OPINION: U.S. MIDTERMS AND IRAN P.20 | FEATURES: LOVE FOR LOCAL DIALECTS P.40

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Cover Photo: The Jiuduntan Photovoltaic Desert Control Demonstration Park in Wuwei, Gansu Province, on September 9 (CHEN JIAN)

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Green Beneath the Glare

The UN Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Türkiye, scheduled for November 9-20, brings negotiations and consultations on numerous issues related to implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the landmark Paris Agreement, covering mitigation, adaptation, climate finance and just transitions.

As global warming escalates and desertification expands, the twin challenges of reversing ecological degradation and transitioning to a low-carbon economy are testing the governance wisdom of countries worldwide. Each year's UN Climate Change Conference channels the world's collective efforts to address the climate crisis and restore ecosystems. In the Gobi Desert in northwest China, a novel approach—using photovoltaic panels to generate power while growing vegetation beneath and between the panels to stabilize the sand—offers a practical way to advance both climate action and desertification control.

For a long time, desertification and climate change have reinforced each other in a vicious cycle. Traditional governance often fell into a dilemma: Focusing solely on desert control proved economically unsustainable, while low-carbon transition frequently hit bottlenecks such as land scarcity and high ecological costs. China's "solar power plus desert control" approach addresses this governance challenge directly and redefines the value of desert land.

Photovoltaic panels laid out in vast arrays across deserts serve as a "green barrier." While generating electricity, they shelter drought-tolerant, sand-stabilizing plants beneath them, reducing water evaporation. This forms a virtuous cycle of power generation, sand stabilization and soil protection. Today, once barren areas such as the Hobq (Kubuqi) Desert and the Mu Us (Maowusu) Desert have become hubs for green energy. The transition has not only curbed desertification but also consistently generated green electricity and reduced carbon emissions, advancing both ecological restoration and the national twin goals of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, to be reached before 2030 and 2060, respectively.

Beyond ecological benefits, the photovoltaic desert control model also builds a sustainable development system, putting inclusive climate governance into practice.

Idle desert land is revitalized, green electricity facilitates low-carbon transformation, and industries such as under-panel planting help local people increase incomes. These once ecologically fragile regions are becoming green growth belts—proof that ecological protection, economic growth and people's improved wellbeing can all be realized together. **BR**



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GLOBAL SHOWCASE

Running from November 5 to 10, the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first national-level exhibition dedicated to imports, attracted more than 4,000 overseas exhibitors. Beyond hosting large multinationals, this year including over 300 *Fortune* Global 500 companies and other industry leaders, the CIIE has become a platform for small enterprises, particularly those from the Global South, to access China's vast and growing market.



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Harvest Happenings

Tourists try their hands at rice threshing in Ping'an Village of Longsheng County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on November 1. This year has seen a surge in international visitors drawn to the area to enjoy and participate in autumn harvest farming activities.

World Internet Conference

As open-source technologies took center stage at the 2026 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit that opened on November 3, guests called for open collaboration on AI and shared innovation in cyberspace.

Held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province, the summit gathered about 1,800 delegates from 138 countries and regions, under the theme "Open Source and Openness, Joint Contribution and Shared Benefits—Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace."

Addressing the opening ceremony of the summit, Chinese Premier Li Qiang called for joint efforts to build a community with a shared future in cyberspace.

"China will continue to pursue open innovation, promote technology transfer and knowledge sharing, and work with all to build an open, inclusive and dynamic global ecosystem for digital innovation," Li said.

First held in 2014, the Wuzhen Summit brings together government officials, representatives of international organizations, technology executives and researchers to discuss the development and governance of the Internet.

Volatile Winter

China is expected to experience an unusually volatile winter, with more frequent cold waves and heightened risks of heavy snowfall and freezing rain, as a super El Niño event develops in the Pacific, the China Meteorological Administration said on November 3.

The El Niño event developed into the strongest on record by October and is expected to peak in late autumn or early winter and have a significant impact on China's climate this winter and next spring, according to Gao Rong, Deputy Director of the National Climate Center.

"During the 2026-27 winter, temperatures across most of the country are forecast to be near or above the seasonal average," Gao said.

The season is likely to feature a colder first half and a warmer second half, with frequent sharp temperature swings in December and January, he said.

Despite the overall warmer outlook, cold waves are expected to occur slightly more frequently than usual, Gao added.

Railway Parcel Services

China's railway authorities launched a 20-day express delivery operation on November 1 to handle the Singles' Day online shopping rush, with high-speed rail express capacity expected to increase 10 percent year on year, according to China Railway Express.

Singles' Day, also known as Double 11, is a major annual shopping festival in China centered on November 11, when online promotions generate a surge in parcel deliveries.

China Railway Express, a logistics provider under China State Railway Group, the national railway operator, combines rail transport with road pickup and delivery to offer door-to-door services. The special operation runs through November 20.

The expanded services come as China's express delivery market continues to grow. The sector handled 151.3 billion parcels in the first nine months of this year, up 4.3 percent year on year, according to the State Post Bureau.

China's extensive high-speed rail network allows express shipments to move between cities using spare capacity on passenger trains as well as dedicated freight services. Together with conventional rail routes and road transportation, the network helps connect producers with consumers nationwide, particularly for time-sensitive goods such as fresh food and flowers.

Porcelain Capital Awarded

The global observance of 2026 World Cities Day was held on October 31 in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, with five cities, including China's "porcelain capital" of Jingdezhen in Jiangxi Province, honored with the fourth-cycle Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, also known as the Shanghai Award.

The event ran from October 31 to November 2. Apart from Jingdezhen, the other four recipients of the Shanghai Award, which recognizes cities for achievements in sustainable urban development, were Addis Ababa in Ethiopia,

Santiago de Cali in Colombia, Istanbul in Türkiye, and Katowice in Poland.

The event brought together senior UN officials alongside representatives from national governments, local authorities, international organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and community networks to share best practices and advance practical solutions to common urban challenges.

In December 2013, the 68th UN General Assembly adopted a resolution designating October 31 as World Cities Day starting in 2014. It was the first international day proposed by the Chinese Government at the UN.

Giant Panda Population

The captive population of giant pandas in China has reached 830, while the genetic diversity of the population continues to improve, an official said at the Global Panda Partners 2026 conference on November 3.

At the event held in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, on November 2-4, Li Yunqing, deputy head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, said that the construction of ecological corridors has helped 13 local giant panda populations reconnect as one metapopulation, with habitat connectivity markedly improved.

More than 150 sightings of giant pandas and other species have been recorded in corridor areas, and pandas are now frequently observed roaming between habitats and meeting potential mates, according to him.

Noting that this year is the 30th anniversary of international scientific research cooperation on giant pandas, the official said that China has cooperated with 26 institutions in 20 countries, resulting in 69 giant pandas living overseas and 73 cubs successfully bred, while the species has drawn over 1 billion visits worldwide.

New Bridge

The Zhijiang Yangtze River Bridge passed handover acceptance inspection on October 31, paving the way for the roughly 100,000 residents of Bailizhou Island to finally commute directly to downtown Zhijiang once the bridge opens to traffic in mid-December.

Administered by Zhijiang, Hubei Province, Bailizhou is the largest island in the middle reaches of the Yangtze. For thousands of years, ferries were the only way for its residents to travel to and from the mainland. Not only were they tied to the ferries' schedules, but trips were often canceled when the weather created dangerous conditions. Getting downtown on a clear day could take several hours.

"Pears picked at 3 a.m. have to wait until 6:30 a.m. to be loaded onto the ferry. After a bumpy ride, 20 to 30 percent of them are spoiled," pear farmer Zhang Xiaolong said.

That all comes to an end once the bridge opens. It will connect Bailizhou directly with downtown Zhijiang. The travel time will plummet to just five minutes.

The bridge includes a 4.5-meter-wide slow-travel lane in each direction, becoming Hubei's first expressway bridge equipped with dedicated lanes for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles.



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Robot, Ready, Go!

A humanoid robot competes in the inaugural World Robot Mount Tai Climbing Competition on Mount Tai in Tai'an, Shandong Province, on November 2. Nearly 90 teams navigated the historic hiking trails of Mount Tai during the event.



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Dazzling Dunhuang

University students and teachers from Oklahoma, the United States, perform at the Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring scenic area in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, on November 2. Artists from China, the U.S. and Belarus gathered in Dunhuang, staging flash mobs at scenic spots that same day.

Pillar Industries

China will strengthen support for its emerging pillar industries to promote high-quality development, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said on November 3.

The output value of emerging pillar industries is projected to exceed 10 trillion yuan ($1.4 trillion) by the end of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), almost doubling from nearly 6 trillion yuan ($898 billion) last year, Ren Zhongbao, an official with the NDRC, told a press conference.

In the first three quarters of 2026, China's integrated circuit output reached 442.8 billion units, up 23.3 percent year on year. The value of the country's innovative drug out-licensing deals totaled roughly $130 billion in this period, close to the total for all of last year, according to the NDRC.

Ren said the country will increase fiscal and financial policy support, and guide social capital into emerging pillar industries.

The NDRC also said China will support enterprises in taking the lead in implementing national science and technology projects and in building innovation platforms.

China has vowed to bolster emerging pillar industries such as integrated circuits, aerospace, biomedicine, the low-altitude economy (airborne economic activities below 1,000 meters), new energy storage and intelligent robotics to foster new growth momentum.

The country will focus on quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen energy, nuclear fusion energy, brain-computer interfaces, embodied intelligence and 6G in developing future industries. It will also encourage regions to develop sub-sectors where they have comparative advantages, the NDRC said.

Audiovisual Sectors

China's television and online audiovisual sectors have developed into mega-markets with more than 1 billion users each, according to an industry report released on November 3.

The report showed that by the end of 2025, the number of television users had exceeded 1 billion, while the online audiovisual user base had reached 1.099 billion.

Commissioned by the National Radio and Television Administration and compiled by its development research center, the report brings the radio and television sectors and the online audiovisual sector under a unified research framework.

According to the report, China's television viewing time totaled 638.7 billion hours in 2025, with viewers spending an average of 4 hours and 5 minutes per day watching TV. Online audiovisual users spent an average of 201 minutes per day using such services.

Total revenue of radio, television and online audiovisual industries totaled over 1.546 trillion yuan ($230 billion) in 2025, up 5.22 percent year on year and increasing by 67.82 percent from the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period. Online audiovisual service providers accounted for 53.63 percent of the total revenue, the report revealed.

Policy Rate Anchor

The People's Bank of China (PBC), the country's central bank, on November 2 changed its main policy rate from the seven-day reverse repo rate to the overnight reverse repo rate as it conducted 541 billion yuan ($80.6 billion) of overnight reverse repos.

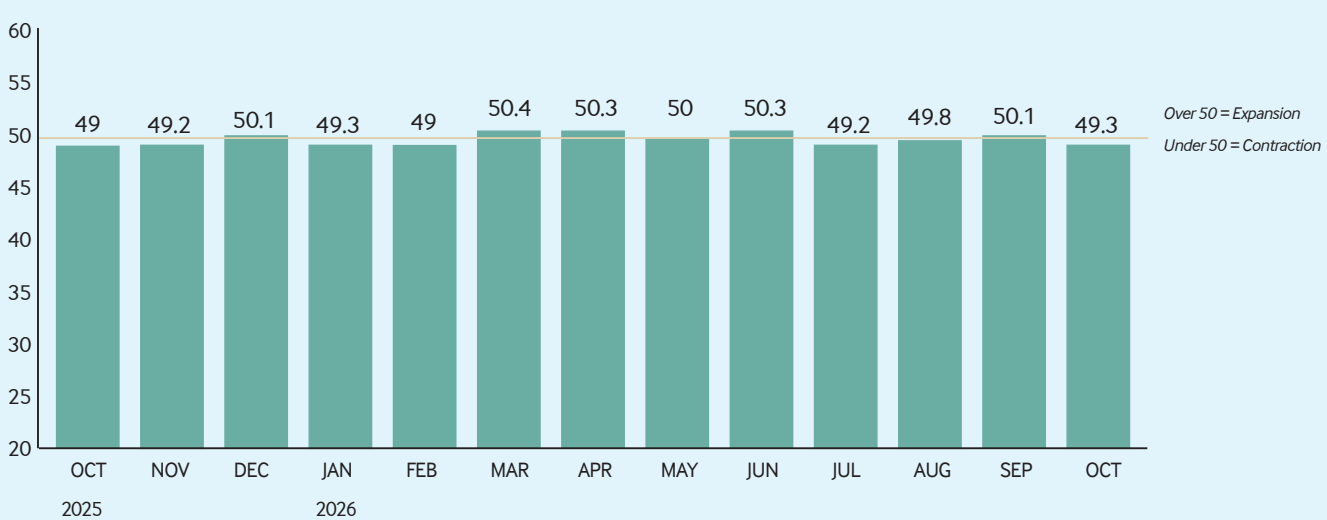
The PBC conducted this operation at an interest rate of 1.25 percent through fixed-rate, quantity-based bidding. It was the first operation under a revised mechanism announced in late October.

An overnight reverse repo is a transaction in which the central bank purchases securities from financial institutions with an agreement to sell them back the next day. The operation provides liquidity to the financial system.

Under the revised mecha-

NUMBERS

China's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



nism, the PBC will conduct overnight reverse repo operations every working day, with overnight operations becoming its main open market instrument.

Other tools previously priced relative to the seven-day reverse repo rate, such as temporary repo and reverse repo operations, will instead be linked to the overnight reverse repo rate, with existing spreads unchanged.

Analysts said the adjustment marks another step toward strengthening price-based monetary policy regulation, with a shorter-term main policy rate and more consistent benchmarks across policy tools.

Logistics Performance

China's total value of national social logistics reached 280 trillion yuan ($42 trillion) in the January-September period, up 4.9 percent year on year, data from the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing showed.

In the first three quarters of 2026, the value of industrial goods logistics rose 5.3 percent year on year, contributing 78 percent to the growth of the total.

Within this growth, equipment manufacturing and hi-tech manufacturing played a prominent leading role, with their shares rising to 37.6 percent and 18.3 percent, respectively, according to the federation.

Logistics volumes for new products such as smart wristbands, 3D printing equipment and sensors surged 77.1 percent, 62.5 percent and 16.4 percent year on year, respectively, highlighting an accelerated shift toward new and upgraded industrial logistics demand, the data showed.

From January to September, the total cost of social logistics reached 14.8 trillion yuan ($2.2 trillion), up 4.2 percent year on year. The ratio of total social logistics costs to GDP stood at 13.8 percent, down 0.2 percentage points from the same period last year.

Foreign Business Access

China has unveiled 16 measures to make it easier for foreign businesses and professionals to operate in the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), the world's largest FTP by area, with new policies covering energy trade, medical services and bonded business operations, according to a government circular made public on October 29.

Under the measures, foreign physicians legally licensed to practice medicine overseas may obtain permits to provide clinical diagnosis and treatment services in Hainan for up to three years, with extensions available in accordance with relevant regulations.

More convenient policies regarding work permits and stay and residence will also be introduced for foreign nationals.

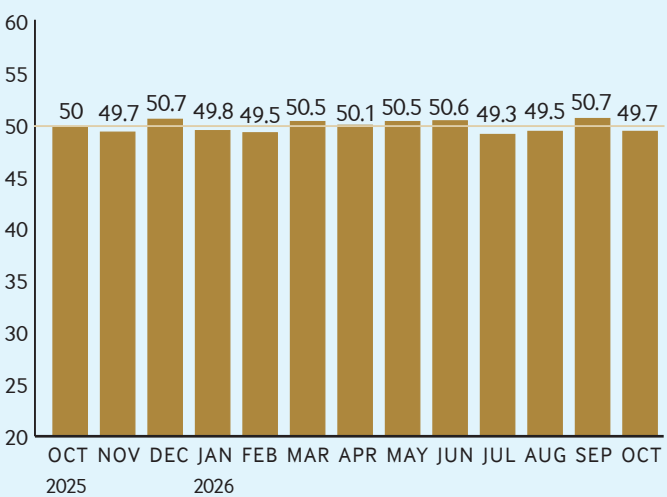
The Hainan FTP, located in China's southernmost island province, launched island-wide special customs operations in December 2025, allowing freer entry of overseas goods, expanded zero-tariff coverage and more business-friendly measures as part of China's efforts to promote high-standard opening up.

Overseas companies will be allowed to use bonded facilities at Hainan's liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminals, while the FTP will be supported in conducting LNG futures delivery warehouse operations after LNG futures contracts are launched.

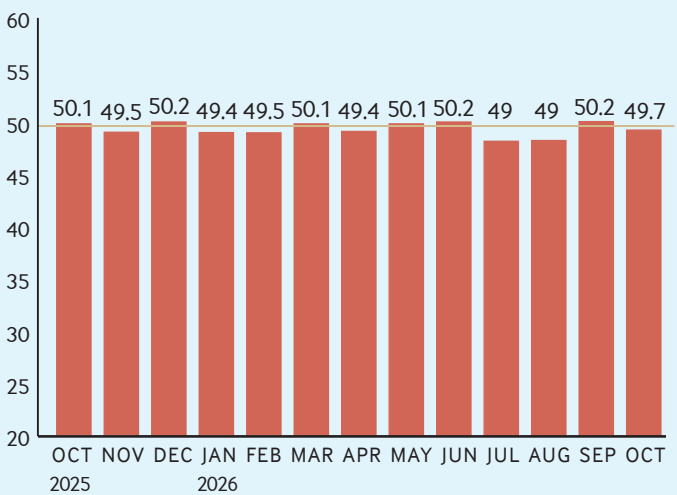
Other measures include promoting offshore trade, expanding the range of products eligible for bonded maintenance, facilitating the entry of eligible bonded remanufactured products into pilot free trade zones on the Chinese mainland, encouraging the use of the yuan in new forms of barter trade, and deepening the FTP's economic and trade cooperation with China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The circular was jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce, the NDRC, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the General Administration of Customs.

China's Comprehensive PMI



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



(Source: *National Bureau of Statistics*)


XINHUA

EGYPT

Visitors at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza on October 28. Covering an area of 500,000 square meters, the world's largest museum dedicated to a single civilization marked the first anniversary of its official opening on October 29

UNITED STATES

Law enforcement officers respond to a plane crash in Palm Beach County, Florida, on November 1. All nine people aboard the business jet were killed in the crash


XINHUA


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SOUTH AFRICA

Voters fill out their ballots at a polling station in Braamfontein, a suburb of Johannesburg, on November 4, the day of the country's sixth local elections since its transition to democracy in 1994



JAPAN

Demonstrators gather in front of the National Diet Building in Tokyo on November 3 to voice opposition to war and defend the country's pacifist Constitution on the 80th anniversary of its promulgation



XINHUA



XINHUA

MEXICO

Residents participate in a vigil to mark the Day of the Dead at San Gregorio Cemetery in Mexico City on November 2



XINHUA

BELARUS

The Fourth Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security opened in Minsk on November 3. The agenda of the event included arms control and the role of new technologies in security

NEW IMF DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has tapped China's Vice Minister of Finance **Liao Min** as its next deputy managing director, succeeding Li Bo, whose term ends on November 30. When he takes office on December 1, Liao will be the fourth Chinese national to hold the post.

Born in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, in 1968, Liao received a master's degree in economics from Peking University in 1993 and an MBA from Judge Business School at Cambridge University in 2006. He began in banking at China Everbright Group and Bank of China, and then rose through financial regulation. He has been China's vice minister of finance since 2018.



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva called Liao a respected policymaker with three decades in banking, financial regulation and macroeconomic governance, deeply engaged in global policy coordination and multilateral fiscal, financial and trade cooperation.

The Bedbug Map

Gmw.cn

November 3

A new mini-program called Bedbug Map has drawn widespread attention in China. It lets users report bedbug sightings in hotels and has collected reports from more than 600 hotels in just over a month.

The map's popularity reflects growing public concern about accommodation hygiene. Location and room rates of a hotel are no longer the only factors travelers consider, pest infestations and other health risks now count too. Yet such problems are often difficult to identify before check-in. By pooling guest reports, the map helps travelers spot potential risks while encouraging hotels to take pest control more seriously.

However, grassroots reporting has its limitations. Some reports contain unclear photos or inaccurate claims, which are difficult to verify. As the map continues to gain popularity, individual efforts alone may no longer be enough to review the growing number of reports. This highlights the need for health authorities to step in and establish a standardized information service, which will help travelers make informed decisions while safeguarding hotels' legitimate rights and interests.



From Pop-Ups to Permanence

Oriental Outlook

October 15

China's young consumers are rediscovering the pleasures of visiting markets. Not just traditional farmers' fairs, but creative markets selling everything from handmade jewellery to artisanal coffee. According to data collected from popular lifestyle app Xiaohongshu (RedNote), more than 120 such events were

"We must adopt the usage of social media where every content creator tells the story the way they see it... Social media is playing a bigger role in demystifying the stereotypes and false narratives."

Confidence Musariri, Acting Manager for Editorial and Operations at the Namibia Press Agency, ahead of the recent World Media Summit in Beijing

"We are not just cultivating talent for the local area, but leaving the whole system behind. Chinese standards and models are truly integrating into and promoting local development."

Mei Wentao of Tianjin Bohai Vocational Technical College, commenting on the Luban Workshop initiative to Xinhua News Agency. With the first workshop established jointly by the college and a Thai institution in 2016, the vocational education program now operates in 32 countries

scheduled across over 20 Chinese cities between September 25 and October 7, a period spanning the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holidays.

These creative markets are not entirely new. The first one opened in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, in 2006. Similar gatherings soon appeared in Beijing and Shanghai. By the mid-2010s, established creative market brands such as Woodstock of Eating and Common Rare had emerged, turning what began as informal gatherings of independent designers and stall owners into more professionally organized events. Since 2022, the sector has expanded rapidly, spreading beyond major cities and increasingly finding a home in shopping malls.

For aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly those selling handmade crafts and creative products, selling at markets is an inexpensive way to get started. Opening a brick-and-mortar shop requires substantial investment and carries considerable risk. A market stall, by contrast, allows small businesses to test products, reach customers directly and build a loyal following at a relatively low cost.

After a period of rapid expansion, the industry now faces a tougher challenge: How to turn fleeting bursts of activity into lasting fixtures of urban life. Doing so will require maintaining quality standards, ensuring safety and managing events effectively.

Tokens Selling, Rules Pending

Nanfang Daily

November 3

This year's annual Double 11 online shopping festival has a new commodity: tokens—the units of data processed by AI models. Token packages from Qwen, Z.ai and other Chinese AI developers are now on sale across major e-commerce platforms.

China's average daily token usage exceeded 500 trillion in June, around four times the level in December 2025. For AI developers, expanding sales through major e-commerce platforms is a wise way to reach a broader consumer base and meet the growing demand for computing power.

Putting tokens on the shelf is only the first step. Rules on tokens' ownership, pricing and refunds are yet to be developed. For example, the standard seven-day unconditional return policy is difficult to apply to tokens, while pricing and consumption rates vary across platforms and models. More importantly, token-related illegal fundraising, speculative trading and misleading promotions require closer attention.

To support the growth of the emerging token market, regulators need to strengthen oversight, businesses need to build up self-regulation and platforms need to take increased responsibility. Clear rules are essential to protect consumers and ensure the token market develops in a safe and sustainable way.

FIRST EVER WUSHU GOLD AT OLYMPICS

Athlete **Lin Yilei**, 15, has made history by winning the first wushu gold medal ever awarded at an Olympic-series event. On November 3 at the 2026 Dakar Youth Olympic Games, Lin placed first in the men's changquan (long fist) combined, topping both the changquan and gunshu (staff) disciplines.

Raised in a sports-loving family in Ruian, Zhejiang Province, Lin took up wushu at age 6. Coaches quickly saw his natural coordination and fierce work ethic, taking him through regional contests into the national youth squad.



The three-day wushu competition, held on November 1-3 at the Dakar Expo Center in Senegal, featured 47 athletes from 46 countries and regions competing in four events: men's and women's changquan combined and men's and women's taijiquan combined.

"No openness, no scale; no cooperation, no inclusion."

John Hoffman, Chairman of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association Ltd., at the 2026 World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit, held in Zhejiang Province in early November, adding that openness gives industry scale, lower costs and a connected world

"Documentaries serve as important bridges across language barriers, fostering mutual understanding among civilizations."

Zhang Gang, Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Greece, at the opening ceremony of the Charming Beijing event in Athens in late October, which featured documentaries on the Chinese capital's cultural heritage and contemporary creativity



COVER STORY

WHEN SANDS MEET SILICON

Chinese researchers are engineering a green future in Gansu's desert by integrating solar power generation with sand control By Yuan Yuan