiang Boshiran Intelligent Agricultural Machinery Co. Ltd. in Tacheng, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on March 31. In 2021, machines performed over 80 percent of cotton-picking in the region, with harvesting in northern Xinjiang nearly entirely mechanized, according to the regional agricultural authority.

THIS WEEK ECONOMY

Digital Yuan

The People's Bank of China (PBC) announced on April 2 that its digital yuan pilot program will expand to more domestic cities.

The digital fiat currency, or e-CNY, will be accessible in Tianjin and Chongqing municipalities, Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, Fuzhou and Xiamen in Fujian Province, and six cities in Zhejiang Province hosting the 2022 Asian Games, a PBC statement said.

The country has tested the use of the digital yuan in more than 10 locations, including Shenzhen in Guangdong, Shanghai, and Xiongan New Area in Hebei Province. Most recently, Beijing and Zhangjiakou in Hebei were included in the program following test rounds during the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

Replicable applications for the digital currency are taking shape in wholesale, retail, catering, tourism and administrative

fee payment, which include both online and offline scenarios, according to the PBC.

Digital yuan transactions in China amounted to nearly 87.57 billion yuan (\$13.78 billion) by late 2021.

Overseas Listings

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) released new rules on overseas listings of domestic companies on April 2 to better protect confidential information and improve cross-border regulatory cooperation.

The document, revised from a 2009 version and now seeking public opinion, offers clearer guidance for businesses, including issuers and brokers, to carry out work related to confidentiality and archive management, according to a statement from the commission.

A CSRC spokesperson said the new rules will facilitate efficient listings, guide businesses to manage confidential and

sensitive information, safeguard national information security, and improve regulatory cooperation between domestic and overseas authorities.

The interests of global investors will be guaranteed, the spokesperson concluded.

Battery Dominance

In the first two months of the year, Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. (CATL) provided 18.4 GWh of total electric vehicle (EV) battery installation worldwide, maintaining its global leadership, market research firm SNE Research said. CATL had represented a 34.4-percent market share.

BYD, a leading new-energy vehicle manufacturer and also an EV battery maker, beat out Japan's Panasonic for third place with a market share of 11.9 percent during the period, the data showed.

The total amount of battery energy for EVs reached 53.5 GWh

globally in the months, more than double the figure from the same period last year.

Shadow Banking

China's non-bank financing is expected to recover gradually from the second half of this year, as a regulatory crackdown since 2017 has reduced irregular activities and contagion risks to the financial system, according to a report from Fitch Ratings.

Shadow-banking assets had been cut by 40 percent from 2017 under tightened regulation and they are expected to continue declining in the first half of 2022, the report said.

It added the move has contributed to the healthy development of non-bank credit intermediation.

Electronic Payments

Electronic payments handled by Chinese banks and non-bank payment institutions both registered rapid growth in 2021, a

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.36 yuan)

China's Comprehensive Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



report from the People's Bank of China showed.

Electronic payments processed by banks stood at 2,976.22 trillion yuan (\$468.63 trillion), up 9.75 percent year on year.

In breakdown, online payments rose 8.25 percent year on year to 2,353.96 trillion yuan (\$369.3 trillion), while mobile payments hit 526.98 trillion yuan (\$82.7 trillion), surging 21.94 percent over one year earlier.

Online payments handled by non-bank payment institutions jumped 20.67 percent year on year to 355.46 trillion yuan (\$55.8 trillion).

Rail Freight

The rail cargo volume, a key indicator of economic activities, rose 2.8 percent year on year in the first quarter of the year, data from the China State Railway Group Co. Ltd. showed.

A total of 948 million tons of cargo was transported, 25.87

million tons more than in the same period last year, according to the company.

Of all, seeds and agricultural materials accounted for 43.79 million tons, up 8.8 percent year on year. Coal used for power generation totaled 350 million tons, up 6.5 percent year on year and ensuring coal storage in 363 power plants for 21.7 days.

Rail cargo transport through the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor between Singapore and provincial-level regions of west China soared 56.5 percent to 170,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit containers, and the China-Laos Railway carried 260,000 tons of goods for import and export.

Energy Technology

China will focus on developing new technologies to render a more efficient, cost-effective and reliable supply of renewables such as wind, solar, biomass and geothermal energy, according

to a five-year plan for 2021-25, jointly released by the National Energy Administration (NEA) and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Breakthroughs are expected in the generation and usage of hydrogen energy, it said, stressing that a new power grid system will be established to accommodate renewable sources, and power storage will be enhanced.

The plan also underlined the importance of innovation to make nuclear and fossil energy more efficient.

The country will pilot regional smart energy systems and apply digital and smart technologies to traditional energy sectors including coal mining and gasoline production, it added.

Support Commitment

China will tend to the needs of foreign firms in the auto industry and help tackle their difficulties in a timely manner, according

to Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen.

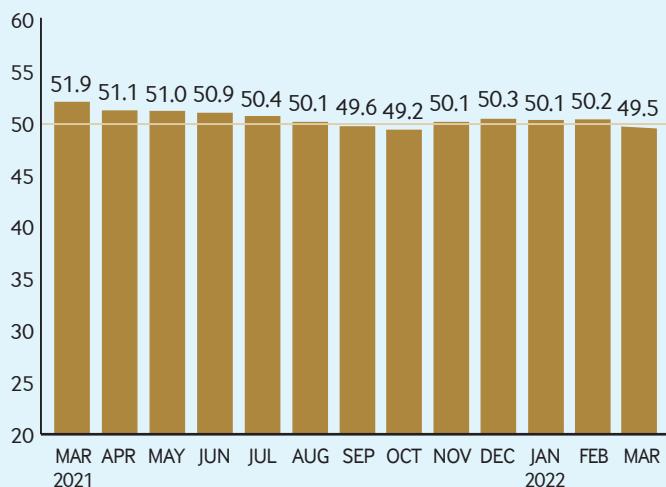
Wang made the remarks at a March 31 symposium attended by representatives from 17 foreign-invested auto and auto parts manufacturers.

Noting that the auto industry is a critical arena where China actualizes foreign investment, he said the country has been broadening its market access and improving the business environment for overseas investors in recent years.

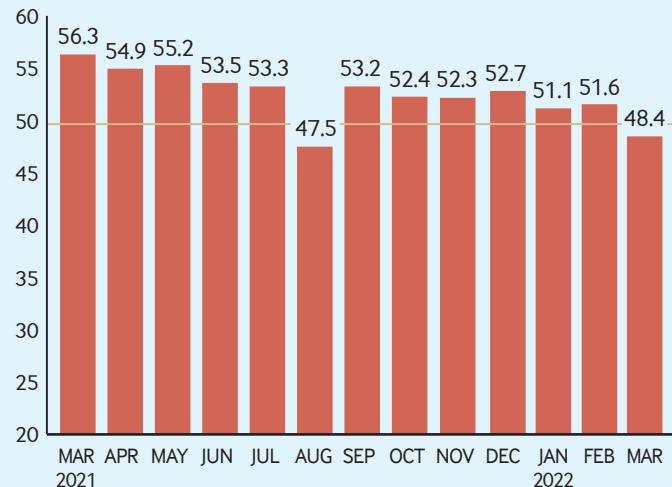
He called on foreign firms to grasp the opportunities presented by China's transition toward innovation-driven green growth, and expand their footprints along the industrial chain.

Representatives of the attending companies said they consider China one of their most important overseas markets, and will increase investment in areas including new-energy vehicle batteries, hydrogen energy, and research and development.

China's Manufacturing PMI



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK WORLD



UNITED STATES

Police officers investigate the site of a deadly shooting in Sacramento, California, on April 3. Six people were killed and at least nine others wounded



SENEGAL

Military personnel participate in a parade in Dakar on April 4, marking Senegal's 62nd anniversary of independence. The celebration was put on a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic



GERMANY

People dine at a restaurant in Berlin on April 1. The city dropped most COVID-19 restrictions and only basic mandatory protection measures, including the wearing of masks on public transportation and in hospitals, day clinics, etc., still apply

THIS WEEK



AFGHANISTAN

A farmer in a poppy field in Kandahar on April 3. Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada on that day banned in a decree all opium cultivation and trade in the country



BELGIUM

Tourists visit the Floraia Brussels flower exhibition at the Grand Bigard castle near Brussels on April 2. The exhibition, featuring over 1 million flowers, will run until May 3



AUSTRIA

A stunt biker entertains the crowds at the Argus Bike Festival in Vienna on April 3. The event is one of the largest shows in the European bicycle industry

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

WOMEN'S FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Wang Shuang was named 2021 Chinese Women's Footballer of the Year during a ceremony in Beijing on March 31.

Last year, the Chinese midfielder and forward helped China qualify for the Tokyo Olympics in April before leading her team, Wuhan Jiangda, to victory in the Chinese Women's Super League championships in November.

Despite a disappointing performance at Tokyo 2020, China bounced back six months later, in February, winning the Asian Football Confederation Women's Asian Cup after 16 years following consecutive comeback wins over Japan and the Republic of Korea in the semifinal and final.

The occasion marked Wang's fourth time winning the honor, making her this event's most decorated player.

Shui Qingxia, head coach of the Chinese national women's football team, was granted the Special Award. Forward Wu Lei was named 2021 Chinese Men's Footballer of the Year.



Inclusive Revamp

Economic Daily

April 6

Recent years have seen cities nationwide scale up efforts in the renovation of old residential communities, a project that will upgrade their construction quality and overall environment. Yet three concerns stand out: low project quality, poor coordination and hidden risks.

Except for some technical problems, these issues mostly stem from the relevant departments' laissez-faire attitude toward this project. They lack the determination to crack tough nuts throughout the process. Besides, gilding

residential buildings will attract immediate attention and incur praise, while more tangible issues that directly link to residents' living quality, and even safety—like circuit aging and pipeline corrosion—tend to be overlooked. The upgrading of these “invisible” building components is almost unknown to the public and thus won't win their applause.

It's crucial for residents to get involved in the decision-making process of their community revamp. After all, they will bear the brunt of bad quality and still best know their actual needs. Project organizers must listen to what they have to say and take their wishes into renovation consideration and coordination.

“The Taiwan question and the Ukraine crisis are totally different in nature. Ukraine is a sovereign state, and the Ukraine crisis is a conflict between sovereign countries; Taiwan is part of China's territory, and the Taiwan question is China's internal affair.”

Zhu Haiquan, Minister Counselor and Chief of the political section of the Chinese Embassy in the U.S., in his recent letter to the editorial board of *The Washington Post*

“I thank the People's Republic of China for its confidence and for being a partner in enhancing key infrastructure projects in our country... In doing so, our people are given the chance to experience economic growth and enhance productivity.”

Rodrigo Duterte, Philippine President, at the unveiling of the China-gifted Binondo-Intramuros Bridge in Manila, capital of the Philippines, on April 5



The Female Perspective

Oriental Outlook

March 31

Gender equality is an important gauge for social civilization and mirrors a city's modernization level. China's urbanization is gaining steam, so how to ensure gender

Urban Education *Yangcheng Evening News*

April 7

equality and make women feel comfortable in daily urban life is a hot topic.

The United Nations proposed the concept of “women-friendly cities,” stressing cities take into account the female perspective and encourage women to participate in all segments of urban life—on equal footing with their male peers.

As they “hold up half the sky,” women inject vitality into families, communities and society by large. Meanwhile, problems arising from ignorance or oversight are also becoming abundantly clear, for example, the lack of public toilets for females or baby changing facilities in public settings. Moreover, discrimination in the workplace to this day cripples women’s career development.

Since 2021, cities like Changsha, Shanghai and Nanjing have vocalized their intentions to transform into female-friendly urban dwellings, with more Chinese cities expected to follow suit. Along the process of human-centered urbanization, cities are working hard to improve life for all. The ultimate goal of all efforts exerted is to render cities nationwide more inclusive and equal.

Today, most young migrant workers choose to bring their children with them to the big cities, in the hopes the kids can receive better education there. However, a shortage in educational resources has led some cities to see parents competing for limited places based on “scores” stemming from social insurance records, length of local residence, etc. In sum, these children cannot enjoy the same educational resources as local children with a city household registration.

Sometimes, if their children can’t get into

one city’s schools, parents will seek employment in another city. This will naturally prevent their urban integration, rendering them unable to contribute to related development—at a time when cities desperately require more labor forces.

Key is to provide migrant children with sufficient educational resources, equal to those enjoyed by local urban children. By doing so, parents will forge a strong connection to these cities and, more importantly, many problems resulting from children being forced to quit school can be annulled. As for the cities, they will in turn benefit from the dividends created by these young parents who work hard to maintain a stable life in their new surroundings.

TECH GIANT HUAWEI’S ROTATING CHAIRPERSON

Meng Wanzhou, CFO of Huawei Technologies Co., has been named as rotating chairperson of the Chinese tech heavyweight.

Meng, who made her first public appearance on March 28 after returning to China from Canada last year, replaces Guo Ping as one of the company’s three rotating chairpersons, according to Huawei’s website on April 1. As per Huawei, the rotating chairperson is the company’s top leader during their duty period, which switches every six months. Huawei also reported that day its 2021 revenue reached 636.8 billion yuan (\$99.97 billion), with its net profit surging 75.9 percent year on year to 113.7 billion yuan (\$17.8 billion).

Meng, daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, is to maintain her role as CFO. She is supposed to bring more scientific and professional management to Huawei after playing a more important part in the company’s decision making.



“Over the past 10 years in the European Patent Office, we saw the number of patent applications from Chinese companies increase four times in 2021.”

Aidan Kendrick, Chief Business Analyst of the Munich-based European Patent Office, during a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency, adding that the number of European patent applications from Chinese companies in 2021 hit a new record

“After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have 7 million preventable deaths and countless preventable lost years of good health due to air pollution.”

Maria Neira, Director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health under the World Health Organization, in a comment as the United Nations health agency released a statement on air quality on April 4



COVER STORY

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

The Boao Forum for Asia concentrates on deeper cooperation and continuous progress
By Cao Li & Chen Yanjun