

OPINION: COOPERATION ON AI P.36 | FEATURES: TECH ON THE STEPPE P.42

BEIJINGREVIEW

VOL.69 NO.42 OCTOBER 15, 2026

北京周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The power of head-of-state diplomacy



RMB9.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF2.60
JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914260

42

郵發代號2922·國內統一連續出版物號: CN11-1576/G2

Follow CICG Americas

And get in on the conversation



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



China Hoy



China Hoje



CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

02 Stable, Constructive Relations

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 Handshake Across the Pacific

Xi's U.S. visit delivers smiles and substance

18 Two State Visits, One New Framework

The progress behind the pageantry in Washington

21 The Bigger Picture

An ancient proverb as a lens on China-U.S. ties

22 Flags, Flyovers and Cultural Diplomacy

Beyond ceremony, people-to-people exchanges matter

24 Lessons From the China-U.S. Summit

A look at the shifting global balance of power

26 Beyond the Trap and the Shackles

The global implications of the Washington summit

28 In Pursuit of Stability

New outcomes contribute to greater global certainty

30 Beyond the AI 'Race' Metaphor

Competition does not eliminate the need for cooperation

32 Greater Alignment

State visit outcomes are a turning point for China and the U.S.

OPINION

34 Sharp Silhouette, Soft Power

First Lady diplomacy: Peng Liyuan in the U.S.

35 The Enabling Power

Managing the present order while building the multipolar future

36 The Complementary in the Competitive

Homegrown AI companies are pushing Chinese models toward the global frontier

38 From Catch-Up to Champion

WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai shows China's strength in skills training

FEATURES

40 Digital Threads, Ancient Lore

Beijing Culture Forum engages more youth in cultural heritage protection

42 From Potato Capital to Token Hub

An AI boom on the grasslands of Inner Mongolia

CULTURE

46 Enduring Spirit

Long March exhibition recreates the experience of the epic trek

FORUM

48 Will a Phone Ban Improve Attentiveness in University Classes?

Cover Photo: U.S. President Donald Trump hosts a welcome ceremony for Chinese President Xi Jinping at the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 24 (XINHUA)

©2026 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



www.bjreview.com



amazon

Follow us on



BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader



Please recycle



北京周报

BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

President: Xin Feng
Associate Editor in Chief: Liu Yanyun
Vice Presidents: He Peng, Gao Dingbo, Yu Shujun
Program Supervisor: Zeng Wenhui
Executive Editor: Yan Wei
Production Director: Yao Bin
Editors: Wang Hairong, Zhang Shasha, Lu Yan
Researcher: Lan Xinzheng
Editorial Consultants: Elsbeth van Paridon, G.P. Wilson
Reporters: Ji Jing, Kang Caiqi, Li Qing, Li Wenhan, Li Xiaoyang, Liang Xiao, Ma Miaomiao, Pan Xiaoqiao, Peng Jiawei, Tao Zihui, Wang Jun, Wang Ruohan, Yuan Yuan, Zhang Yage
Photographer: Wei Yao
Art: Li Shigong
Design Director: Wang Yajuan
Chief Designer: Cui Xiaodong
Designer: Wang Boyan
Editorial Administrator: Zeng Wenhui
Planning Director: Xu Bei
Deputy Planning Director: Li Nan
World News Director: Ding Ying
Director of Digital Media: Li Fangfang
Director of Strategic Research: Zan Jifang
Deputy Director of Strategic Research: Lu Ling
Deputy Director of International Cooperation: Zhao Wei
Administration: Zhang Yajie
Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau (New York City)
Chief: Yu Shujun
Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334
E-mail: yushujun@cicgamerica.com
Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)
Chief: Miao Ye
Tel: 52-55-55127271
Fax: 52-55-55332027
E-mail: chinahoyrx@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@cicgamerica.com
Distribution
Tel: 86-10-68310644
E-mail: circulation@cicgamerica.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)
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/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

Stable, Constructive Relations

President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States on September 23-25 produced eight key outcomes. Among them, Xi and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to further define the "constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability," agreed upon during Trump's state visit to Beijing in May, as being "on the basis of respect, fairness and reciprocity." The continued development of this framework is an encouraging sign of a growing commitment to positive and constructive engagement.

The new framework does not aim to eliminate differences, but to bring them under control. It is expected to contribute to the avoidance of zero-sum interactions, offering the international community a feasible model for peaceful coexistence among major countries.

Other outcomes include a reciprocal tariff reduction on approximately \$30 billion worth of goods imported from each other, the establishment of the Board of Trade and other mechanisms, the opening of the China-U.S. AI Dialogue and increased collaboration between counter-narcotics and law enforcement agencies. All these contribute to a predictable policy environment for businesses in both countries in the short term and inject much-needed certainty into the global market.

Throughout Trump's second presidential term, the two heads of state have maintained close communication, holding three meetings, five telephone conversations and multiple exchanges of correspondence since January 2025. This has fostered a pattern of mutual respect and sincerity.

As the latest deliverables and understandings are implemented, the constructive relationship of strategic stability between China and the U.S. is expected to become a key pillar supporting the international order. In an increasingly turbulent world, constructive interaction will be indispensable for both countries in addressing global challenges and deescalating hotspot issues.

Currently, structural inconsistencies in China-U.S. relations remain unresolved. The United States still views China as a security threat. The bipartisan consensus on containing China's rise remains unchanged. The trend of "selective decoupling" in the technology and investment sectors has not reversed. Against this backdrop, the significance of a constructive relationship of strategic stability lies not in resolving conflicts, but in preventing them from getting out of control. For China, the United States and the world at large, the very existence of this safety barrier is of great value. **BR**



WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: editorsoffice@cicgamerica.com

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

CHINA.....RMB9.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70
AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20
CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90
TÜRKIYE.....TRY5.00 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）

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

编委会主任：辛峰

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42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



FLORAL TRIBUTE

A giant floral basket in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on October 1, China's National Day. Placed in the square annually for National Day celebrations, the baskets are a popular attraction for tourists.



Tech-Powered Treks

Tourists wearing exoskeleton robots hike in the Hengshan Mountain scenic area in Hengyang City, Hunan Province, on October 6. Advanced technologies such as exoskeleton devices and AI-powered glasses enabled diverse and dazzling experiences at tourist destinations across China during the National Day holiday (October 1-7).

Strong Tourism Demand

China's holiday railway return rush peaked on October 7, with 24.15 million passenger trips expected on the final day of the National Day holiday (October 1-7), China State Railway Group Co. Ltd. (China Railway) said on the afternoon of that day.

A total of 2,449 additional passenger trains were scheduled on October 7 to cope with the surge in demand, according to China Railway.

On October 6, the country's railways handled 21.6 million passenger trips, the third consecutive day with more than 20 million journeys. Railway authorities across the country added services and expanded overnight operations to facilitate the return rush.

Meanwhile, county-level destinations and nighttime consumption emerged as

notable trends. County-level destinations gained popularity as travelers increasingly sought slower-paced and more immersive experiences away from major cities. From the coastal county of Lingshui in Hainan Province to Mohe, a county-level city on the country's northern frontier in Heilongjiang Province, smaller destinations are drawing visitors with distinctive local experiences. Nighttime consumption flourished in many cities, with cultural performances, night markets, light shows and food fairs extending visitor stays and enriching holiday experiences.

Undersea Highway

China's longest undersea highway tunnel completed all shield-driven excavation work on October 2 as a shield machine reached its designated position at a depth of 105

meters beneath the sea surface in Jiaozhou Bay, Shandong Province, according to China Railway Construction Corp. Ltd.

The Qingdao Jiaozhou Bay Second Tunnel will connect Qingdao's main urban area with the Qingdao West Coast New Area. The latter is a national-level new area. The 17.48-km project includes a 14.37-km main tunnel section, featuring two main tunnels and a middle service tunnel, with three lanes in each direction and a design speed of 80 km per hour.

The project used a combination of drill-and-blast and shield tunneling methods, advancing from both the east and west shores of Jiaozhou Bay and meeting under the sea.

The main shield section has a maximum depth of 95 meters below the sea surface, and the service tunnel reaches 105 meters, with the high water pressure requiring stringent sealing and waterproofing.

Autonomous-Driving Conference

Cooperation on autonomous-driving technology and coordination on standards and rules will be key topics at a major automotive industry conference in Beijing, organizers said on September 28.

The 2026 World Intelligent Connected Vehicles Conference will be held from October 21 to 23 in Yizhuang, Beijing.

The conference will showcase breakthroughs in core technologies, industry advances and examples of large-scale deployment in areas that include autonomous driving, in-vehicle AI and vehicle-road-cloud coordination.

The world's first global technical regulation on automated driving systems was adopted in June. It was jointly developed by China, the European Union, Britain, the United States, Canada and Japan.

Yizhuang is home to the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, also known as Beijing E-Town. The area has cultivated and strengthened a modern system of emerging and forward-looking industries.

The conference, launched in 2018, has become an important platform for the global auto industry to drive technological innovation, promote international exchanges and build consensus.

High-Speed Rail

A high-speed railway line from Yichang City in Hubei Province to Xingshan, one of the city's outer counties, began service on September 28, facilitating tourism, industrial development and rural revitalization in the mountainous region, according to China Railway Wuhan Bureau Group Co. Ltd., its operator.

Traversing the Daba Mountains, the 101-km line, with a

design speed of 350 km per hour, connects China's two major high-speed railway arteries, namely the Shanghai-Chongqing-Chengdu line and the Zhengzhou-Chongqing line.

The design and construction teams applied numerous new technologies and construction techniques to tackle challenges posed by complex geological conditions. Bridges and tunnels account for more than 94 percent of the line, said Shang Zejin, chief designer of the railway.

Opened shortly before China's National Day holiday from October 1 to 7, the railway is expected to boost tourist flows between major cities including Wuhan in Hubei, Zhengzhou in Henan Province and Chongqing, as well as iconic attractions such as the Three Gorges region along the Yangtze River, unleashing renewed economic momentum for the central region.

Winter Universiade

Medals, the torch, uniforms and equipment for the Changchun 2027 Winter Universiade were unveiled on October 7 at a 100-day countdown event at Changchun International Aviation Expo City in Changchun, Jilin Province.

The torch, named Ji Xiang, is inspired by the *clivia*, Changchun's city flower. Its upper section features a filmstrip motif and 12 winter sports icons representing the Games' disciplines, a reference to Changchun's film industry. The medals, named Ji Meng, combine traditional Chinese cultural elements, winter sports imagery and features associated with Changchun.

Uniforms for torchbearers, torch escorts, volunteers, staff, technical delegates and ceremony personnel were also unveiled.

The Changchun 2027 Winter Universiade will be held from January 15 to 25, with competitions in Changchun and nearby Jilin City.

NEV Wireless Charging

Researchers from Chinese and British institutions have developed a wireless charging system for new-energy vehicles (NEVs) with conversion efficiency exceeding 98 percent.

The system could support the large-scale use of autonomous vehicles and has potential in sectors such as rail transit, industrial robots and low-altitude aircraft.

A fully automated charging



Global Puppets Enchant Shanghai

A puppet show by an Italian puppet troupe at the opening ceremony of the 10th "Golden Magnolia" Shanghai International Puppet Art Week in Shanghai on October 5. This year's event featured 11 outstanding puppet shows from 10 different countries.

solution that requires no manual intervention is seen as key to the commercial rollout of autonomous vehicles. Inductive power transfer is widely regarded as an ideal route to such charging.

But mainstream ferrite-core solutions face challenges in efficiency, power density and thermal stability. Improving power density and thermal stability while maintaining high efficiency has been a core bottleneck for wireless charging technology.

Researchers from the Dongguan Institute of Materials Science and Technology in south China's Guangdong Province, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), worked with the City University of Hong Kong, the University of Cambridge and the Institute of Physics under the CAS to develop a 20 kw-class wireless charging system for NEVs based on nanocrystalline alloys, achieving conversion efficiency of 98.51 percent.



A Dramatic Feast

A stage drama underway in a commercial street in Tianjin on October 6. During the National Day holiday, Tianjin unveiled a special segment of its 2026 Theatre Festival, an event running for three months from September 20. Streets, alleys, and historic landmarks across the city are being transformed into open-air stages, offering a captivating drama experience for all.

Panda Bonds

Foreign issuers accounted for 54 percent of funds raised through panda bonds in China in the first half (H1) of 2026, exceeding the share raised by Chinese issuers for the first time, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

Panda bonds are yuan-denominated bonds issued in China's domestic market by overseas entities such as sovereign governments, international financial institutions and multinational companies.

Foreign issuers raised 58.7 billion yuan (\$8.7 billion) for overseas use, accounting for 68 percent of their total proceeds, the SAFE said in its report on China's international balance of payments for H1, released on September 29.

To date, cumulative panda bond issuance has exceeded 1.3 trillion yuan (\$194 billion), with issuers from 26 countries and regions.

Analysts say lower renminbi

financing costs have been a major reason for the record-high panda bond issuance this year, while the booming panda bond market is also creating a positive interplay with the yuan's internationalization.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said it will support more eligible overseas entities in issuing such bonds.

Generative AI Users

Users of generative AI in China had surpassed 700 million in number by the end of June 2026, according to a report released by the China Internet Network Information Center in late September.

The penetration rate of generative AI had exceeded 50 percent, the report noted.

There had been a diversified range of application scenarios for this technology, the report said, adding that the main scenario is to use generative AI as a conversation tool.

A total of 76 percent of users employed it to answer questions, it

revealed.

Noting that the potential of consumption regarding intelligent technology, with purchases of smart devices as a representative, had been unleashed at a faster speed, the report said 38.7 percent of Internet users bought smart devices online during the past six months.

China's first homegrown AI supercluster boasting 100,000 graphics processing units had been put into use, according to the report, which added that this underpinned the country's independent innovation regarding AI.

Generative AI had been empowering in-depth industrial transformation and upgrading, making various sectors smarter, said the report.

It also said that embodied AI had represented one of the most active areas in AI development. With increasingly improved capabilities for performing sophisticated tasks, embodied AI robots had been applied in many sectors like industrial manufacturing,

surgical operations and everyday life services.

Mortgage Interest Subsidies

China began to offer interest subsidies for housing loans on October 1, with a tentative implementation period of one year.

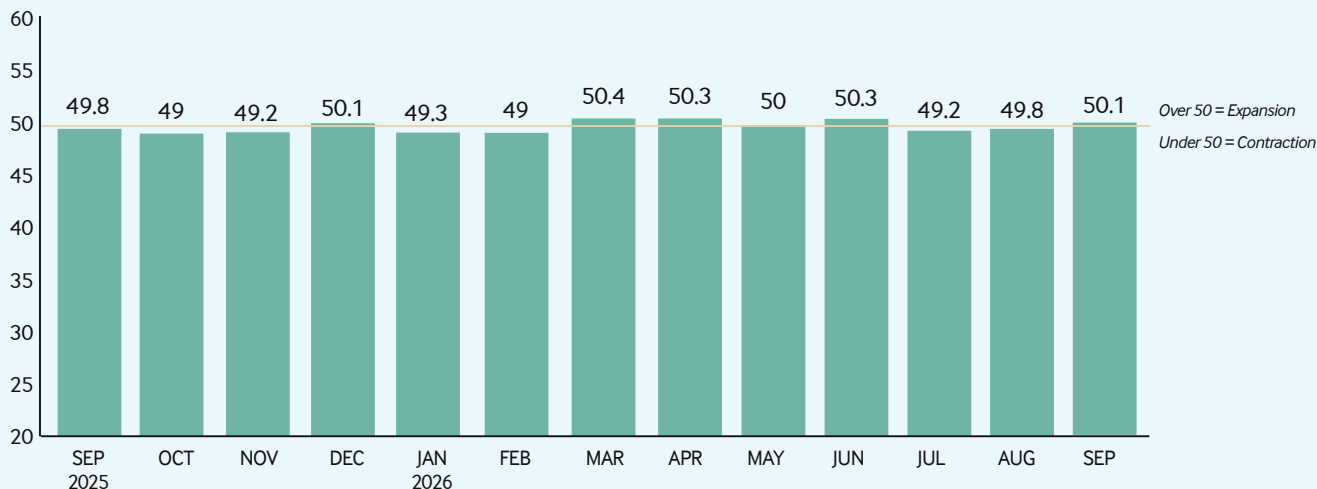
During this period, for eligible first-time homebuyers, the fiscal authorities will provide an annualized subsidy of 1 percentage point, according to a notice jointly issued by the Ministry of Finance, the People's Bank of China and the National Financial Regulatory Administration on September 29.

This is the first time the Central Government has offered interest subsidies on commercial housing loans.

This interest subsidy policy is focused on first-time homebuyers. The floor area of each purchased unit must not exceed 120 square meters, and the purchase price must not surpass 1.5 million yuan (\$223,730).

NUMBERS

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



Under this policy, the maximum amount of interest-subsidized loans can reach 1 million yuan (\$149,153), and the subsidy period can extend up to five years.

According to estimates, for a long-term 1-million-yuan commercial personal mortgage, the subsidies could help borrowers reduce cumulative interest payments by nearly 50,000 yuan (\$7,458).

By defining housing price, floor area and loan category, the policy aims to benefit target groups and help lower-income families reduce their monthly mortgage burdens, the departments said.

External Debt

China's external debt rose in the second quarter of 2026 amid active cross-border trade, while the latest available debt-risk indicators were within internationally recognized safety thresholds.

Outstanding external debt stood at \$2.4982 trillion at the end of June, up \$86.1 billion, or 4

percent, from the end of March, data from SAFE showed on September 29.

The increase was mainly driven by relatively active cross-border trade, with both corporate trade credit and intercompany lending rising, said Li Bin, deputy head and spokesperson of SAFE.

Li said China's external debt remained generally stable in the second quarter.

China's goods imports and exports reached 13.61 trillion yuan (\$2.03 trillion) in the second quarter, up 18.4 percent year on year, the fastest year-on-year growth for any quarter since the third quarter of 2021, according to data from the General Administration of Customs. Trade value in June alone rose 24.2 percent year on year, marking 17 consecutive months of growth.

Yuan-denominated external debt accounted for 56 percent of the total at the end of June, up 1 percentage point from the end of March, while medium- and long-term debt held steady at 41 percent.

SAFE said in July that the share of yuan-denominated external debt had risen while medium- and long-term debt had remained broadly stable at over 40 percent in recent years, with currency and maturity mismatch risks seeing significant declines.

Moderate external borrowing allows Chinese companies and banks to tap both domestic and international markets, diversify financing channels and improve operational efficiency, while risks stemming from excessive debt levels require continued monitoring, SAFE said.

At the end of 2025, China's outstanding external debt was equivalent to 11.9 percent of GDP, below the 20-percent international safety threshold cited by SAFE.

New-Type Battery Industry

China has issued a development plan for its new-type battery industry during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), setting

targets for industrial growth, technological innovation and product quality.

The plan was jointly issued by multiple government departments including the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

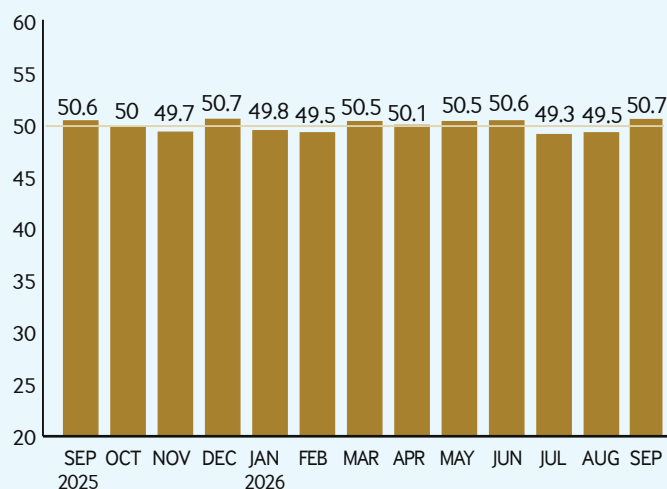
By 2030, China aims to achieve breakthroughs in advanced electrode materials, new electrolytes and high-end auxiliary materials, and make major progress in the development of new battery systems.

The plan envisions the initial large-scale application of all-solid-state batteries and a cycle life of 15,000 cycles for long-life lithium batteries by 2030.

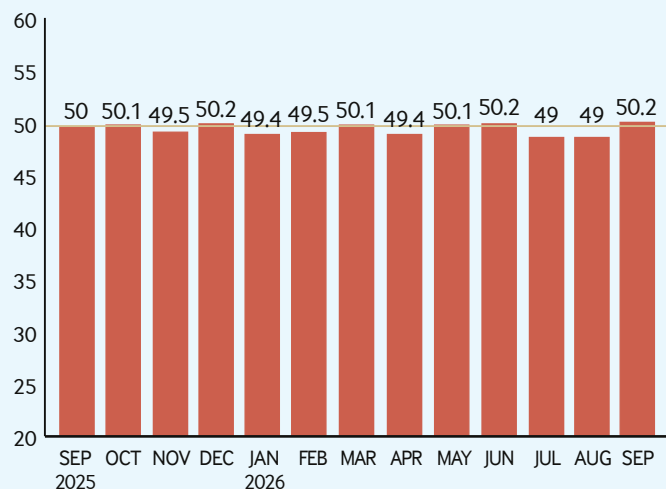
Product defect rates at leading enterprises are expected to reach the parts-per-billion level by 2030, according to the plan.

The plan calls for faster integration and innovation involving new-type battery technologies, clean energy and end-use applications, as well as closer integration of international trade and investment in the industry.

Comprehensive PMI



Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



GERMANY

The venue of the Frankfurt Book Fair in Frankfurt on October 7. The world's largest book fair was held from October 7 to 11



UNITED STATES

Chinese five-string *pipa* virtuoso Fang Jinlong performs with the Manhattan Philharmonic during a Shanghai-themed cultural exchange event, Future Resonance—ShanghaiEye Night, in Washington, D.C. on October 3



KENYA

An Ebola alert poster at Nairobi Hospital in Nairobi on October 7. Kenya confirmed its first imported case of Bundibugyo Ebola virus after a man died in hospital on October 5



SWEDEN

French scientist Henri Kagan and Japanese scientist Kenso Soai are awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis in Stockholm on October 7



TÜRKİYE

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses the opening of the 77th International Astronautical Congress in Antalya on October 5. The five-day event gathered space leaders, researchers and industry representatives from across the globe



BRAZIL

The venue of FEBRAVA Rio, a trade fair specializing in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, at the Riocentro Convention and Event Center in Rio de Janeiro on October 6

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ FIRST CHINESE WINNER OF THE INGE LEHMANN MEDAL

Geophysicist **Song Xiaodong** was awarded the Inge Lehmann Medal by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) on September 23, becoming the first Chinese scientist to receive the honor. He was also elected an AGU fellow on the same occasion.

Song serves as chair professor at the Peking University School of Earth and Space Sciences, chair of the Seismology Committee of the Seismological Society of China, and editor in chief of the English-language journal *Earthquake Science*.

Song earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Science and Technology of China in 1986 and Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology eight years later. He has long been engaged in deep Earth exploration and seismology and has made major discoveries in deep Earth structure and dynamics with over 150 papers published.



From Class to Care

Economic Daily
September 24

Some elementary schools in China's vast rural areas are finding a second life as elderly care centers. As urbanization continues to draw younger people toward towns and cities, falling enrollment has left many village schools empty. At the same time, rural communities face a growing shortage of care facilities as the elderly population expands.

Former schools are well suited to helping fill this gap. Many sit at the center of villages, close to residential areas and transportation links. They already have water,

electricity and basic safety infrastructure, while school playgrounds offer space for older people to walk, exercise and socialize.

Yet turning a school into a care facility requires more than repurposing physical facilities. Elderly care depends on trained staff, professional medical support and reliable funding. Where caregivers are scarce and health services remain weak, renovated premises alone cannot provide sustainable care. Reusing empty schools may help ease a shortage of space, but whether such projects can improve elderly care in rural areas will depend on sustained investment, professional staffing and long-term institutional support.



Morning Markets

Lifeweek
October 5

Long before social media discovered them, morning markets, which typically open around dawn, were already a familiar part of daily life in north China. Now they are attracting a new clientele: young people from all across the country.

In Shenyang, Liaoning Province, a morning market named Heyan became an online sensation in 2023 after online content creators portrayed it as a place for local food and typical northeastern hospitality. Some visitors now head there

“More foreign experts are welcome to work with the Chinese people to create a better future during China's modernization drive, reach new heights in science and strive for the wellbeing of humanity.”

Shen Yiqin, Chinese State Councilor, as she congratulated the 50 international experts honored with the 2026 Chinese Government Friendship Award for their outstanding contributions on September 30

“Entering Xinjiang not only marks a further expansion of our store network, but also allows us to engage deeply with this vibrant market and build sincere, lasting connections with our customers there.”

Molly Liu, Chief Executive Officer of Starbucks China, as the international coffee chain giant opened two stores in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in late September, making its debut in the region

straight from the railway station, prompting the market to offer free luggage storage. In Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, the Stadium Morning Market has undergone a similar transformation. Once frequented mainly by older residents exercising nearby, it now attracts tourists and younger locals, while some vendors have expanded their reach further by livestreaming to online audiences.

Morning markets are not the only draw. Local breakfast traditions are also becoming attractions for Chinese travelers. In Wuzhong, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, *zaocha*, which translates to morning tea, combines beef noodles and a local tea. Over time, it has evolved into a broader social ritual, with people gathering to meet friends and linger well into the morning.

For younger generations, morning markets fit a new lifestyle ideal, one built around early rising and a stronger connection to local communities. Much of their appeal lies in this sense of place. They still offer homegrown vegetables, wild produce and regional snacks that standardized supermarkets and restaurants often lack. Their growing popularity, however, brings a challenge: attracting visitors without turning living neighborhoods into tourist attractions.

Produce Out of Place

Beijing Daily
September 30

On the fringes of the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, an unlikely aquaculture industry is taking root. Around Kashgar, ponds are now producing freshwater lobsters, crabs and other aquatic products. The area is far from the sea, but rivers fed by glacial melt from the Kunlun Mountains and the Pamir Plateau provide a reliable source of freshwater.

Turning deserts into fish farms has not been easy. Large swings in temperature, frequent sandstorms and weak infrastructure have all raised costs. Early efforts required constant testing to adjust water

quality. In recent years, better roads, electricity infrastructure and modern farming technologies have eased some of those constraints, with feeding, drainage and other processes increasingly automated.

Kashgar is not alone in defying geography. Caviar from Yaan, Sichuan Province, is being exported to overseas markets; and Nyingchi, Xizang Autonomous Region, has emerged as a cherry-growing hub, benefiting from a later harvest season than many other parts of the country.

These examples offer a lesson for rural development. With advanced technologies and some creative thinking, longstanding constraints can be turned into distinctive competitive advantages.

↓ FIDE VICE PRESIDENT

Chess champion **Xu Yuhua** was elected vice president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) during the FIDE Congress in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on September 26.

A former women's world chess champion, she is the world's only chess player to claim titles from the Chess Olympiad, World Cup and World Championship. Xu is currently secretary general of the Chinese Chess Association.



Born in Zhejiang Province, Xu began learning chess at the age of 6. She was selected for the national training team in 1989. She won the Women's World Cup in 2000 and 2002, secured three Olympiad team gold medals for China, and was crowned Women's World Chess Champion in 2006.

"It is a sport that fosters friendship and helps more people get to know each other."

Pornchanok Tonusin, a player from Khon Kaen University in Thailand, during the 2026 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Pickleball Invitational, held on October 1-2 in Guiyang, Guizhou Province

"We see this engagement as constructive and look forward to further strengthening and expanding this cooperation into more areas."

Asha Mohammed, Permanent Representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the African Union and International Organizations, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency, noting partnerships between China and African countries strengthen community resilience and build capacity for sustainable development



U.S. President Donald Trump hosts a welcome ceremony for President Xi Jinping during Xi's state visit to the United States at the White House in Washington, D.C. on September 24

COVER STORY

HANDSHAKE ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Xi-Trump summit in Washington, D.C. provides new strategic guidance for
China-U.S. ties By Ma Miaomiao