

OPINION: FRANCE, ROILED BY RIOTS P.20

FEATURES: BARRIERS BE GONE P.34

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CHAMPIONS OF THE GLOBAL CAUSE

Biggest takeaways from the Summer Davos

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Cover Photo: Participants engage in conversation during the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, or the Summer Davos, in Tianjin Municipality on June 28 (XINHUA)

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A Summery Outlook

After a three-year suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Summer Davos made its return. Officially known as the 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, the forum, hosted by the Switzerland-based World Economic Forum (WEF) in China, took place in Tianjin Municipality on June 27-29. Davos is the Swiss resort town where the WEF Annual Meeting takes place in winter.

In his opening ceremony address, Premier Li Qiang emphasized that China will continue to inject strong dynamism into global economic recovery and growth.

Themed Entrepreneurship: The Driving Force of the Global Economy, this year's meeting welcomed some 1,500 representatives from the business sectors, governments, international organizations and academia of more than 90 countries. They shared their opinions and suggestions as well as contributed their acumen on core subjects such as rewiring growth, China in the global context and deploying innovation.

Today's world is in the throes of unprecedented change. Global economic growth lacks momentum, the gap between North and South continues to widen and many countries are plagued by food and energy crises, altogether posing severe challenges to the global development process.

Given the role of entrepreneurship in driving the world economy's stable growth, the offline gathering of businesspersons at the Summer Davos intended to bring the world greater certainty.

As the largest developing country, China has a consumer market of over 1.4 billion people. Nevertheless, its per-capita economic indicators and living standards are only modest, and its development remains unbalanced, with coastal regions and major urban agglomerations much better developed than inland and less urbanized counterparts.

But this is also exactly where China's development potential lies. China is introducing more practical measures to further tap into the potential of domestic demand, better coordinate urban-rural and regional development, accelerate the country's green transition and advance its opening up. China's commitment to such high-quality development will create new opportunities for cooperation and provide a consistent source of energy to the global economy.

The Summer Davos ended on a positive note, with participants largely agreeing that what the world needs now is more in-person exchanges, openness and inclusiveness to help steer the international economy toward a more sustainable future. **BR**



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SAILING INTO SERVICE!

Chinese naval hospital ship *Peace Ark* is docked at its home port in Zhoushan City, Zhejiang Province, on July 3.

The ship set sail for a humanitarian medical mission in Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and East Timor later that same day. The ship will dock at one port in each country, providing one week of free medical services to local residents, personnel from Chinese institutions and overseas Chinese.

Since entering service in 2008, the ship has visited 43 countries and regions, and treated more than 250,000 patients.



A Mongolian Match

Young men take part in a Mongolian wrestling competition in Hulun Buir, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on July 1. The second Hulun Buir Grassland Culture and Tourism Festival kicked off there that same day, with a host of folk culture performances attracting tourists from all over China

Tracking Progress

China has launched performance verification tests on an even faster high-speed train, according to China State Railway Group Co. Ltd., the country's railway operator, on July 1.

The tests were conducted separately on June 28 and 29 in Fujian Province, demonstrating how the CR450 bullet train's development has achieved initial results.

During the June 28 test, the bullet train operated at a speed of 453 km per hour, the railway operator said.

China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) outlines the CR450 technological innovation project, an official with the railway operator further said.

The CR450 bullet train is a new model of the Fuxing, China's most advanced bullet train series, and is safer, greener, smarter and able to run with higher energy efficiency.

Tourism Consumption

The national summer cultural and tourism consumption season kicked off on July 4 in Dalian, a coastal city in Liaoning Province.

With a focus on summer, provinces and cities nationwide are hosting cultural and tourism promotional activities to stimulate and satisfy traveler's consumption demand.

A representative from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's industry development department announced targeted measures to promote consumption. The aim is to innovate the supply of consumer products and create a favorable environment for consumption.

The department also released 20 cases of immersive cultural and tourism new business model, highlighting the role of immersive experiences in revitalizing and expanding tour-

ism consumption.

Dalian, a well-known port city, is developing itself as a world-class tourist destination. The city's Bureau of Culture and Tourism has launched 100 cultural and tourism hot spots and a host of events highlighting food, entertainment, shopping and sightseeing.

Medicinal Material

China's National Medical Products Administration has decided to set up an expert panel on the study of supervision policies and technical requirements for substitutes for rare and endangered traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) materials, Xinhua News Agency reported on July 3.

The expert panel is tasked with intensifying the protection of rare and endangered plants and animals used for medical purposes, and buttressing the study and leverage of alternatives for rare and

endangered TCM materials.

The panel comprises 20 professionals from 16 institutions such as colleges, sci-tech research institutes and industry associations, covering the fields of TCM clinical practice, resources and pharmacology, Zhao Junning, deputy head of the administration, said.

Acting on a science-based, law-abiding and impartial basis, the panel will provide technical support and policy-making advice for improved oversight policies and technical requirements regarding rare and endangered TCM materials, Zhao added.

Wheat Market

China has ensured a stable wheat market while maintaining its wheat purchase level amid efforts to facilitate the country's summer harvest.

As of June 30, enterprises across China's major grain-producing regions had purchased about 25 billion kg of wheat, data from the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration showed on July 3.

The purchase price, or the gross value, of wheat in major grain-producing regions averaged 2.76 yuan (\$0.38) per kg, the administration said, expecting the price to remain stable in the near future.

Despite adverse meteorological conditions, China is making multi-pronged efforts to safeguard grain security. The Agricultural Development Bank of China, for example, has issued 110 billion yuan (\$15.2 billion) in loans to support the purchase of summer grains.

The Emissions Mission

China will launch a national voluntary greenhouse gas emissions reduction trading market this year, according to the Ministry of Ecology and

Environment on June 29.

The China Certified Emissions Reduction (CCER) will be the market's trading product, Liu Youbin, a spokesperson for the ministry, told a press conference. CCER refers to emissions reduction activities conducted by companies on a voluntary basis that are certified by the Chinese Government. Such activities include renewable power generation and waste-to-energy as well as forestry projects.

Promoting the construction of the market will help support the development of forestry carbon sequestration, renewable energy, methane emissions reduction, energy conservation and efficiency improvement projects, Liu said.

He also noted that the launch of the market will encourage a wider range of industries and enterprises to participate in greenhouse gas emissions reduction, to meet China's goals of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

Robot Conference

The World Robot Conference 2023 (WRC 2023) will take place in Beijing from August 16 to 22, unveiling cutting-edge achievements plus the latest

achievements in the robotics industry, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) said at a press conference on July 4.

Consisting of a forum, exhibition and competition, the WRC 2023 will focus on frontier trends in robotics technologies, showcase the application scenarios of robotics innovations across a range of sectors and host high-level brain-computer interface and man-machine cooperation competitions, Xu Guanghong, an official with the CAST, said.

Academics, experts, entrepreneurs and representatives of international organizations will participate in the event, Liang Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Institute of Electronics, said.

Over 100 representative robot enterprises at home and abroad will bring more than 500 exhibits to the conference, covering 10 robot-related application fields such as manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare and senior care services, Liang continued.

This year's conference will be co-hosted by the Beijing Municipal Government, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and the CAST.



Look, Listen, Learn!

Parents and children take an ecological education tour of Guangyang Isle in Chongqing Municipality on July 3. The isle, covering some 10 square km, has a vegetation coverage rate of over 90 percent and is home to 594 plant and 452 animal species.

Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot!

China registered higher temperatures and less rainfall than usual this June, the China Meteorological Administration said on July 4.

The national average temperature was 21.1 degrees Celsius in June, 0.7 degrees Celsius higher

than the same period in other years, making it the second-hottest June since 1961, when the country's weather records first began, the administration said, citing the data at a press conference.

The average precipitation was 86.7 mm, 15.6 percent less than the same period in other years.



Catch the Connection

Mother and son snap pictures on the G2963 high-speed train on July 1. That morning, the train departed from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, and headed for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, marking the opening of a direct high-speed train service between the two places.

Record NEV Output

China's 20 millionth new-energy vehicle (NEV) rolled off the production line on July 3 in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province. The car was produced by GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co. Ltd.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology made the announcement during a ceremony in celebration of the new record in Guangzhou.

"The NEV is the main direction of the transformation, upgrading and green development of the global automobile industry, and is also the strategic choice for the high-quality development of China's automobile sector," Xin Guobin, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology, said at the ceremony.

In the first five months of this year, the country had produced over 3 million units and sold 2.94 million units of NEVs, up 45.1 percent and 46.8 percent year on year, respectively, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Consumption Willingness

Of the 20,000 urban bank depositors surveyed in 50 cities across China in this year's second quarter, 24.5 percent expressed a willingness to increase their consumption, 1.2 percentage points higher than the previous quarter, according to a survey conducted by the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank.

The survey found that residents are hoping to mostly increase their expenditure on education, healthcare and tourism in the third quarter.

Residents tending to deposit more savings accounted for nearly 58 percent of respondents, up 0.1 percentage points from the previous quarter.

The proportion of respondents more willing to invest came in at 17.5 percent, down 1.3 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Financial products from banks, brokerage firms and

insurers topped the list of the preferred investment options for respondents, followed by trust funds and stocks, according to the survey.

Shipbuilding Growth

China's shipbuilding industry continued to lead globally in the first five months of this year with double-digit increases in output as well as new orders, industry data showed.

The country's shipbuilding output reached 16.47 million deadweight tons (dwt) in the period, up 15.4 percent year on year, according to the China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry. Dwt is a measure of a vessel's weight carrying capacity, not including the ship's empty weight.

New orders in the sector surged 49.5 percent from a year earlier to 26.45 million dwt, the association said.

The output accounted for 48.1 percent of the global total and new orders took up

a 67.3-percent share, the data revealed.

Businesses improved for firms in the industry as 74 companies monitored by the association raked in 137.64 billion yuan (\$19 billion) in revenue during the period, up 31.3 percent year on year.

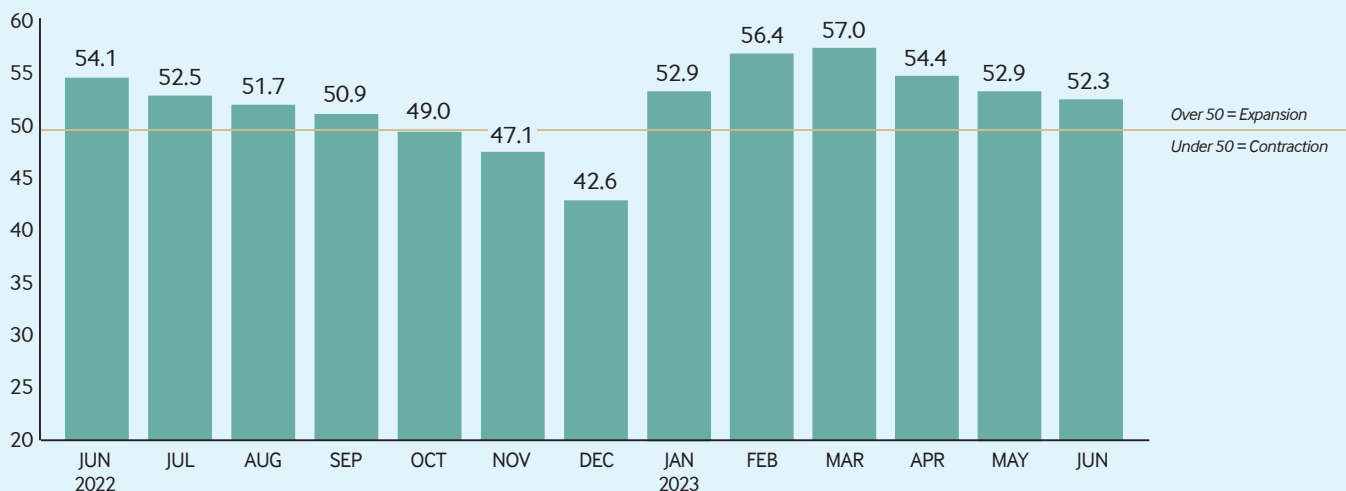
FTZ Reform

China's latest reform measures in some free trade zones (FTZs) are a preliminary attempt to actively align with the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) rules, Chen Chunjiang, Assistant Minister of Commerce, told a press conference on June 30.

The CPTPP is one of the world's biggest multilateral trade agreements, covering Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Viet Nam. China submitted a formal application to join the CPTPP in September 2021.

NUMBERS

China's Comprehensive Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



Chen said China will establish institutions and oversight models that align with the related rules to show its willingness and capability to join high-standard international economic and trade agreements.

Such reform measures will also provide experience and support for the country to join these agreements, according to Chen.

On June 29, the State Council released a circular on deepening reforms in some eligible FTZs and the Hainan Free Trade Port to align with high-standard international economic and trade rules amid efforts to boost institutional opening up.

FTZs in China are types of special economic zones where goods may be imported, handled, manufactured and exported without direct intervention from customs. Each Chinese FTZ has its own industrial and economic focus, supported by different incentives. China established its first FTZ in Shanghai in 2013, and its number of FTZs has

since increased to 21.

The eligible FTZs are located in Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin municipalities and Fujian, Guangdong provinces, according to the circular.

Certificates of Origin

Chinese authorities issued over 2.47 million certificates of origin, involving \$202.16 billion, from January 1 to June 25, official data showed on June 30.

This shows that the dividend of tariff reduction has been gradually released, Yang Fan, a spokesperson for the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, told a press conference.

Some 92,700 certificates of origin were issued by Chinese authorities under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement, up 72.73 percent year on year, involving approximately \$3.22 billion.

Signed in November

2020, the RCEP is a free trade agreement covering China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The certificates are expected to reduce tariffs by \$48 million for Chinese products in RCEP importing countries, Yang said.

Certificates of origin are documents widely used in international trade transactions. They state that the products listed have met sufficient criteria to be considered as originating in a particular country. The issuance of these certificates is widely regarded as a barometer of foreign trade.

Overseas Car Plant

SAIC Motor, China's primary carmaker, plans to build a plant in Europe, the company said on July 4.

Last year, SAIC Motor's sales in the European market surpassed 100,000 vehicles.

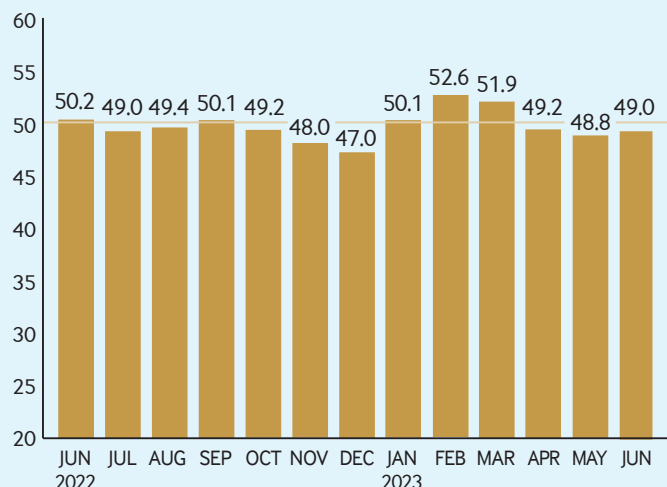
With the increase in export volume, establishing a factory for localized production features high on the company's agenda, Yu De, SAIC Motor President Assistant and Managing Director of the International Business Department, said.

In the first half of this year, the Shanghai-based carmaker achieved overseas sales of 530,000 vehicles, a 40-percent year-on-year growth. The figure reached over 1.01 million units last year and will likely exceed 1.2 million this year.

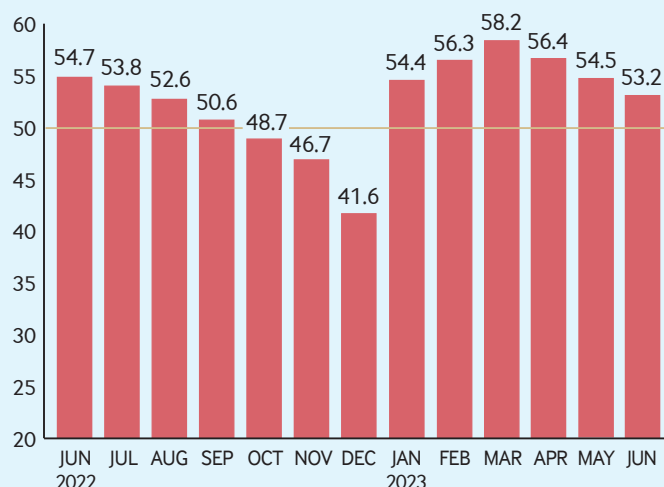
Europe is expected to become the company's top overseas regional market, with sales exceeding 200,000 units, according to Yu.

SAIC Motor has three research and development innovation centers in Silicon Valley, London and Tel Aviv. It also has three design centers in London, Munich and Tokyo, and operates four production bases and factories in Thailand, Indonesia, India and Pakistan.

China's Manufacturing PMI



China's Non-manufacturing PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



TONGA

People watch a float parade in Nuku'alofa on July 4. King Tupou VI's official birthday, observed on July 4 each year, is a public holiday in the country



UNITED STATES

Police officers stand guard outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on June 29, the same day when the court ruled that Harvard's and the University of North Carolina's race-conscious admissions policies, used in their respective admissions offices to increase diversity on campuses and broaden access to educational opportunity, are unconstitutional



ITALY

Jockey Giovanni Atzeni celebrates after winning the Palio in Siena on July 2. The historical horse race held twice a year in Siena since 1656



GHANA

Tourists visit the newly reopened Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park in Accra on July 4, after it closed for a makeover that aimed to boost tourism. The park was created in honor of the country's first president and is a major cultural heritage site in the capital city of Accra



GERMANY

A barrel organ player performs during the International Barrel Organ Festival in Berlin on July 1. Over 140 barrel organ players entertained visitors at the festival from June 30 to July 2



JAPAN

Flames erupt from the window of a five-story building near Shimbashi in downtown Tokyo after an explosion on July 3. Suspected to have been caused by a gas leak, the explosion reportedly injured four people



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ NOBEL LAUREATE PUBLISHES NEW DRAMA

China's first Laureate of the Nobel Prize for Literature, **Mo Yan**, 68, has published his latest drama, *Crocodile*.

Divided into four acts and nine scenes, the drama revolves around protagonist Shan Wudan and a crocodile he receives as a gift for his birthday. Shan continuously replaces the aquarium over the following 10 years, giving the reptile more space to grow until it becomes a four-meter-long behemoth.



The renowned Chinese novelist and short story writer is famous for his imaginative and humanistic fiction. He started writing in the 1970s and rose to prominence in the 1980s. In 2012, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. The new drama is seen as a big step in Mo's transition from novelist to playwright.

Utopian University

Rednet.cn

June 30

In early June, nearly 13 million high school seniors across the country sat for the *gaokao*, China's standardized national college entrance exam upon which college admission largely depends. This year's exam season saw one university, named Shanhe University, catapulted to fame. A dozen sports venues, five libraries and a 100-percent graduate employment rate—everything about this university is perfect, except that it doesn't exist in real life.

The name, Shanhe, is short for four provinces, Shandong, Shanxi, Henan and Hebei. The idea originated from an online comment, which called on all examinees in these four

provinces to each donate 100 yuan (\$13.8) toward building a university that will only admit local students. What was meant as a joke immediately went viral and, with the help of many creative netizens, eventually became a virtual institution that now has its own motto, logo and website.

Fictitious and idealized as it is, Shanhe University nevertheless reflects a widespread feeling of anxiety among Chinese students. Data have shown that more than a quarter of the country's candidates for this year's college entrance exam are from the above-mentioned four provinces, but there are few top universities there. Hopefully, the university and what it stands for—more equal access to college education—will one day enter into reality.



Huzhou on the Fast Track

Oriental Outlook

June 15

Situated on the southern shore of Taihu Lake, Huzhou is a prefecture-level city in Zhejiang Province. Sitting in the very heart of the Yangtze River Delta, one of the country's most industrially developed regions, the city lies in close proximity to Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing and several other large

"I would like to stress again that the report should not be the 'shield' or 'greenlight' for Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean."

Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a regular press briefing on July 5, commenting on an International Atomic Energy Agency report on the disposal of nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan

"People are using cash much less today than they were 10 or 20 years ago. The trend toward a cashless society is inexorable."

Kent Matthews, a professor of banking and finance at Cardiff University in the UK, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

cities. However, compared to its affluent neighbors, Huzhou remains a small city with relatively mild economic growth.

Aware of the city's rather awkward position within the region, the local government is determined to play catch-up. For instance, it has set up a weekly panel where government officials and professionals from the business world meet to work out possible solutions for issues that businesses in Huzhou are encountering. The city has also launched an incubator program that aims to foster home-grown brands.

To better channel public opinion, a TV program has been launched to expose social issues, which will quickly be addressed by relevant government departments after being identified.

The city has also invested much energy into revitalizing its urban quarters. As of now, a total of 73 old residential communities have been transformed into modern living areas equipped with senior care service centers, pocket gardens, cafeterias and more. The city places great emphasis on incorporating the opinions of local residents into the process of urban planning. Everyone living there can participate in the creation of a more sustainable urban environment.

Heatwaves on the Rise

Ce.cn
June 27

North China is sweltering under a prolonged heatwave with the mercury often hitting the 40-degree-Celsius mark. Set to persist until the end of July, this heatwave, however, is not the worst that the country has experienced in recent years. From June through the end of August in 2022, China had its most severe heatwave since record keeping started in 1961.

China is not the only country tormented by sustained periods of searing summer heat. The combined effects of greenhouse gas emissions and other human activi-

ties, and El Niño, a natural climate pattern caused by fluctuations in ocean surface temperatures, have contributed to the frequency and severity of extreme weather events across the globe.

In the face of these heatwaves, which are likely to linger on and even worsen in the coming years, the entire global community should work in tandem to hold back, if not terminate, the accelerating process of global warming. China, for instance, has signed 45 agreements with 38 other developing countries to fight climate change. These agreements will facilitate not only the construction of demonstration zones but also the circulation of technical and financial expertise within the Global South.

↓ FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL RE-ELECTED

Qu Dongyu was re-elected as director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on July 2, during the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference in Rome.

Qu, 59, was first elected in June 2019 to head the UN agency and is the first Chinese national serving in the position. Since assuming office, he has led the FAO to address challenges concerning global food security and contribute to the agricultural development of all countries, especially developing countries.

Holding a Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics, Qu studied and worked at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences for about 30 years. He was the vice minister of agriculture and rural affairs of China before accepting his position at the FAO.



“Action needs to be taken by governments. Action needs to be taken by partners. Action needs to be taken by all of us as individuals.”

Hans Kluge, World Health Organization Regional Director for Europe, at the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, calling for urgent action to prevent the impact of climate change on health

“Throughout her 29-year career, she not only brought us endless joy and surprises with her powerful songs and dance performances, but also worked tirelessly to pave the way for Chinese artists in the international music scene.”

Nancy Lee, sister of Hong Kong-based singer-songwriter CoCo Lee, announcing the artist's death at the age of 48 after battling depression, in a post on Weibo, China's Twitter-like platform, on July 5



COVER STORY

CHAMPIONING THE GLOBAL CAUSE

Summer Davos aims to accelerate progress on common goals By Tao Zihui