

OPINION: OLD. NEW. NEXT. P.35

FEATURES: YOUNG ROLE MODELS P.42

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.69 NO.21 MAY 21, 2026

北京周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



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ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914260

邮发代号2-922·国内统一连续出版物号: CN11-1576/G2

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Cover Photo: Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump pose for photos in front of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests while visiting the Temple of Heaven in Beijing on May 14 (XINHUA)

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A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

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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, P. O. BOX 399,
Beijing 100048, China
Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)
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General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:
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17/F, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK
Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is published 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 Burlingame, CA 94010-9997
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*,
Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48,
South San Francisco, CA 94080

A Milestone Visit

At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, U.S. President Donald Trump paid a state visit to China on May 13-15, with the two presidents meeting again in person for the first time since their talks in Busan, the Republic of Korea, last October. It was also the first visit to China by a U.S. president in almost nine years.

During the visit, President Xi exchanged views with President Trump on major issues concerning bilateral relations and world peace and development. Against the backdrop of accelerated global transformation, the meeting provided new strategic impetus for China-U.S. relations going forward.

Head-of-state diplomacy is the compass and anchor of the China-U.S. relationship, playing an irreplaceable role in guiding its trajectory. Following Trump's return to the White House in 2025, the two heads of state have held multiple phone calls in addition to the Busan meeting. The meeting in Beijing built on previous talks and consensus. It provided fundamental guidance for interaction in all fields, and is expected to help steer China-U.S. relations toward a new stage of stable development following fluctuations in recent years, providing more certainty for a transforming and volatile world.

Building mutual trust is bound to be a gradual process. The issue of strategic perception is always fundamental. China and the United States have different social systems and development paths, which are the choices of their own peoples based on their respective history and cultural heritage. The two countries should pursue "harmony without uniformity" and act as partners instead of rivals. They must respect each other's core interests, properly manage differences and work together to deliver more positive results for themselves and the rest of the world.

Trump's latest visit to China presented an opportunity for a new start in China-U.S. relations. As long as both uphold the consensus reached by their leaders, they can usher in a new pattern of peaceful coexistence.

This year is the start of China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) and the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence. The two countries will host the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the Group of 20 Summit, respectively. The world has reason to hope that 2026 will be a year in which the two major countries will advance toward greater mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation and provide more solutions to global challenges. **BR**



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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）
出版单位：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：辛峰 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 于淑均 曾文卉
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主编：闫威
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2026年 第21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9.00元



NEW QUANTUM RECORD

Part of a programmable quantum computing prototype called “Jiuzhang 4.0” on April 10. Developed by Chinese scientists, it has set a new world record for optical quantum information technology.

A team led by the University of Science and Technology of China used the prototype to solve the Gaussian boson sampling problem, a prominent model for demonstrating quantum computational advantage, “at a speed more than 10 to the 54th times that of the world’s most powerful supercomputer,” a study published in *Nature* journal on May 13 read. The researchers said they had manipulated and detected quantum states of up to 3,050 photons (particles representing a quantum of light)—a major leap from the 255 photons achieved with the previous “Jiuzhang 3.0.”

Current mainstream quantum computing technological routes include superconducting, ion trap, photonic and neutral atom systems. The “Jiuzhang” series of prototypes encodes quantum bits using photons and performs quantum computation through the manipulation and measurement of these photons. Since its successful construction in 2020, the series has undergone several upgrades, achieving “quantum computational advantage” and repeatedly setting world records.



Qilou Vibes

Tourists visit the Qilou Old Street in Haikou, Hainan Province, on May 9. The Qilou Old Street, a century-old cultural landmark of Haikou, has become a popular tourist destination as the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port advances.

Rural Tap Water

China's rural tap water coverage reached 96 percent by the end of 2025, the Ministry of Water Resources announced on May 12.

By the end of last year, large-scale water supply projects covered 71 percent of the rural population, while 72 percent of counties had adopted unified county-level management for rural water supply, the ministry told a press conference.

The number of people relying mainly on water cellars and storage tanks for their water supply had dropped by 79 percent by the end of last year from the level at the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period.

China aims to raise rural tap water coverage to 97 percent by the end of 2026, with large-scale water supply projects covering 73 percent of the rural population, according to the ministry. By 2030, the country aims to lift

rural tap water coverage to 98 percent.

Video Content Labeling

China's cyberspace regulator has ordered online platforms to standardize content labeling for short videos, mandating that creators disclose whether the content contains fictional elements or AI-generated material, Xinhua News Agency reported on May 12.

The move comes amid growing concerns over fabricated and misleading online content, including staged videos and AI-generated material that can blur the line between fact and fiction.

Platforms must make content labeling a mandatory step before a short video can be published, and uploaders will be required to choose one label from a list of compulsory cat-

egories, according to the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission.

Platforms must disclose whether short videos contain "fictional or dramatized content," "AI-generated content," "marketing information," "reposted content" or "personal opinions."

Short videos documenting real-life events may select the "no label required" option, and that tag will not be displayed publicly on the video page.

Since January, authorities have removed more than 520,000 illegal short videos, including staged or fabricated content, and penalized over 68,000 accounts as part of a broader campaign to regulate the sector.

Nursing Workforce

China reported a 29-percent increase in registered nurses from 2020 to 2025, with the total surpassing 6.06 million by

the end of last year, the National Health Commission (NHC) said on May 11.

The number of registered nurses per 1,000 people rose from 3.34 in 2020 to 4.32 in 2025. More than 80 percent hold qualifications at or above college level, according to NHC data.

Over 90 percent of nurses in high-demand and understaffed fields, including rehabilitation, geriatric care, pediatrics, intensive care and infectious disease care, have received specialized training, the commission said.

Nearly 6,000 medical institutions across the country provide more than 60 types of home-based nursing services in seven categories, including maternal and infant care, geriatric care, chronic disease management, rehabilitation guidance and hospice care, the commission added.

Pilot Subway Service

Beijing launched a pilot service on May 10 that allows passengers to bring their bicycles onto the subway train, as the number of cycling enthusiasts and demand for cross-district rides grow in the capital.

According to the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport, starting on May 10, passengers can bring single-seat, human-powered two-wheel bicycles with a wheel diameter of up to 28 inches (about 71 cm) onto subway trains at 11 pilot stations across four lines, namely, Line 6, Line 17, the Changping Line and the S1 Line.

The commission said that the selection of these lines and stations followed consultations with local cycling clubs to better understand the needs of enthusiasts while also accounting for rail transit passenger volumes and the adaptability of station facilities. They connect to several

cycling routes in Beijing's surrounding suburbs.

The pilot service is available during all operating hours on Saturdays and Sundays, but it is closed on weekdays and public holidays. The fare is 30 yuan (\$4.4) per trip.

Cross-Straits Cultural Exchange

A cultural exchange event highlighting shared heritage and integrated development across the Taiwan Straits kicked off in the Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Area of Fujian Province on May 12.

"People from all ethnic groups, including Taiwan compatriots, jointly shaped the rich and vast homeland throughout the Chinese nation's thousands of years of history," Su Hui, Vice Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political advisory body, said at the opening ceremony.

Tseng Yung-chuan, former

Vice Chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang party, called for expanding cross-Straits exchange and cooperation in different sectors on the basis of the 1992 Consensus to resolve misunderstandings and narrow differences.

Around 300 representatives of ethnic minorities, academics and people from all walks of life across the Straits attended the two-day event. It also featured an exhibition on maritime culture and roundtable dialogues.

Preschool Education

China's Ministry of Finance has allocated 45.8 billion yuan (\$6.7 billion) in funds to support preschool education development in 2026, an increase of 12.56 billion yuan (\$1.8 billion), or 38 percent, from the previous year, Xinhua reported on May 8.

The funding will mainly support local governments in consolidating and implementing policies that scrap childcare and education fees for preschool children, expand access to inclusive education resources, improve education quality and



A Second Act

Artists perform Peking Opera at a tea house in Chongqing Municipality on May 10. Originally built in the 1950s as a workers' cinema of a local machinery factory in Chongqing, the building has been renovated into a public tea house called Jiangling Tea House, integrating dining, leisure and cultural creativity, favored by local citizens and tourists alike.

strengthen financial aid systems for children from low-income families and other disadvantaged groups.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, China's Central Government allocated 126.2 billion yuan (\$18.6 billion) to support preschool education,

according to the ministry.

Starting from the 2025 fall semester, China waived childcare and education fees for children in their final year at public kindergartens while providing corresponding subsidies for eligible children attending private institutions.



Learning to Save Lives

A healthcare worker demonstrates how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a resident in Shangqiu, Henan Province, on May 12, the National Disaster Prevention and Reduction Day.

Logistics Recovery

The index tracking China's logistics market, an indicator of economic vitality, stood at 49.7 percent in April, data from the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing showed on May 11.

The new orders index came in at 49.8 percent, rising for a second straight month. New orders indices for postal and express delivery, road transport, railway transport and air transport all increased from the previous month, up by 0.3 to 0.6 percentage points.

Profitability in the sector also continued to improve. The logistics service price index edged up 0.3 percentage points from a month earlier, while the sub-index in the railway transport sector edged up 0.4 percentage points.

In April, the business activity expectations index stood at 56.3 percent, remaining in expansion territory for four straight months.

"Enterprises showed strong willingness to invest in multimodal transportation, smart supply chains

and low-carbon and green warehousing, transportation and distribution, as well as in equipment upgrades," Hu Han, deputy chief economist at the China Logistics Information Center, said.

The continued improvement in these indicators points to better coordination between up- and downstream demand, smoother logistics operations, and resilient business confidence, Hu added.

Growth momentum was also sustained across subdivided sectors. China's postal and express delivery industry posted a total business volume index of 69.6 percent, remaining in a high expansion range.

NEV Output and Sales

China's production and sales of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) posted year-on-year growth in April, industry data showed on May 11.

NEV output rose 5.5 percent year on year to 1.32 million units, while sales increased 9.7 percent to 1.34 million units, according to the

China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

Of total new car sales in April, NEVs accounted for 53.2 percent, the data showed.

In the first four months of the year, China's auto production and sales totaled 9.61 million and 9.57 million units, respectively. NEV production and sales reached 4.29 million and 4.3 million units, respectively, during the period.

During the January-April period, the country's vehicle exports surged 61.5 percent year on year to 3.13 million units, with NEV exports up 120 percent to 1.38 million units.

CAAM deputy Secretary General Chen Shihua said while auto production and sales edged down slightly year on year in April, the cumulative decline in the first four months has narrowed further.

Foreign Trade

China's foreign trade in yuan-denominated terms grew 14.2 percent year on year to reach 4.38 trillion yuan (\$639 billion) in April, according to data from the General

Administration of Customs of China (GACC) on May 9.

Exports rose 9.8 percent to 2.48 trillion yuan (\$362 billion), while imports went up 20.6 percent to 1.9 trillion yuan (\$277 billion).

In the first four months, total foreign trade reached 16.23 trillion yuan (\$236 trillion), up 14.9 percent year on year.

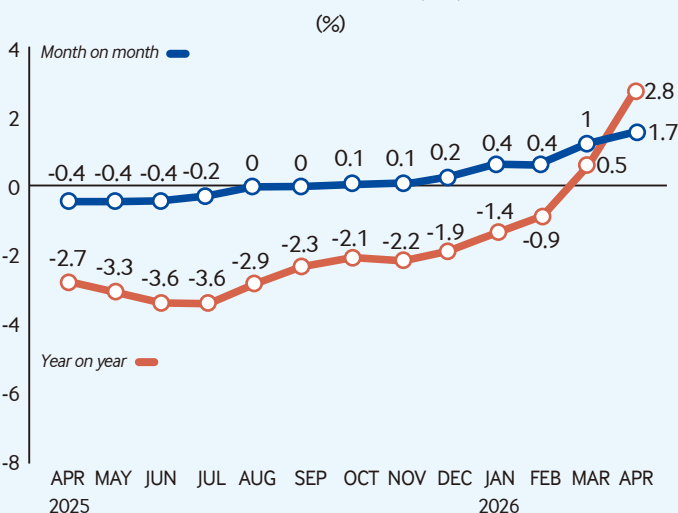
Lu Daliang, Director of the GACC's Department of Statistics and Analysis, said April's trade maintained double-digit year-on-year growth and recorded a 6.5-percent increase from March.

Exports of mechanical and electrical products, which account for the bulk of China's outbound shipments, rose 17.6 percent in the first four months to 5.92 trillion yuan (\$864 billion), making up 63.5 percent of total exports, up 3.4 percentage points from a year earlier.

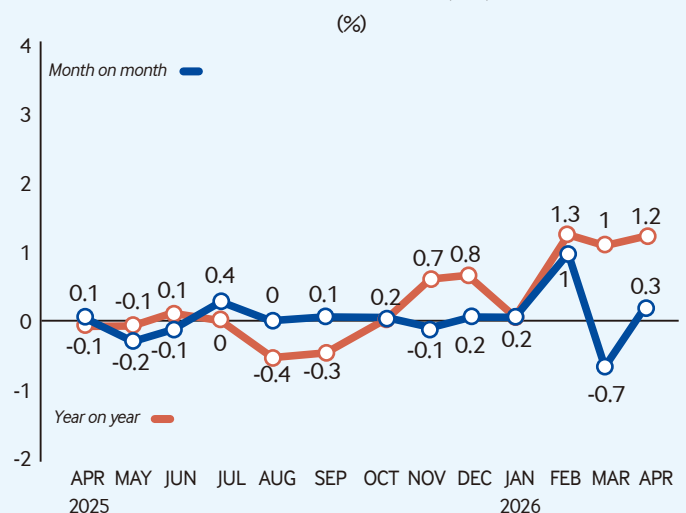
Among them, exports of green and low-carbon products grew rapidly, with electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and wind turbines

NUMBERS

China's Producer Price Index (PPI) Growth (%)



China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth (%)



rising 68.1 percent, 43.2 percent and 40.7 percent, respectively.

Private enterprises remained the largest contributor to trade, with imports and exports rising 15.9 percent to 9.31 trillion yuan (\$1.36 trillion) in the first four months, accounting for 57.4 percent of the total.

On the import side, continued expansion of China's domestic market and industrial upgrading have driven demand for raw materials and advanced equipment. Imports of key commodities such as crude oil, iron ore and soybeans continued to grow, while purchases of hi-tech components and machinery increased as new quality productive forces developed.

New quality productive forces refer to the shift toward innovation-driven growth, technological advancement and high-quality development in multiple sectors of the economy.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remained China's largest trading partner, with

trade rising 15.7 percent, followed by the European Union, with a 13.2-percent increase. Trade with Belt and Road partner countries grew 13.5 percent, offsetting declines in trade with the United States. The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

Trade with African countries rose 19.4 percent to exceed 800 billion yuan (\$116 billion) for the first time for the same period, and the momentum is expected to strengthen.

"Under the zero-tariff arrangement for 53 African nations implemented on May 1, seasonal African agricultural products such as apples, oranges and avocados have already begun entering the Chinese market," Lu said, adding that China's vast market is creating new development opportunities for Africa.

AI and Energy

Chinese authorities have recently issued an action plan to promote

the mutual empowerment of AI and energy.

The plan envisions that by 2030, the clean energy supply capacity for AI computing power infrastructure will be significantly increased, while the application of AI in the energy sector will also be considerably improved.

Driven by this endeavor, the country aims to establish a new development paradigm characterized by the mutual empowerment and deep integration of AI and energy, according to the action plan issued by the National Energy Administration (NEA) together with the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the National Data Administration.

The NEA noted that this action plan aims to ensure safe and reliable energy supply for computing power infrastructure, promote green and low-carbon transition in computing power infrastructure, and facilitate efficient

and economical coordination between computing power and electricity.

It also seeks to open up high-value application scenarios for AI in the energy sector, unlock the value of energy data and strengthen AI model innovation within the field.

Forex Reserves

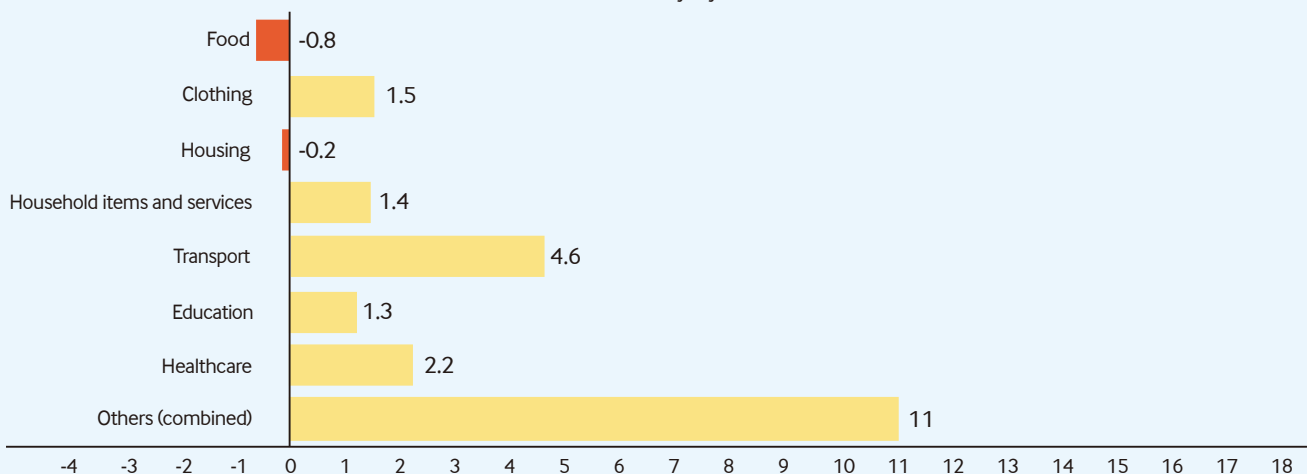
China's foreign exchange (forex) reserves totaled \$3.4105 trillion by the end of April, up \$68.4 billion, or 2.05 percent, compared to late March, official data showed on May 7.

The combined effects of currency translation and asset price changes led to the increase in China's forex reserves in April, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said in a statement.

It also added that as China continued with efforts to consolidate and expand the momentum of steady economic growth, the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy have contributed to the stability of the country's forex reserves.

China's CPI Growth by Type

March (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



THE PHILIPPINES

Participants pose for a group photo at the opening ceremony of the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and related meetings in the Province of Cebu on May 8



SOUTH AFRICA

Workers repair a bridge damaged by flooding in Garden Route District Municipality, Western Cape, on May 9. The government classified the devastating severe weather affecting multiple provinces as a national disaster



PAKISTAN

The site of a suicide attack on a police checkpoint in Bannu District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, on May 10. At least 15 police personnel were killed





UNITED KINGDOM

A polling station for local elections in London on May 7. Local and devolved elections were held that day to elect local councils, mayors and regional parliaments. The elections were a major midterm political test for Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his ruling Labor Party



THAILAND

Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra greets supporters after being released on parole from the Klong Prem Central Prison in Bangkok on May 11



RUSSIA

President Vladimir Putin speaks during a parade marking the 81st anniversary of the victory in the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War in Moscow on May 9



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ CHAOSHAN'S VALUED HISTORY HITS THE BIG SCREEN

Lan Hongchun, director of the hit Chaoshan (Teochew)-dialect film *Dear You*, has seen his low-budget feature surpass 100 million yuan (\$13.9 million) at the box office since its release on April 30. The film, which centers on centuries-old *qiaopi*—letters accompanied by remittances sent to family in China by overseas Chinese—was made on a budget of just 14 million yuan (\$1.94 million). The Chaoshan region includes Chaozhou and Shantou cities in Guangdong Province.



Lan, 41, was born in Shantou. During a previous tenure as a documentary filmmaker, he interviewed many elderly overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia. “Almost every detail in this story actually happened to someone,” Lan said.

The film was shot at real locations with non-professional actors and simple equipment.

Old vs. NEV

Global Times
April 28

For decades, German brands have dominated China’s auto market. But the rise of homegrown new-energy vehicles (NEVs) has weakened that advantage. A younger generation of Chinese consumers is also reshaping the market, increasingly associating German cars with their parents’ era rather than with the future of mobility.

Market figures tell the story clearly. In 2025, sales by major German car-makers in China fell across the board: Volkswagen was down 8 percent, BMW

12.5 percent and Mercedes-Benz 19 percent.

At the 2026 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, which closed on May 3, all three brands sought to show how far they are willing to adapt to local tastes. Their China-focused NEV models took center stage, many bearing little resemblance to traditional German cars, with large central control screens, all-scenario intelligent connectivity and voice systems tailored specifically to Chinese-language use.

For German automakers, today’s Chinese market is no longer a comfort zone where success can be taken for granted, but a testing ground for their capacity to innovate and adapt.



Farming for Fine Dining

Lifeweek
May 18

Caviar and foie gras were once luxuries that many Chinese families could taste only when someone brought them back from abroad. That era is over: China is now the world’s largest producer and exporter of caviar, while its foie gras output accounts for roughly 45 percent of the global total.

The shift is about more than scale. China already accounts for over 60 percent of global aquaculture output, but the

“Our products are all electric vehicles. They are lighter, more affordable and more reliable than traditional gasoline-powered motorcycles.”

Su Shaozong, founder of a firm based in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, that develops motorcycles for children, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency about China’s motocross boom

“Many languages are moving toward digitization, and we don’t want to be left behind.”

Dorje Migyur, a developer of Tibetan large language model (LLM) DeepZang, speaking about his company’s efforts to address general-purpose LLMs’ limited ability to understand Tibetan

more telling change lies in what it farms and how. Thanks to advances in aquaculture technology, species once associated with distant waters are now being raised in Chinese lakes, reservoirs and even in the waters of saline-alkali land.

Salmon and trout are a case in point. China lacks the cold coastal waters that make Norway ideal for Atlantic salmon farming, but inland regions such as Qinghai Province and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have glacier-fed water bodies suitable for raising triploid rainbow trout, a larger, sterile variety developed through selective breeding. The rapid growth of domestic rainbow trout farming has coincided with rising demand in the country, as health awareness increases and more Chinese consumers seek high-quality protein. In the first quarter of 2026, China was the world's second largest market for salmon and trout consumption.

Eel production tells a similar story. Fujian and Guangdong provinces now lead large-scale farming of Japanese eel. What began partly as a response to foreign demand has become part of China's own appetite for premium protein and rich flavor. Technology is pushing the frontier further. Automated feeding systems can adjust rations according to water temperature and distribute feed more evenly, reducing injuries when fish compete for food.

Empowering Nurses Today

Beijing Evening News
May 14

On May 12, International Nurses Day, many regions in China honored nurses with practical measures rather than formal celebrations. In Zhengzhou, Henan Province, the local health commission granted all nursing staff an extra day off and prohibited organizing meetings or rehearsals during rest time. Hospitals in Guangdong, Anhui and Guizhou provinces also offered additional leave and forbade ceremonial events. At the same time, scenic areas nationwide extended free or discounted admission to medical workers.

These initiatives reflect a growing

recognition of the demanding nature of nursing work—long hours, heavy responsibilities and limited rest. Such gestures, prioritizing genuine rest over performative celebrations, embody true appreciation. Though China's nursing workforce surpassed 6 million in 2025, workloads remain high, highlighting persistent staffing gaps. Sustainable improvement requires more than holiday benefits; it calls for higher pay, fair scheduling, improved training and respect for nurses' professional dignity.

The theme of this year, "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives," reminds society that empowerment means giving nurses real support. By reducing symbolic burdens and enhancing their wellbeing, society ensures stronger healthcare and a healthier future for all.

↓ SNOOKER'S YOUNGEST CRUCIBLE CHAMPION IN THREE DECADES

Wu Yize became the second youngest player to be crowned a Crucible Champion in a compelling World Snooker Championship final on May 10. Wu, 22, is second youngest behind Stephen Hendry, who was 21 when he took the title for the first time in 1990.

"Since I made the decision to drop out of school, my dad has been by my side," Wu said at the event. "My mom has also been going through a lot over the years. They are the source of my strength." Along with the 500,000-pound (\$667,750) top prize, Wu's win propels him to fourth in the world ranking, having started the season outside the top 16.



The Crucible Champion title takes its name from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England, where the World Snooker Championship has been held every year since 1977.

"Industrial tourism is a nexus where secondary and tertiary industries converge."

Chen Wei, an expert from Tsinghua University, commenting on popular initiatives of turning industrial landmarks into tourist attractions

"Many people may have never been to China, but they experience Chinese culture through the products they use."

You Xinyu, a Chinese entrepreneur and founder of PASSION, a Russian consumer electronics company, telling Xinhua that his company's computers currently rank first in their price segment in Russia



Chinese President Xi Jinping hosts a welcome ceremony as part of U.S. President Donald Trump's state visit to China, outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on May 14