

# BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.66 NO.33 AUGUST 17, 2023

北京周报 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

alamat Datang Di Stasiun Tegalluar



Welcome to Tegalluar

## CONSTRUCTING CONTINUITY

### Enterprises as builders of the Belt and Road Initiative



RMB6.00  
USD1.70  
AUD3.00  
GBP1.20  
CAD2.60  
CHF2.60  
JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914239

邮发代号2-922·国内统一连续出版物号: CN11-1576/G2

# Follow CICG Americas

And get in on the conversation



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



@BeijingReview



China Hoy



China Hoje



# CONTENTS

## EDITOR'S DESK

02 Active Players

## THIS WEEK

## COVER STORY

12 Cross-Border

### Connectivity

Small- and large-scale infrastructure projects

16 Beyond Bridges and Roads

Big enterprise participation in the BRI

18 Wind-Powered Cooperation

New energy in Kazakhstan

Cover Photo: Construction workers at the Tegal Luar Station along the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Indonesia on July 1 (VCG)

©2023 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.

## OPINION

22 Summit Priorities

Reinforcing BRICS partnership

26 Worsening Credit

Ratings firm predicts U.S. fiscal deterioration

28 Pushing Back Against Propaganda

Developing countries must develop independent media

30 How the U.S. Misuses 'Freedom of Navigation'

The U.S. Navy and its Taiwan Straits transits

31 The Battle for Rare Earth

About mining and refining Earth's valuable resources

32 The U.S. Fight Against Inflation: the China Factor

How the U.S.-initiated trade war affects the American economy

33 Diversity Spurs Dialogue

The need for more interaction among civilizations

## FEATURES

36 An Outpour of Love

How netizens support a flooded mecca for book lovers

38 Growing the King of Fruits

China's first durian harvest

40 The Panda Economy

Tourism centered on the beloved black-and-white bear

42 The Night Learners

Evening arts classes in Shanghai

## CULTURE

46 The Right Tone

A conversation between past and present

## EXPAT'S EYE

48 Discovering China, Finding Yourself

How one Nepalese student developed a clearer sense of self



www.bjreview.com



amazon

Follow us on



YouTube

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a Qr code reader



北京商報

## BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine  
Published Since 1958

**President:** Li Yafang  
**Editor in Chief:** Li Jianguo  
**Associate Editor in Chief:** Liu Yunyun  
**Associate President:** Gao Dingbo

**Executive Editor:** Yan Wei  
**Production Director:** Yao Bin  
**Editor:** Wang Hairong  
**Researcher:** Lan Xinzhen  
**Editorial Consultants:** Elsbeth van Paridon, G.P. Wilson  
**Reporters:** Ji Jing, Kang Caiqi, Li Qing, Li Wenhao, Li Xiaoyang, Liang Xiao, Lu Yan, Ma Miaomiao, Pan Xiaojiao, Peng Jiawei, Tang Yuankai, Tao Xing, Tao Zhihui, Wang Jun, Wang Ruohan, Yuan Yuan, Zhang Shasha  
**Visual Director:** Pamela Tobey  
**Photographer:** Wei Yao  
**Art:** Li Shigong  
**Design Director:** Wang Yajuan  
**Chief Designer:** Cui Xiaodong  
**Designer and proofreader:** Zhao Boyu

**Editorial Administrator:** Zeng Wenhui  
**Planning Director:** Xu Bei  
**Deputy Planning Director:** Li Nan  
**World News Director:** Ding Ying  
**World News Deputy Director:** Li Fangfang  
**Director of Digital Media:** Yu Shujun  
**Director of Strategic Research:** Zan Jifang  
**Deputy Director of Strategic Research:** Lu Ling

**Administration:** Zhang Yajie  
**International Cooperation:** Sun Xuan  
**Legal Counsel:** Yue Cheng

### North America Bureau (New York City)

**Chief:** Yu Shujun  
**Executive Assistant:** Zhao Wei  
**Tel/Fax:** 1-201-792-0334

**E-mail:** yushujun@cicgamericas.com

### Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)

**Chief:** Lin Yeqing  
**Tel:** 52-55-55127271  
**Fax:** 52-55-55332027

**E-mail:** chinahoymx@gmail.com

### Peru Office (Lima)

**Chief:** Meng Kexin  
**Tel:** 0051-959212702

**E-mail:** revistachinaperu@gmail.com

### General Editorial Office

**Tel:** 86-10-68996252  
**Fax:** 86-10-68326628

### Editorial Desk

**Tel:** 86-10-68996250

### Partnerships

**Tel:** 86-10-68995807  
**E-mail:** yecong@cicgamericas.com

### Distribution

**Tel:** 86-10-68310644  
**E-mail:** circulation@cicgamericas.com

Published every Thursday by  
CICG Center for Americas, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,  
Beijing 100037, China

**Overseas Distributor:** China International Book Trading  
Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,  
Beijing 100044, China

**Tel:** 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)  
**Fax:** 86-10-68412166

**E-mail:** fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn

**Website:** <http://www.cibtc.com>

### General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:

Peace Book Co. Ltd.  
17/FI, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK  
**Tel:** 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

*Beijing Review* (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is distributed weekly in the United States for US\$64.00 per year by Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080. News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*, Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080

## Active Players

During his visit to Kazakhstan in September 2013, President Xi Jinping put forward the initiative of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt, which, together with the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road he proposed the following month in Indonesia, constitutes the Belt and Road Initiative. One decade on, this initiative, with the participation of more than 150 countries, has contributed to increased connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

The Belt and Road Initiative calls on countries to focus on a diversified, independent, balanced and sustainable approach to development. The role of governments is to adopt favorable policies and build platforms, while the initiative's implementation relies on the market and the involvement of enterprises.

Over the past decade, many Chinese companies have taken Belt and Road countries as key destinations for going global, making active contributions to high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. Among the five priorities of policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds, enterprises play a major role in the latter four.

Many countries along the Belt and

Road routes are developing ones with urgent development needs. They lack capital and technology, and Chinese enterprises can help fill the gap. As direct investors, they have brought these countries not only capital and technology but also brands and markets.

Enterprises add vitality to trade along the Belt and Road. According to figures from China's Ministry of Commerce, trade in goods between China and countries along the Belt and Road routes rose from \$1.04 trillion in 2013 to \$2.07 trillion in 2022, an average annual increase of 8 percent.

The investment by Chinese companies benefits local wellbeing. For instance, the Chinese-built China-Maldives Friendship Bridge opened to traffic on August 30, 2018, ending a history of ferry-only travel between the capital of Malé and neighboring Hulhule Island—where the Maldives' main international airport is located.

Of course, Chinese enterprises do face difficulties, such as the high costs to adapt to overseas markets, often stemming from cultural differences. As they meet the challenges head-on and integrate themselves into local communities, they can and will develop a more country-specific approach to exploring international markets. **BR**



### WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: [editorsoffice@cicgamericas.com](mailto:editorsoffice@cicgamericas.com)

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

CHINA.....RMB6.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70  
AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20  
CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60  
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90  
TÜRKIYE.....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：中国外文局美洲传播中心（北京周报社）

地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037

编委会：李雅芳 李建国 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 曾文卉

主任：李雅芳

总编室电话：(010) 68996252 发行部电话：(010) 68310644

印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2023年 第33期 ISSN 1000-9140

国内统一连续出版物号：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



# A SPORTY SPECTACLE!

Artists perform at the closing ceremony of the 31st International University Sports Federation (FISU) World University Games Summer, or the Summer Universiade, in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, on August 8.

The Universiade provided a stage for around 6,500 student athletes from 113 countries and regions to excel and establish friendships.

Team China delivered a stellar performance, topping the medal tally with 103 gold medals, followed by Japan and the Republic of Korea.



## Grassland Grandeur

Actors perform at the opening ceremony of a Nadam fair in Horqin Right Wing Front Banner, Hinggan League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on August 9. *Nadam* means “entertainment” or “games” in Mongolian. Nadam festivals are the grandest celebrations in Inner Mongolia to share the joys of the harvest and showcase local skills and athletic prowess.

## Moon Map

The digital versions of the Moon’s full geologic map with the world’s highest resolution will be published this year, according to its researchers, Xinhua News Agency reported on August 9.

The announcement came during the Guizhou Science and Technology Festival in Guizhou Province.

In May 2022, a Chinese research team announced they had completed a 1:2,500,000-scale geologic map of the Moon with the world’s highest resolution.

This Moon map can provide significant data for further lunar scientific research, exploration planning, future landing-site selection and so on, Liu Jianzhong, a researcher with the Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of

Sciences (CAS), said. Liu is also the executive chief editor of the map’s publication.

The map of the entire Moon is the result of a 10-year study undertaken by researchers from Shandong University, the CAS and other institutions. It captures the lithologic descriptors of 17 lunar rock types, offering details about the composition and distribution of lunar surface materials.

The map was drawn based on data from China’s *Chang’e* project, the Chinese lunar exploration program, and other lunar exploration data and research results from all over the world. Liu added geological lunar globes designed on the map have achieved mass production.

The research team is still working on a 1:1,000,000-scale geologic Moon map.

## Flood Relief Fund

Chinese authorities earmarked an additional 350 million yuan (\$48.5 million) on August 6 to assist flood-hit regions of Beijing and Tianjin municipalities and their surrounding Hebei Province, as well as provinces in northeast China.

By then, the Central Government had allocated 520 million yuan (\$72.1 million) in natural disaster relief funds to the above-mentioned regions, according to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Emergency Management.

Local governments can use these funds for disaster relief, emergency response, the relocation of residents, screening flood-related hazards and restoring damaged homes, the authorities said.

Torrential rainstorms and

floods wreaked havoc in north and northeast China from late July to early August.

In the face of the emergency, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) participated in a range of rescue operations. Centrally administered SOEs have dispatched rescue workers, equipment and vehicles to help reinforce river embankments, repair roads, relocate residents and restore power and communication facilities. Insurance companies also accelerated compensation payments in 16 flood-hit regions.

## Passenger Trips

The number of passenger trips operated by China’s railways soared 124.9 percent year on year during the first half of this year (H1), Xinhua reported on August 5, citing data from the Ministry of Transport.

More than 1.77 billion passenger trips were made via railways during this period, according to the ministry.

The country’s railways also transported about 2.5 billion tons of cargo in H1, up 0.6 percent from the same period last year.

China’s fixed assets investment in railways climbed 6.9 percent year on year to 304.9 billion yuan (\$42.3 billion) in the same period, the data revealed.

## Business Secrets Infringement

Chinese prosecutors sued 167 individuals for infringing on business secrets in H1, up 89.8 percent year on year, Xinhua reported on August 4, citing the Supreme People’s Procuratorate (SPP).

The perpetrators usually had been employees within an enterprise, especially key technicians and executives, before leaving to work for

other employers, according to prosecutors.

The data were disclosed as part of a review of intellectual property right infringement in China in HI.

Prosecutors also saw new types of intellectual property crimes and an increasing number of complicated cases, the SPP said, further warning that these crimes can cause significant harm to consumer interests and disrupt the order of the market economy, as well as that of society at large.

In an increasingly digital world, the dissemination of written works, audiovisual works and computer software has become incredibly convenient and swift. However, this has also resulted in a rise in rights violations and hi-tech crimes, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors sued 1,122 individuals for copyright infringement in HI, almost three times the figure of the same period in 2022, according to the SPP.

## Facial Recognition

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), China's Internet watchdog, released a set of draft rules on the management of facial recognition technology on August 8 and began soliciting

public opinion on the matter.

The CAC issued a document containing the draft rules, stating that the use of facial recognition technology requires specific purposes and must be coupled with strict protective measures.

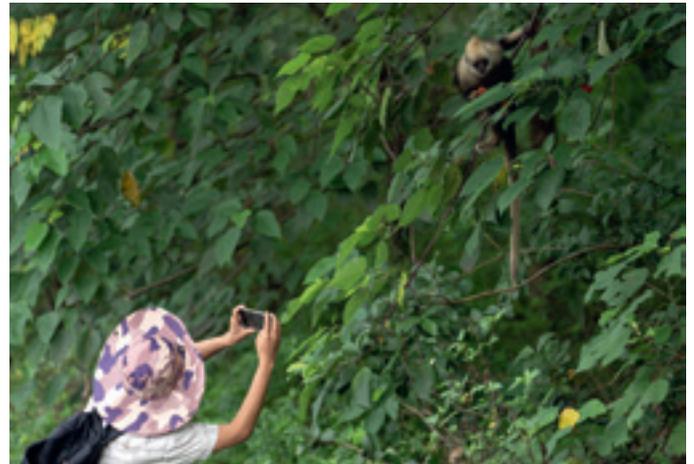
With regard to the implementation of facial recognition technology in public spaces, the draft rules underscore the importance of clear and conspicuous signage. Furthermore, they emphasize the responsibility of organizations and institutions deploying and operating facial recognition devices to ensure the confidentiality of collected personal information.

Images and identity information gathered in public areas must only be utilized for the purpose of maintaining public security, unless explicit consent for other uses is obtained from individuals, according to the document.

## Heritage Survey

The National Cultural Heritage Administration has issued a circular about conducting a new round of surveys and recordings of the country's cultural heritage sites, Xinhua reported on August 9.

The administration put forth its plan at the outset of 2023



## Making Monkey Memories

A tourist takes photos of a white-headed langur at a national nature reserve in Luobai Town of Jiangzhou District, Chongzuo City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on August 4. The population of the animal, the world's most endangered primate species exclusive to China, has increased from around 300 in the 1980s to around 1,400 today.

to thoroughly assess China's immovable cultural heritage over the next three to four years.

The survey will cover cultural sites discovered since 2012, including those on the ground, underground and underwater, according to the administration.

It aims to obtain the number, geological distribution, conservation situation and other

information about the sites.

A national list of China's fixed cultural heritage will be created, with each site on the list being assigned a designated level of protection, the administration said.

The last such survey was conducted between 2007 and 2011, covering over 760,000 cultural heritage spots.



## The Evidence Exposed

A researcher presents a photocopy of a document from a Japanese army hospital that cooperated with Unit 731, a Japanese biological and chemical warfare research base during World War II (1939-45), in Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang Province, on August 5. The document is of great significance for further research into the hospital, which was implicated in conducting human vivisections during the war.

# THIS WEEK ECONOMY

## Foreign Trade

China's total imports and exports expanded 0.4 percent year on year to 23.55 trillion yuan (\$3.27 trillion) in the first seven months of the year, official data showed.

Exports grew 1.5 percent year on year to 13.47 trillion yuan (\$1.87 trillion), while imports declined 1.1 percent from a year earlier to 10.08 trillion yuan (\$1.4 trillion), according to the General Administration of Customs of China.

In July alone, foreign trade dropped 8.3 percent year on year, with exports down 9.2 percent and imports down 6.9 percent, the data showed.

In the January-July period, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remained China's largest trade partner, with bilateral trade rising 2.8 percent year on year and accounting for 15.3 percent of China's total trade value.

China's trade with the European Union edged down 0.1 percent from a year earlier,

and the country's trade with the United States declined 9.6 percent year on year in the first seven months.

During this period, China's trade with countries along the Belt and Road routes amounted to 8.06 trillion yuan (\$1.12 trillion), which jumped 7.4 percent year on year.

Private enterprises saw imports and exports grow 6.7 percent year on year to 12.46 trillion yuan (\$1.73 trillion) in the January-July period. The trade value represented 52.9 percent of the country's total.

The import and export value of foreign-funded enterprises and state-owned enterprises accounted for 30.6 and 16.2 percent of the country's total, respectively.

## Forex Reserves

China's foreign exchange (forex) reserves stood at more than \$3.2 trillion as of late July, up from more than \$3.19 trillion in late June, the State

Administration of Foreign Exchange said on August 7.

In July, affected by monetary policies and expectations of major economies, world macroeconomic data and other factors, the U.S. dollar index, a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to a basket of foreign currencies, fell and global financial asset prices generally rose. Due to the exchange rate translation and asset price changes, China's forex reserves increased in July, the administration said.

China's economy has great resilience and potential for development, and its long-term positive fundamentals have not changed, which is conducive to maintaining the basic stability of forex reserves, the administration added.

## New Stock Index

The Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) STAR 100 Index, which tracks the performance of

companies from China's Nasdaq-style sci-tech innovation board—known as the STAR Market, went online on August 7. The index provides real-time information on the science and technology-focused equities market.

According to the SSE, the STAR 100 Index selects 100 securities from the STAR Market with medium-sized market capitalization, the total value of a company's shares of stock, and good liquidity as index samples. The liquidity ratio for a business is its ability to pay off its debt obligations. A good liquidity ratio is anything greater than 1. It indicates that the company is in good financial health and is less likely to face financial hardships. The higher ratio, the higher the safety margin that the business possesses to meet its current liabilities.

The 100 companies tracked by the new index are newly selected ones, apart from those

## NUMBERS

### China's Service Outsourcing Industry in January-June

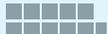
(\$1=7.15 yuan as of August 10, all growth rates are y.o.y.)

#### Service outsourcing contracts inked by Chinese firms

Total value



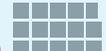
Up 10.6%



Executed contract value



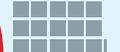
Up 14.7%



Offshore service outsourcing contract value



Up 15.1%



#### Service outsourcing executed contract value

With members of the RCEP



With the United States  
82.5 bln yuan



With the European Union  
55 bln yuan



already tracked by the STAR 50 Index. The STAR 50 Index consists of 50 securities with the largest market capitalization and good liquidity listed on the SSE STAR Market.

The STAR100 Index and STAR 50 Index together make up the scale-based index series of the SSE STAR Market, reflecting the overall performance of securities of listed companies on the STAR Market with different scales in terms of market capitalization, according to the SSE.

The two indices currently track companies that account for up to 66 percent of the total market capitalization of firms listed on the STAR Market, the bourse said.

## Huawei's Mobile Ecosystem

The number of devices equipped with HarmonyOS, the operating system developed by Chinese telecom giant Huawei, has exceeded 700 million, the

company said on August 4.

HarmonyOS, or Hongmeng in Chinese, is an open-source operating system designed for various devices and scenarios, including smart screens, tablets, wearables and cars. It was first launched in August 2019.

At its annual developer conference held in Dongguan, Guangdong Province, that same day, Huawei released its HarmonyOS 4 as well as a newly upgraded development kit and developer preview versions for the operating system.

Yu Chengdong, the company's executive director and CEO of consumer business, announced at the meeting that 2.2 million developers have so far invested in the development of HarmonyOS.

## E-Commerce Logistics

The e-commerce logistics index, an indicator of logistics operations in the e-commerce

sector, stood at 110.9 points in July, up 0.3 points from a month earlier, according to data released by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

Specifically, the satisfaction rate sub-index stood at 101.2 in July, up 1.5 points from June, while the logistics timeliness sub-index continued to grow for seven straight months in July, up 0.3 points compared to June, the data showed.

The sub-index tracking logistics volume in July stood at 121.8 points, a slight decrease of 0.8 points from June. The decrease in July was due to the exit of e-commerce sales promotion activities rolled out in June, a statement from the organization read.

The e-commerce logistics index is compiled based on data from JD.com, a major online retailer in China. The baseline index was set up at 100 points.

## Wealth Management

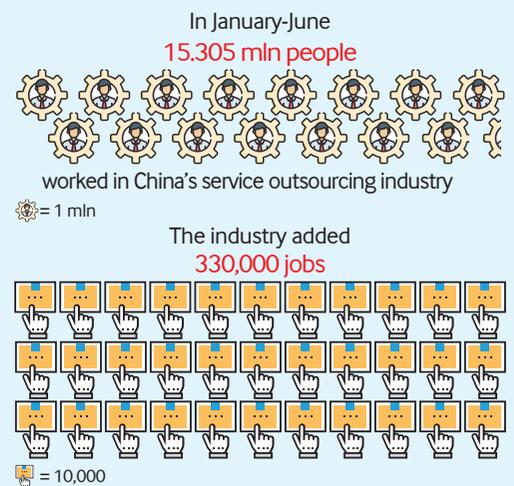
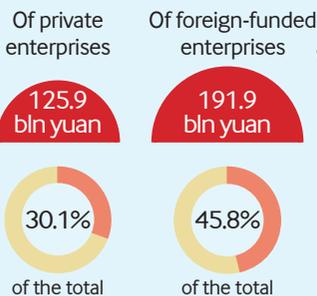
As of late June, the number of investors holding banking wealth management products had reached 104 million across the country, up 13.41 percent year on year, according to the China Banking Wealth Management Registration and Depository Center.

Wealth management products can include certificates of deposits, money market funds, stocks, mutual funds and so on.

The country's banking system had 25.34 trillion yuan (\$3.51 trillion) in outstanding wealth management products by late June, 24.11 trillion yuan (\$3.34 trillion) of which were fixed income products, such as certificates of deposits.

There were 37,100 products from 265 banking institutions and 30 wealth management companies by the end of June, up 6.88 percent compared with the number of the beginning of the year, the center said.

### Executed contract value of outsourcing services



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)

# THIS WEEK **WORLD**



## BANGLADESH

People jostle to obtain relief materials in a flood-affected area in the port city of Chattogram on August 8. Days of torrential rains led to flash floods inundating the city



## SINGAPORE

Fireworks light up the sky during the National Day Parade in celebration of the country's 58th anniversary at the Padang, a large open field near the iconic Marina Bay, on August 9



## RUSSIA

Rescuers and vehicles gather at the site of an explosion in the Moscow region on August 9. At least 43 people were injured in the blast, which occurred at an optical-mechanical plant in the city of Sergiev Posad





## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

A panda nanny holds two 1-month-old giant panda cubs at the Everland Resort in Yongin on August 6. The female twin cubs were born on July 7 and now weigh 1.1 and 1.2 kg



## PAKISTAN

People gather near derailed coaches of a passenger train in Sanghar District of Sindh Province on August 6. Thirty people were killed and 100 others injured when the Hazara Express derailed earlier that day



## EGYPT

People prepare to sink an armored vehicle off the coast of Hurghada on August 3. Diving enthusiasts can now descend into the crystal waters of the Red Sea to explore the country's first underwater military museum, which was opened that day

# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ NEV GIANT SEEKS FURTHER GROWTH

**Wang Chuanfu**, Chairman of BYD, China's largest new-energy vehicle (NEV) manufacturer, has predicted new-energy passenger cars will account for 70 percent of the country's auto market by 2025. He made the prediction during a press conference held as the company's 5 millionth NEV rolled off the production line on August 9.

Wang spent several years as a government researcher, until he entered the private sector and founded his own company BYD in 1995. Today, BYD ranks 212th on the *Fortune* Global 500 list.

In the first half of this year, BYD's share in the domestic automotive market reached 10.6 percent, and its share in the NEV market was 33.5 percent. In 2022, China's new-energy passenger cars accounted for 63 percent of the world's total.



## Power Crunches

**China Newsweek**  
July 31

Over the past few years, China has been struggling with a seasonal shortage of electricity, which has triggered power cuts in many provinces during periods of peak demand in the summer. In August 2021, some 20 provinces underwent power rationing. The summer of 2022 saw another power shortage hit the southwestern province of Sichuan, one of the country's biggest hydropower suppliers, as high temperatures drove up demand for cooling while prolonged droughts dried up local waterways.

This summer, the threat of large-scale power shortages once again looms large over China, as severe heatwaves and

## No Trespassing

**People.cn**  
August 1

On August 5, four people were confirmed dead by the local police after their car broke down in the middle of an unauthorized journey through the Lop Nur Wild Camel National Nature Reserve, a state-level protected area in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Alone in the vast expanse with no water and no cellphone reception, one of the four attempted to walk back the way they had come to fetch help, while the other three waited near the car. All four are believed to have died of dehydration, a member of the rescue team said.

The reserve is one of the three remaining habitats of the wild Bactrian camel, a

critically endangered species. Encompassing the dried-up lake bed of Lop Nur and its surrounding deserts, the area makes up one of China's largest no man's lands.

Over the past decade, local authorities have issued notices prohibiting all expeditions and tourist activities in the area. These prohibitions were put in place not only to prevent people from getting lost in sandstorms or being swallowed by shifting sands, but also to protect the endangered camel species from threats imposed by human activities.

However, these potential risks have not stopped curious travelers. To put an end to the expanding list of trespass-related deaths, government officials and local travel agencies should work in tandem to curb unauthorized trips into the forbidden zone.

“We must firmly oppose actions that affect global food security and international cooperation, such as unilateral sanctions, decoupling and severing supply chains.”

**Zhang Jun**, China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, during a Security Council open debate on famine and conflict-induced global food insecurity on August 3

“We are buying products that are not available in the Cuban market. It helps expand our business and increase our earnings.”

**Daniel Lasso**, a print shop owner in Havana, Cuba, commenting on Nihao53, a Chinese online platform for wholesale trade available in the country, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

post-COVID economic rebounds have combined to stoke up power consumption. In the face of surging power demands, experts have been calling for an upgrade of the country's energy infrastructure, so that it can be better prepared for potential power crunches.

One possible strategy is to install more energy storage facilities. As China continues to push for an extensive conversion of fossil fuels to clean energies, there is an increasing demand for energy storage infrastructure, which, by capturing energy for later use, can accommodate the intermittency of wind and solar power.

Power suppliers should also strengthen interregional cooperation to foster a better coordinated network of power transmission. For years, the country has relied on a west-to-east electricity transfer program to balance power supply between its more developed coastal regions and its resource-rich inland provinces. However, with the rapid development of China's western regions, tension has deepened between local power needs and those of the eastern provinces. Perhaps now is the time for China to establish a more flexible power system to address the competing demands of its different regions.

## Unwelcome Wheelers

**Rednet.cn**  
July 10

A small troupe of young Chinese are turning away from e-bikes and public transport toward an unexpected mode of transportation—electric wheelchairs. Unlike e-bikes, which are facing tighter regulations in urban areas, electric wheelchairs allow riders to navigate the streets with minimal effort.

However, many are worried that the rise of wheelchairs as an alternative mode of transport among young people

will undermine public advocacy and support for people with disabilities, for many of whom wheelchairs are a necessity, not a lifestyle choice. With the continuous expansion of the trend, people with disabilities may not easily be recognized and assisted. Their access to public places may also be blocked, as they now have to share wheelchair ramps and lifts with their able-bodied counterparts.

Therefore, regulations on the use of wheelchairs should be introduced to make sure that those who are in real need of them receive their due respect and attention.

## U.S.-BORN BASKETBALLER TO DEBUT AFTER GAINING CITIZENSHIP

On August 20, U.S. National Basketball Association star **Kyle Anderson** will make his debut for Team China after acquiring the Chinese citizenship through naturalization in July.

As the first naturalized player in the history of Chinese basketball, Anderson, whose Chinese name is Li Kaier, will represent China in an upcoming international event in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

The former Minnesota Timberwolves forward will also represent China in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 from late August to early September. FIBA, the International Basketball Federation, is the world governing body for basketball.

The grandfather of Anderson's mother was Chinese and born in Shenzhen. "My roots are back here in China and they date back 100 years. I feel privileged to be able to honor my great-grandfather who was born here," Anderson said.



**"I'm a village official. I must go!"**

**Xiong Li**, an administration staff member of Seshufen Village in Mentougou District on the western outskirts of Beijing, on July 31. Xiong died after a wall collapsed on top of her as she evacuated villagers during the heaviest deluge to hit the capital in 140 years

**"This is precisely why hosting global events is important. They bring people from around the world together. The lesson we've learned from the pandemic is that we depend on one another and we must interact."**

**Diacounda Sene**, a sports journalist from the International Sports Press Association in Senegal, during her stay in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, for the 31st FISU World University Games



**A**fter having graduated from the Yunnan University of Finance and Economics in the southwestern province of Yunnan in 2022, Chansouk Souanmixay, a

Laotian in his 20s, took the opportunity to reconnect with China last year, when he applied for an internship as a translator at the Laotian branch of China Railway No.2 Engineering Group (CREC-2). Owing to his experience in China and fluent standard Chinese he was admitted to the internship program. Upon completing that, he started working for the company fulltime.

CREC-2, along with many other engineering groups under the state-owned China Railway Group Ltd., was a major participant in the construction of the 1,035-km China-Laos Railway. The flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),