

# BEIJING REVIEW

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Cover Photo: A panda rescue and breeding center in Foping County, Shaanxi Province, on June 5 (YIN KANG)

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## Five Years, Five Parks

In October 2021, China established its first national parks: the Sanjiangyuan National Park, Giant Panda National Park, Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park, Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park and Wuyishan National Park. Five years later, they have delivered measurable ecological successes.

Covering a total protected area of 230,000 square km, the five parks now conserve nearly 30 percent key terrestrial wildlife species under national-level protection.

The Sanjiangyuan National Park, China's largest, sits at the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers. It protects the Tibetan antelope, wild yak and snow leopard. Over the past five years, downstream water flow has increased 50 percent, strengthening a vital ecological lifeline.

The Giant Panda National Park now shelters more than 70 percent of China's wild panda population. The Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park is the nation's only stable breeding ground for wild Siberian tigers and Amur leopards, known in China as northeast tigers and northeast leopards. Thanks to stringent protection, tiger numbers have rebounded from 27 a decade ago to approximately 70 today, while leopards have increased from 42

to around 80.

The Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park is China's best-preserved and most biodiverse contiguous tropical rainforest. It protects the Hainan gibbon, the world's rarest primate and one of the most critically endangered species on the planet. The Wuyishan National Park holds a UNESCO dual designation for cultural and natural heritage, protecting species such as Cabot's Tragopan, a medium-sized pheasant endemic to China.

The National Park Law, which took effect on January 1, prioritizes harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. The law establishes three core principles: putting ecological protection first, conserving the country's most representative ecosystems and serving public interests. The central goal is to build a nature reserve system centered around national parks, safeguarding the authenticity and integrity of natural ecosystems while maintaining national ecological security.

Looking ahead, China aims to build the world's largest national park system. A spatial plan outlines 49 candidate areas covering roughly 1.1 million square km—990,000 square km of protected land (10.3 percent of China's land territory) and 110,000 square km of marine area. The second group of national parks is currently under assessment. **BR**



### WRITE TO US

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## THAT'S A WRAP!

Students celebrate after wrapping up the national college entrance exam (*gaokao*) in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, on June 9. For many students, their performance on the *gaokao* will shape their academic and professional futures. Some 12.9 million teenagers across China registered for the exam, which began on June 7. The test lasted two to four days, depending on the subjects chosen.



YINHAIX

## Harvest Is Here

A farmer measures the water content of harvested wheat in Zhangzhuang Town, Yinan County of Shandong Province, on June 10. As of June 9, 15.53 million hectares of wheat had been harvested across China, constituting 68.54 percent of the total harvest work.

## Mega Waterway Project

China on June 8 began construction of a mega waterway project, including what is expected to become the world's largest inland ship lock, in response to the rising shipping demand along the Yangtze River, the world's third-longest river.

The 77.2-billion-yuan (\$11.3-billion) project will add a five-tier, dual-track ship lock north of the existing lock at the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest water conservancy project located in Yichang, Hubei Province, and upgrade navigation facilities at a smaller downstream dam.

Once completed, it will almost double the annual throughput capacity at the Three Gorges to 336 million tons.

River transport remains vital to China's economy, especially along the Yangtze, which stretches

over 6,300 km and is known as the country's golden waterway.

However, rapid economic growth and soaring cargo transport demand have increased pressure on the existing Three Gorges ship lock, which in 2011 surpassed its designed capacity of 100 million tons of annual cargo throughput, 19 years ahead of schedule. Last year's throughput exceeded 170 million tons.

The new ship lock and its approach channels are expected to take over nine years to build, while the downstream dam upgrade is scheduled to be completed in about eight years.

## Seawater Utilization

The Ministry of Natural Resources on June 8 released a report highlighting new progress in the country's utilization of seawater, while also shedding light on the huge reserve of strategic minerals contained in seawater and the

nation's plans to expand the extraction of such resources through technological progress.

According to the report, China has successfully achieved kg-scale extraction of uranium from real ocean environments. Additionally, domestic research institutes, universities and enterprises have made breakthroughs in the fundamental theories and key technologies concerning the extraction of lithium, uranium, deuterium and other trace elements.

Global uranium reserves in seawater are estimated at about 4.5 billion tons, over 1,000 times the known land-based reserves.

As a strategic emerging industry, China's seawater desalination and comprehensive utilization sector as a whole is growing steadily, the report noted. According to Xiang Wenxi, Director of the Institute of Seawater Desalination and Multipurpose Utilization,

located in Tianjin Municipality, China currently has 167 desalination projects with a total capacity of 3.077 million tons per day.

## Underground Pipelines

China will build and upgrade around 770,000 km of urban underground pipelines during the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period, an official said on June 8.

The country currently has some 3.9 million km of such pipelines and around 7,700 km of integrated utility tunnels, Chen Shaopeng, an official with the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, told a State Council policy briefing.

According to Chen, the initiative will focus on improving drainage and sewage networks to strengthen flood control, replacing aging water and gas pipelines, and upgrading heating systems to improve safety and efficiency.

Smart monitoring systems will also be installed to enable full-process risk management of urban infrastructure.

Guan Peng, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said at the briefing that the NDRC and the ministry have actively supported underground pipeline projects through ultra-long special treasury bonds. A total of 160 billion yuan (\$23.5 billion) will be earmarked for these projects in 2026, an increase of 25 billion yuan (\$3.7 billion) from last year, Guan added.

## Anti-Fraud Campaign

China initiated a nationwide anti-fraud publicity campaign in Beijing on June 10 to enhance public awareness of telecom and online scams. The campaign is a joint effort by the Publicity Department

of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS). Authorities plan to conduct anti-fraud activities in communities, rural areas, households, schools and businesses, with community workers and volunteers aiding in integrating fraud prevention education into grassroots governance.

Since 2025, authorities have intensified efforts against telecom fraud. Large gambling and fraud compounds in Myawaddy, Myanmar, and key areas of Cambodia have been cleared, reducing the space for overseas telecom fraud operations. According to the MPS, through international law enforcement cooperation, 58,000 fraud suspects have been handed over to China. Domestically, Chinese police solved 258,000 telecom and online fraud cases in 2025.

## Real Estate Registration

China has rolled out a series of measures to simplify real estate registration procedures, aiming to cut red tape, reduce costs and improve the business environment across the country.

The measures, issued in late May by the Ministry of Natural Resources together with other related government organizations, consolidate what were previously separate procedures—property transfer registration, mortgage registration, mortgage cancellation registration, loan approval, tax filing, and identity verification—into a single streamlined process to improve efficiency.

The package includes measures such as service integration, the transfer of mortgaged properties without prior repayment of loans, online processing across provincial boundaries, and improved query services for due diligence.

Under the new rules, enterprises can complete property purchases at a single service window, submit common documents such as business licenses and transaction contracts only once, and complete registration within one working day for standard transactions.

## LNG Tanker

China State Shipbuilding Corp (CSSC) announced on June 9 that it has started constructing the world's largest and most capable



## Strumming Along

Workers make guitars in the workshop of Zunyi Shenqu Musical Instrument Manufacturing Co. Ltd. in Zunyi, Guizhou Province, on June 9. The county is home to 144 guitar and guitar-related accessories manufacturers and has cultivated 87 independent brands in recent years.

liquefied natural gas carrier.

The state-owned conglomerate said that the first in the QC-Max class, which is yet to be named, entered the construction phase at the premises of the company's Shanghai-based subsidiary Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding, reaching a milestone in a historic deal between CSSC, the world's largest shipbuilder, and Middle East energy giant QatarEnergy.

In April 2024, CSSC won a contract for 18 QC-Max

superheavy LNG tankers from QatarEnergy, the world's largest LNG provider. The two signed a deal for another six QC-Max ships months later. The contracts, with a total value exceeding 56 billion yuan (\$8 billion), together form the world's largest shipbuilding order on record.

The volume of natural gas carried by a single QC-Max tanker can meet the gas consumption demand of 4.7 million households in Shanghai for one month.



## Summer Power Prep

Maintenance workers conduct routine maintenance on a wind turbine at an offshore wind farm in Rudong, Jiangsu Province, on June 10. Staff have carried out operations to ensure a stable and safe power supply during the incoming high temperature period.

## Foreign Trade

The total value of China's goods imports and exports in yuan-denominated terms grew 16.9 percent year on year to reach 4.45 trillion yuan (\$653 billion) in May, remaining above 4 trillion yuan (\$590 billion) for three consecutive months, data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) showed on June 9.

Exports rose 13.8 percent from the same period last year, while imports increased 21.5 percent, the GACC data showed.

In the first five months of the year, total foreign trade amounted to 20.68 trillion yuan (\$3 trillion), up 15.3 percent year on year.

China's trade ties with major trading partners remained robust. In the first five months of the year, trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gained 16.6 percent year on year, while trade with the European Union climbed 10.3 percent, and trade with Belt and Road partner countries rose 13.6 percent.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

In May, China began implementing an expanded zero-tariff treatment on imports from all 53 African countries with which it has diplomatic relations.

As a result, Chinese imports from Africa reached 95.13 billion yuan (\$14 billion) in May, up 15 percent year on year. In the first five months of the year, China-Africa trade surpassed the 1-trillion-yuan (\$148-billion) mark for the first time on record for the period.

## Consumption Performance

China's offline consumption payments climbed 2.4 percent year on year in May, with the pace of growth accelerating 0.7 percentage points from the previous month, according to the State Information Center (SIC), a think tank under the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top

economic planner.

A detailed breakdown highlights a strong performance in certain sectors, with consumption of electronic products, food and beverage services and transport services posting robust growth of 9.7 percent, 5.4 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively.

Beyond the consumption sector, the SIC data also revealed an industrial shift toward emerging and intelligent sectors.

According to the SIC, investment in frontier fields like AI and humanoid robots soared in May, while the value of winning bids for infrastructure projects in computing power, data, networks and other sectors surged 106.9 percent year on year.

## Car Exports

China's exports of new-energy passenger vehicles (NEVs) surged 112.6 percent from a year earlier in May, reaching 424,000 units, industry association data showed on June 8.

In May, exports rose 4.4 percent compared with April and

accounted for 54.1 percent of total passenger vehicle shipments abroad, up 9.5 percentage points from a year earlier, according to the China Passenger Car Association (CPCA).

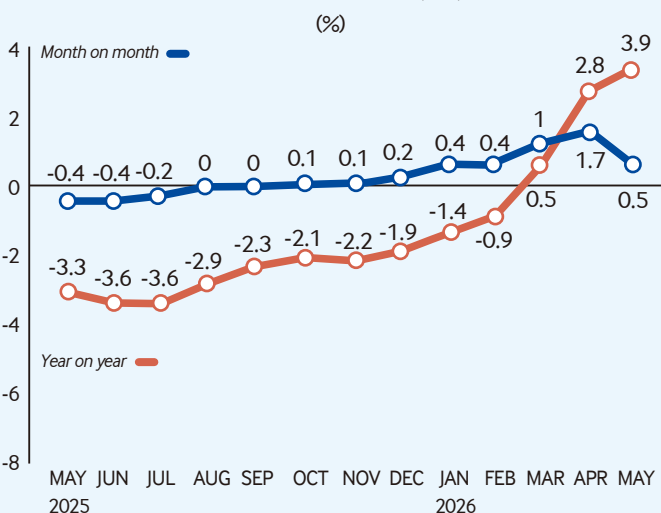
Battery electric vehicles accounted for 59.3 percent of NEV exports, down from 66.1 percent a year earlier. Small-sized A00 and A0-class electric cars made up 53.8 percent of battery electric vehicle exports in May, compared with 50.7 percent in the same month last year.

Exports have become the main engine of growth for China's auto sector, as weak domestic consumption continues to weigh on the broader market. Chinese carmakers have pushed deeper into markets such as Latin America and Europe, helping offset softer demand in the Middle East and keeping export volumes growing strongly, the CPCA said.

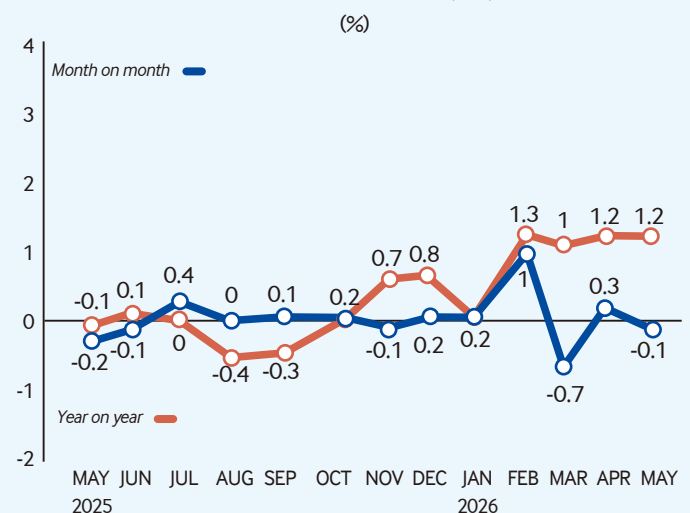
Supported by China's mature electric vehicle supply chain and the growing competitiveness of its NEV brands, exports have

## NUMBERS

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



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



continued to expand across both premium and mass-market segments, supporting overall industry stability.

The CPCA noted that momentum for a broader recovery in China's auto market will remain limited in June, with the industry expected to maintain a modest recovery trend.

## Forex Reserves

China's foreign exchange (forex) reserves totaled \$3.4422 trillion at the end of May, up 0.93 percent from late April, according to official data released on June 7.

In May, affected by factors including the global macroeconomic environment and monetary policy outlooks of major economies, the U.S. dollar index, a measure of the currency against a basket of major peers, rose, while prices of major global financial assets saw overall growth, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said in a statement.

The combined effect of factors such as forex translation and

changes in asset prices drove the rise of the forex reserve size in May, it said.

China's economy is maintaining a momentum of steady growth, showing solid progress in advancing high-quality development, which underpins the overall stability of the country's forex reserve size, it noted.

## Logistics Sector

The logistics sector returned to expansion in May, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said on June 3.

The index tracking the country's logistics market, an indicator of economic vitality, stood at 50.3 percent in May, up 0.6 percentage points from the previous month.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

All sub-indexes posted increases in May. The total business volume sub-index came in at 50.3 percent, rising 0.6 percentage points from

the previous month. The new orders sub-index rose for three consecutive months to reach 50.2 percent in May. The fixed-asset investment completion sub-index stood at 54.1 percent, up 0.4 percentage points from April.

Market expectations stayed optimistic, with the business activity expectation sub-index at 55.9 percent, according to the federation.

## Telecom Services

China is steadily expanding the opening up of the telecom sector, with 166 foreign-funded enterprises having received approvals for pilot operations in value-added telecom services since the first batch of such approvals was issued in February 2025, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on June 3.

These enterprises can legally provide value-added telecom services throughout China, including Internet data center services, Internet access services and infor-

mation services.

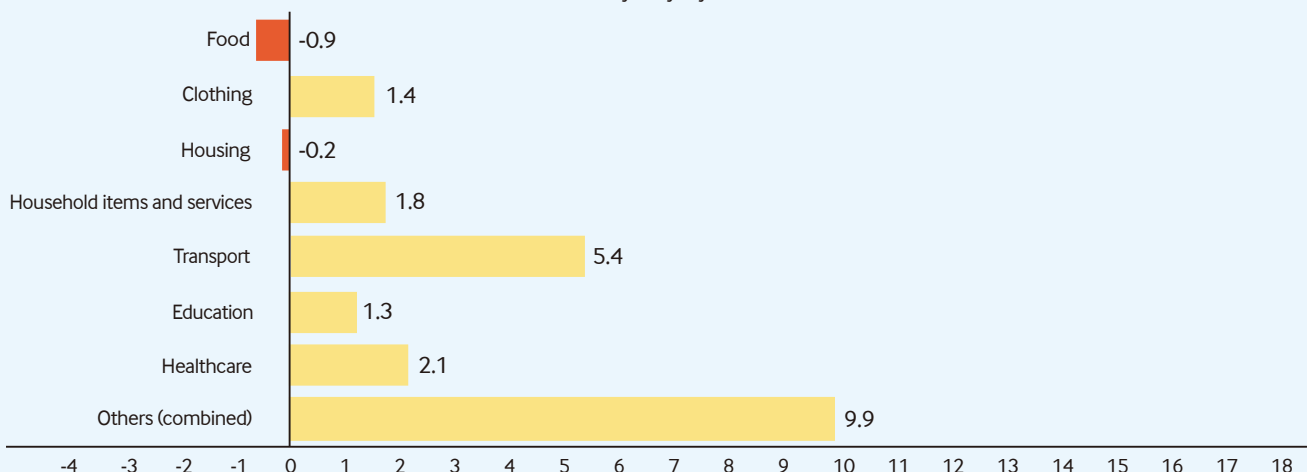
Building on existing policies including China's commitments to the World Trade Organization, pilot free trade zone regulations and policies for further opening up of the service sector, the ministry has proactively aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules, and launched trials in four localities, namely, Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan and Shenzhen, to remove the foreign equity caps on value-added telecom services such as Internet data centers.

More than 3,100 foreign-invested telecom enterprises operate across China. These enterprises will provide Chinese consumers with more diversified telecom services and products, further fostering an open and dynamic market ecosystem, the ministry noted.

More policies will be introduced to promote the opening up of the telecom sector and encourage eligible foreign-funded enterprises to enter China's telecom market, the ministry said.

China's CPI Growth by Type

May (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



## RUSSIA

The opening ceremony of the 2026 Chinese Film Festival in Moscow on June 8. Chinese films, including *The Lychee Road* and the Chinese-Russian co-production *Red Silk*, were screened at the festival



## COTE D'IVOIRE

A woman tours the Second International Construction, Building Materials, Machinery & Technologies Exhibition (Build Expo Cote d'Ivoire 2026) at the Abidjan Exhibition Center in Abidjan on June 9



## THE PHILIPPINES

Damaged vehicles in General Santos City after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the southern coast of the island of Mindanao on June 8. At least 45 people were killed, 487 injured and 17 missing



## UNITED KINGDOM

Leaders of the UK, France, Germany and Ukraine chat at No.10 Downing Street in London after their meeting there on June 7. A joint statement was issued, backing direct Ukraine-Russia talks with the active participation of the United States and Europe



## SOUTH AFRICA

Security workers at the scene of a shooting in Cleveland, Johannesburg, on June 10. At least 12 people were killed and nine others injured



## AUSTRALIA

The Sydney Opera House during the Vivid Sydney light festival in Sydney on June 6. The annual festival was held from May 22 to June 13



# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## NEW HEAD OF THE TOP FINANCIAL REGULATOR

**Ding Xiangqun**, 61, was appointed as minister of the National Financial Regulatory Administration on June 5, becoming the first female official to head China's main regulatory body overseeing all financial sectors except securities.

Ding is also one of the approximately 200 members of the incumbent 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. The five-yearly CPC National Congress and the Central Committee it elects are the highest leadership bodies of China's governing party.

With a master's degree in economics, Ding has nearly four decades of extensive experience across major state-owned banks, insurance companies and provincial-level government leadership roles.

Since taking office, she has signaled a clear stance on strengthening regulation, mitigating risks in small and medium-sized financial institutions, and improving financing mechanisms for the real estate sector.



## Matcha Mania

**Ce.cn**  
**June 5**

China's exports are currently taking on a fashionable shade of green. In the first quarter, Zhejiang Province exported 1,241.97 tons of matcha worth 140 million yuan (\$19 million), a 7.3-fold jump from a year earlier. Tongren, a matcha hub in Guizhou Province, recorded export volume growth of more than 40 percent, with its matcha products reaching 54 countries and regions.

The boom reflects a meeting of global tastes and Chinese industrial heft. Consumers across the globe are drifting toward foods that are natural, healthy and light. Matcha, with its rich antioxidants and

mild energizing effect, has therefore found itself in growing demand. China was well placed to notice the opportunity. Its tea exports once relied heavily on raw tea, which is a low-margin business. Some producing regions have since turned to industrial matcha manufacturing.

Domestic demand provided the testing ground. The boom in creative tea drinks created a vast market at home. That gave producers steady orders, rapid feedback and pressure to improve. The result is an industry better able to compete in overseas markets.

Other agricultural products could learn from this example. By improving quality through industrial upgrades and building brands, they have the potential to find a more solid footing in international markets.



## Love Inc.?

**Lifeweek**  
**May 25**

On Chinese social media, romantic relationships have become a business. Watch a video about the supposed psychological differences between men and women and, within seconds, an influencer may be selling a course on intimacy.

Women are this newly emerged sector's main customers. That is not surprising. As Chinese women work and live more independently, many are rejecting the old role of the self-sacrificing wife and mother. But freedom

**“AI should not be owned by major countries, still less dominated by contest and rivalry.”**

**Mao Ning**, Foreign Ministry spokesperson, at a June 5 press briefing, in response to questions about views framing global AI development as a contest between China and the U.S.

**“We anticipate that seamless integration of inland waterways and sea transport will significantly improve transportation timeliness.”**

**Huang Yujie**, General Manager of Wuchan Cold Chain Logistics Co. in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in an interview with newspaper *Global Times* about the upcoming opening of the Pinglu Canal, a 134.2-km-long waterway stretching from the regional capital of Nanning to the Beibu Gulf in the South China Sea

has created new anxieties. How should intimacy be understood? What kind of person should a woman become once she has chosen to leave traditional roles behind?

The market has been quick to capitalize on these concerns. Some gurus preach the making of *danüzhū*, or the great heroine: a woman who is no hopeless romantic, but approaches dating with cool-eyed calculation. Others urge women to give more in exchange for domestic stability. Still others teach them to become more desirable, turning femininity itself into a tool for acquiring affection and wealth.

However, the more they dictate every glance, gesture and phrase, the less room women have to learn through their own experience. Good relationships are not built by following scripts; they are formed over time, through conflict and compromise. Nor does every romantic problem begin with the couple itself, as a relationship is also shaped by its environment. The pressures on a family may come not from poor communication or poor interpersonal skills, but from work, financial situations and the broader economic environment. Though sold in the language of women's growth, such products and services may produce the exact opposite.

## More Practical Ph.D.s

**Workers' Daily**  
**June 3**

On May 29, Nanjing University held an unusual Ph.D. defense: Wang Haoran, a doctoral student in electronic information, passed not by submitting a conventional dissertation, but by presenting practical achievements.

He is not alone. Since last year, a host of prestigious universities, including Tsinghua University and Beihang University, have produced Ph.D.s whose degrees rest on applied results.

For decades, the dissertation has been the main checkpoint of doctoral training. But in engineering and other

practice-heavy disciplines, judging every candidate by the same academic yardstick has become increasingly ill-suited. Some students spend years tackling industrial problems or delivering scientific projects, only to find their most valuable work counts for less than a conventional thesis.

China's new Law on Academic Degrees, which took effect in January 2025, seeks to change that. It gives practical achievements the same status as dissertations in degree applications. That should benefit both industry and academia. Advanced manufacturing, the digital economy and the broader real economy all need highly trained problem-solvers. Universities, too, can put more weight on practical ability and real-world problem-solving.

## ↓ YOUNG SOCCER TALENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

**Meng Xinyi** made headlines on June 2 after scoring the decisive penalty that helped the Chinese Football Boy under-12s (U12) team win the Sigismondi Cup, a major youth soccer tournament held each year in Rome, Italy. The 12-year-old calmly converted the final spot kick in a tense shootout, securing a 5-4 victory over the U12 team of Britain's Everton Football Club.

After scoring the winning goal, Meng celebrated with a backflip that drew cheers from the crowd and quickly captured attention from media and fans.

The tournament featured 48 teams from around the world. China's young squad won all seven matches on their way to the title. Along with his teammates, Meng, a sixth grader in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, is hailed as a symbol of the growing promise of China's next generation of soccer talent.



“We are moving away from the past one-size-fits-all, experience-based management model, making black soil conservation evidence-based, precise and efficient.”

**Jiang Ming**, Director of the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, regarding the protection of the black soil, fertile soil found mainly in northeast China, which is responsible for about a quarter of China's total grain output

“Rescuing stranded whales and dolphins is extremely challenging, and the success rate remains low. But as long as there is even a glimmer of hope, we will never give up.”

**Li Haiqin**, head of a cetacean rescue team in Sanya, Hainan Province, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency about a recent rescue



The Caochiguan Crested Ibis Village in Shiquan County, Shaanxi Province, in late June 2025

**COVER STORY**

# THE CALL OF THE WILD

One national park unites three provinces to restore wildlife and harmony

By Tao Zihui