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PRICE 2 YUAN

### ► Needless death



A Palestinian mother holds her 8-month-old baby who, according to Gaza's health ministry, died of tear gas inhalation during clashes in East Gaza the previous day, at the morgue of al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Tuesday. Fresh protests are expected a day after Israeli forces killed 60 Palestinians during protests along the Gaza border against the US embassy opening in Jerusalem (see story on page 7).  
Photo: AFP

► Talks with US aim at reciprocal outcomes

## China to safeguard global trade system

By Huang Ge

China's ongoing trade talks with the US are not only aimed at achieving reciprocal outcomes but are also meant to safeguard the multilateral trade system, experts said.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He began his five-day visit to the US on Tuesday where he will meet with US trade offi-

cials, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who had led a trade delegation to China for talks on tariffs earlier this month.

"The Chinese government hopes to forge joint efforts with the US to arrive at positive and constructive outcomes from this round of consultations on Sino-US economic and trade issues," Liu Jianying, an associate

research fellow at the Ministry of Commerce's Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Issues like a trade imbalance, market access and intellectual property rights protection will be tackled during Liu's visit, the research fellow predicted.

Liu's visit could



## Border city cracks down on property speculators

By Deng Xiaoci

A Chinese city bordering North Korea is cracking down on housing speculators who have been flying in from other cit-

ies around the country to snap up properties in anticipation of a breakthrough in the Korean Peninsula denuclearization talks.



Housing prices

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## Detente on peninsula triggers buying frenzy

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in Dandong, Northeast China's Liaoning Province, have nearly doubled since March. The local government on Monday announced new regulations, requiring non-local residents to pay a 50 percent down payment for homes purchased in the city's Xincheng district which includes the bank of the Yalu River, the border river between China and North Korea. These people will not be allowed to sell their properties for two years after purchase.

City authorities also announced that a previously scheduled spring real estate promotion event and housing purchase subsidies have been cancelled.

The buying frenzy of Dandong properties has already begun to decline, Zhang Xu, a local real estate agent told the Global Times, adding that the number of purchase applications has fallen from more than 200 to about 100 a day.

Zhang said she sold her river-view apartment in Xincheng district on Monday for nearly 800,000 yuan (\$126,000), which was valued at 480,000 yuan just two weeks ago.

Housing prices in some communities in Xincheng have jumped from around 3,000 yuan to over 8,000 yuan per square meter since March, local residents say.

Zhang said that the majority of buyers are from outside the city. "Quite a few are from big cities like Beijing and Shanghai, and East China's Zhejiang and Fujian provinces and even Taiwan," she said, adding that it was not uncommon to see buyers fly in from big cities, purchase a whole floor of apartments and leave.

Zhang predicts there will be another wave of soaring home prices if North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump reach a settlement during their summit in June.

### Economic boom

The party chief of North Korea's North Pyongan Province told a Chinese delegation headed by Ambassador to North Korea Li Jinjun that his province expects further joint exchanges and cooperation with Liaoning Province, the Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday.

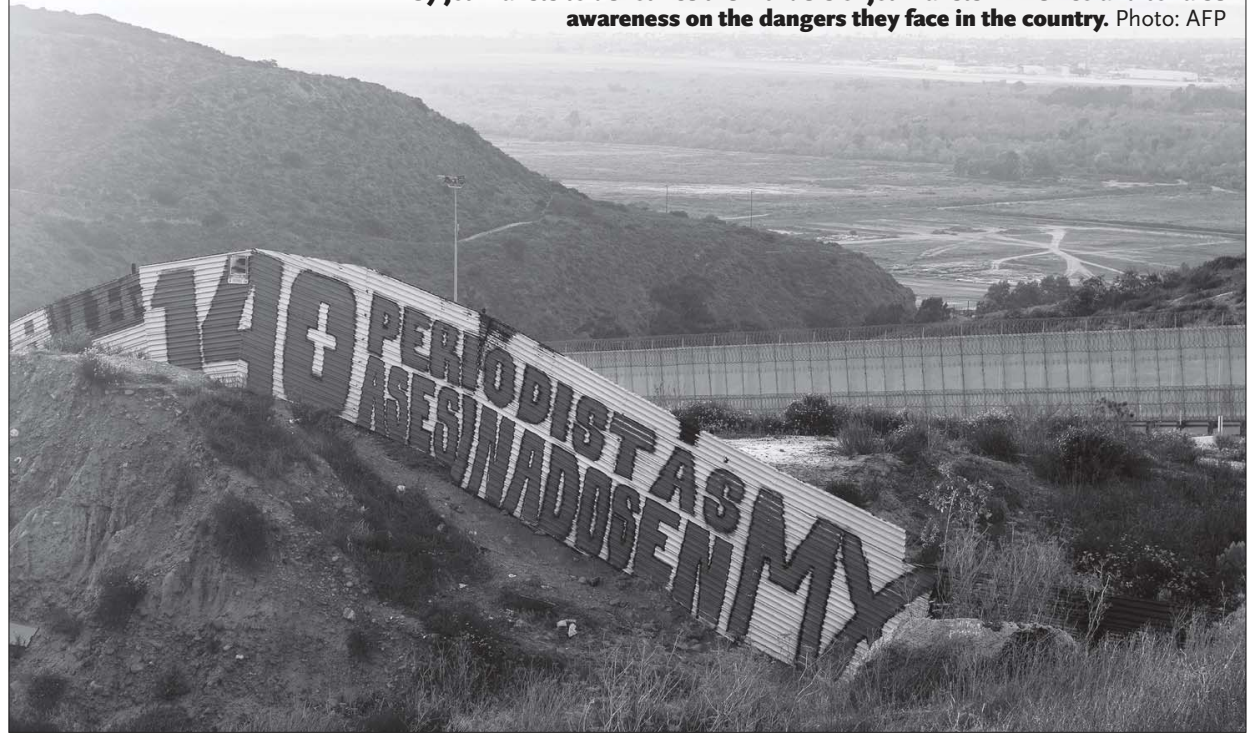
The Chinese delegation visited Sinuiju, capital of North Pyongan Province, on Friday and Saturday. Sinuiju lies directly across the Yalu River from Dandong.

Zhang Huizhi, a professor at Jilin University's Northeast Asian Studies College, said on Tuesday that a peaceful resolution to the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue could create an economic boom to the border regions of both countries. Investment from both home and abroad will flow to Dandong and Sinuiju, likely fueling in a wide range of industries, said Zhang.

Liaoning and Jilin provinces, which both border North Korea, have natural advantages and a good solid foundation when it comes to Sino-North Korean cooperation, Zhang said, noting that rebooting dormant cooperation projects in the two provinces would provide immediate stimulus to North Korea's economic development.

## Reporting dangers

A painting in Spanish that reads "140 journalists murdered in MX" is seen on a US/Mexico border fence in Tijuana, Mexico, on Monday. The painting was made by journalists to denounce the murders of journalists in Mexico and to raise awareness on the dangers they face in the country. Photo: AFP



## China will continue to open up at its own pace: analysts

► China, from Page 1

help relieve the recent Sino-US trade tension, said Zhuang Rui, deputy dean of the Beijing-based University of International Business and Economics' Institute of International Economics.

Zhuang said she expects reciprocal outcomes that will benefit companies and consumers on both sides.

"Aside from benefiting businesses in both countries, the Chinese government's efforts to talk with the US will also help safeguard the entire global multilateral trading system," Zhuang told the Global Times on Tuesday.

The stable economic growth of the two largest economies plays a vital role in promoting trade in the global market, and the world benefits from trade growth, Zhuang said.

Properly addressing economic and trade issues between China and the US will also contribute to the stability and development of the economy in the Asia-Pacific region, she said.

### Urgent issues

As the Chinese vice premier begins his trip to the US for further

trade negotiations, US officials have offered different accounts of the trade friction.

The US wants China to provide a timetable on how it will open up its markets to US exports, as the two countries are still "very far apart" on resolving trade issues, Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad.

Although problems persist, positive signs are gradually appearing as the two countries resort to consultations instead of threatening to impose tariffs, said Dong Yan, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of World Economics and Politics.

One of the issues which is likely to be addressed during the talks is US sanctions against Chinese telecommunications company ZTE, Dong said.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross was quoted by Reuters on Monday as saying the US will look at whether there are other ways to deal with ZTE's "violations of US sanctions law."

Dong noted that another issue which needs to be resolved is the US trade representative's plan to hold

hearings on US tariffs on Chinese goods. Last month, the US proposed tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese products under Section 301 of the US Trade Act.

Chinese officials could also introduce China's opening-up policies to US officials during the trade talks in hopes that the two countries could continue to pursue cooperation in technology and innovation sectors, Dong said.

China has made great efforts and will continue to open its market to foreign investors, Zhuang said, stressing that "China's opening-up is not a compromise due to US pressure." China has its own pace for opening up its market to the world, she said.

The Chinese government will hold the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai from November 5 to 10. Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said at a meeting in March that the expo is a significant step for China in opening up its markets to foreign investors.

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## Xi stresses centralized leadership of CPC over foreign affairs

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on Tuesday called for enhancing the centralized leadership of the CPC Central Committee over foreign affairs and opening up new prospects

of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

Xi, also Chinese president, chairman of the Central Military Commission and head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks

when presiding over the first meeting of the Foreign Affairs Commission.

The world is witnessing increased instability, and China's development will meet both opportunities and challenges, Xi said. China will boost risk-

prevention awareness in diplomacy, so as to firmly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development benefits, he said.

The meeting was also attended by Premier Li Keqiang, also member of the Stand-

ing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and deputy head of the commission, and Vice President Wang Qishan, also a member of the commission.

Xinhua - Global Times



► This won't hurt a bit...



**A woman is vaccinated during a campaign against H1N1 flu, in Tegucigalpa on Monday. At least 10 people have died from H1N1 in Honduras so far this year, according to the health ministry.** Photo: AFP

## ► Deputies tell Americans not to back Dalai clique Tibet officials finish US tour

By Liu Xuanzun

A National People's Congress delegation of legislators from the Tibet Autonomous Region of China completed a six-day trip to the US on Monday with the goal of reiterating China's sovereignty over Tibet and urging Washington "not to support the Dalai Lama clique," a Chinese expert said on Tuesday.

Led by Baima Wangdui, deputy of the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region, the delegation met US Senator Dan Sullivan, Congressmen Darin LaHood, Rick Larsen, Jim McGovern and US Department of State officials in Washington DC, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Tuesday.

During the meetings, Baima Wangdui emphasized the importance of a good China-US relationship, but also reiterated that the Tibet question is about China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is a core interest of China, the Beijing-based agency reported.

He urged the US to recognize the anti-China nature of the Dalai clique and not to contact or support them. The US side reaffirmed it recognized Tibet as a part of China and would not support "Tibetan independence," Xinhua said.

"Although the US said they recognize Tibet as part of China and would not support 'Tibetan independence,' they have been meeting the Dalai Lama and in the past have funded the Tibetan 'government-in-exile,'" Qin Yongzhang, an ethnologist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences told the Global Times on Tuesday.

"Only time can tell if the delegation's latest visit will change the double-faced actions of the US, but it was important to reiterate China's position," Qin said.

The US recently approved "a new batch of funding to support the Dalai Lama, even more than the sum back in the Obama days," Zhu Weiqun, former chairman of the ethnic and religious committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Con-

ference, told the Global Times on Tuesday. "I don't see any difference in terms of supporting the Dalai clique by the Trump administration compared to previous US governments."

The reason behind US double-dealing was its attempt to prevent China from being united and becoming strong, Zhu noted. The US still sees China as a threat, not a partner, he asserted.

The delegation introduced Tibet's remarkable progress since its peaceful liberation over 60 years ago, not only in the meetings with US officials in Washington but also with local overseas Chinese and Tibetan representatives in San Francisco, according to Xinhua.

"In the US, many people don't realize the Dalai Lama's nature as a separatist," Zhu said. "This visit will play an important role in letting US politicians and people know the truth."

It was in the best interests of the US to give up on the Dalai clique and build a better relationship with China, Zhu said.

## North Korean group touring China to study reform and opening-up: foreign ministry

By Li Ruohan

A delegation of North Korean officials arrived in Beijing on Monday to tour the capital and study reform, opening-up and economic development in the second such bilateral exchange within a week following Pyongyang's vow to focus its energies on the economy and give up nuclear weapons.

At the invitation of the International Department of the Central Committee of Communist Party of China, a friendship visiting group of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) arrived on Monday, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily briefing on Tuesday.

The group was seeking to see China's reform and opening-up achievements and learn about "domestic economic development," Lu said.

The group was being led by Pak Thae-song, a member of the political bureau and vice chairman of the WPK Central Committee, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

"North Korea's economic development is in a crucial period, as are its relations with China," Lü Chao, a research fellow at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. "As Pyongyang shows more determination and actions toward peaceful development, Beijing will provide all necessary assistance to its neighbor."

"Although it can gain abundant experience from China, North Korea is unlikely to fully copy China's model. The country needs a pattern that suits itself," he said.

Lu did not reveal the duration of the tour or the planned stops. Chinese observers said the route might include representative cities like Shenzhen and Zhuhai in South China's Guangdong Province.

As China's first special economic zone after reform and opening-up was launched in 1978, Shenzhen has transformed from a fishing village to a metropolis with the third-biggest GDP on the Chinese mainland.

A North Korean special economic zone could pilot a legal and administrative system for foreign investment that differs with other regions of the country in a safe but efficient way of attracting foreign capital, Lü said.

Compared to South Korea, China's experience is more practical for North Korea as the two countries' political systems are more similar, he said.

The official trip comes after a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador Li Jinjun visited Sinuiju, capital of North Pyongan Province, on Friday and Saturday, when the North Korean side said it expected further joint exchanges and cooperation with China's Liaoning Province, the Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday.

## Vietnamese media hyping reports on Chinese tourist T-shirts: expert

By Zhang Hui

Fourteen Chinese tourists were told to take off their T-shirts upon arrival at an international airport according to Vietnam media reports that Chinese observers slammed on Tuesday as mere hype aimed at stirring up anti-China sentiment.

Vietnamese border police stopped the 14 at Cam Ranh International Airport on Sun-

day night and told them to take them off before entering the country, Vietnamese VnExpress news site reported on Tuesday.

The 14 bore maps of China that included the nine-dash line, which demarcates China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The nine-dash line was promulgated by the then Chinese government in the 1940s and has been upheld by the succes-

sive governments in China, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The tourism department of the central province of Khanh Hoa said it would investigate the case and take further actions if necessary.

This was an individual behavior hyped by Vietnam's authority and media to incite nationalist sentiment against China, Chen Xiangmiao, a research fellow at the Hainan-

based National Institute for the South China Sea, told the Global Times.

"It may harm bilateral ties if they continue to hype it or take any aggressive options in dealing with the related Chinese tourists," Chen said.

The incident reflected Vietnam's lack of confidence in its claims to the South China Sea and its excessive vigilance against China, said Liu Feng,

a Hainan-based expert on the South China Sea.

In 2016, Vietnamese border officials refused to stamp new Chinese passports featuring the line and Chinese passport-holders were issued with a separate on-arrival visa, Vietnam's Tuoi Tre News reported.



► Public demands explanation for Sichuan Airlines flight accident

# Probe to focus on jet window design

By Li Ruohan

China's aviation regulators said Tuesday that the investigation into the peeling off of a plane's windshield, which caused a co-pilot to be "nearly sucked halfway" in mid-air, will focus on the design and manufacturing process of the window, while the public has called for a clear explanation for the incident that threatened the lives of 119 passengers.

Sichuan Airlines flight 3U8633 made an emergency landing at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport at around 7:40 am on Monday when the windshield blew out en route from Chongqing to Lhasa, capi-

tal city of Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

The sudden shattering of the glass is still being investigated, and the French headquarters of planemaker Airbus has sent a group of technicians to aid in the investigation, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) told the Global Times on Tuesday.

The windshield has no record of malfunctions since the plane was put into use in July 2011, Tang Weibin, Director General of CAAC's Office of Aviation Safety, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

The plane's windshield has never been replaced, nor did it receive maintenance, Tang said

at the press conference.

A preliminary investigation found that the right side of the cockpit windshield as well as one third of the right side of the plane's flight control unit had fallen off, the CAAC said.

CAAC's Southwest Regional Administration on Monday ordered other airlines to be mindful of such incidents. It also ordered maintenance crews to check the same components used on other planes.

The captain of flight 3U8633, who safely landed the plane when temperatures dropped to -40 C in the cockpit, is in stable condition and the co-pilot, half of whose body was sucked outside the plane after the wind-

shield fell off, was being treated for skin abrasions, Sichuan Airlines said.

Apart from mounting praise, many expressed concern about the cause of the incident.

Sichuan Airlines apologized in a statement released at 3:00 am on Tuesday, while online comments requiring the company to conduct a thorough investigation on the cause of the incident flooded its Sina Weibo page.

"The reason must be disclosed to the public in a clear manner, be it negligence of maintenance personnel or a quality control issue. There's no such thing as permanent luck," wrote a Weibo user.

This is the first such case in China, as the captain had to simultaneously battle through huge noise, equipment malfunction and a change in cabin pressure, Wang Ya'nan, deputy editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times.

Reports said the 119 passengers came out of the ordeal unscathed.

The glass incident occurred in the pilot's cabin, which made the landing more difficult as the strong airflow, which could hit 500 kilometers per hour, came directly at the pilots, who could not even stand properly and hear each other's voice, Wang said.

## ► 'Healing' fungus?



A drug store employee in Yiwu, East China's Zhejiang Province displays the cordyceps sinensis, which was transported by air from Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Tuesday. Cordyceps sinensis is an entomopathogenic fungus (a fungus that grows on insects) found in mountainous regions of Nepal and Tibet. One cordyceps sinensis costs from 35 yuan (\$5.50) to 98 yuan, and is used as traditional medicine.

Photo: VCG

## Ship-borne choppers drilled in sea attacks

By Xu Hailin

A People's Liberation Army (PLA) navy flotilla recently conducted live-fire drills for ship-borne helicopters in the South China Sea to test attacking targets at sea, with a military expert saying that the exercises show an improvement in the PLA's ability to attack hostile ships.

Two helicopters flew at a low altitude to the target area to avoid radar detection. After reaching the area, the helicopters used radar to lock in on the target while waiting for attack orders, a China Central Television (CCTV) broadcast showed on Tuesday.

Equipped with special anti-ship missiles, the modified Z-9 anti-submarine helicopters provide a reliable method to handle approaching small high-speed warships and will offset the blind area of long-range anti-ship attacks, Song Zhongping, a military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times.

Song said finding and targeting a rapidly moving vessel is not an easy task for helicopters, although they have greater flexibility.

"The helicopter will be exposed to the enemy's anti-aircraft fire when it hovers to launch attacks... Hence, the helicopter pilot must find, lock into and attack the target and quickly fly away... it is quite a test for the pilots," Song explained.

The live-fire drills also showed the PLA Navy's shortcomings in sea target attacks, which would require further actual combat training, Chen Jingguang, a leader of an aircraft battalion of the PLA's South China Sea Fleet, was quoted as saying by CCTV.

An improvement in the PLA Navy's sea target attack capability is aimed at, but not limited to, confronting the island of Taiwan and countries at the foot of the South China Sea, Song said.

Some countries and regions will attempt to siege the PLA Navy's large ships with wolf pack tactics using high-speed missile gunboats. However, the very agile anti-ship helicopters could completely counter this scheme, Song said.

## China requires Party building in social groups' charters

By Zhang Hui

China's Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) said it requires social organizations to include Party building in their charters to ensure their correct political direction and strengthen the Party's leadership over social organizations.

Social organizations have to make clear in their charters that they would establish Party units and organize Party events. They should also implement socialist core values and observe social morality, according to a notice issued on the MCA's website on Monday.

Including content on Party building and socialist core values in the charter of social organizations ensures the correct political direction and value of such organizations, and is significant for the healthy development of these organizations, the

MCA said.

Highlighting Party building in social organizations requires them to uphold Party leadership and stress political awareness, the MCA said.

"The notice implements the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which ensures the Party's leadership over all work," Su Wei, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Chongqing, told the Global Times.

The report of the 19th National Congress of the CPC stressed the need to strengthen the building of primary-level Party organizations, and ensure that primary-level Party organizations in enterprises, villages, schools, communities and social organizations play a key role in communicating the Party's propositions and carry out the Party's decisions.

Many social organizations had established Party units before the notice

was issued, and Party units serve to help organizations in their operations, such as communicating with governments and supervising their work, Xu Jialiang, a professor at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, told the Global Times.

"But Party units in these organizations are a political core rather than leadership core, which means the Party does not control these organizations and does not issue orders on operations," Su said.

The notice was issued following the MCA's campaign to combat illegal social organizations from April to December, and the ministry has shut down or dismissed over 300 illegal social organizations in the first quarter of the year.

Fraudulent organizations have damaged the Party's and nation's reputation, and hurt the credibility of social organizations, the ministry said.







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By Zhang Hui

On May 5, a young airline stewardess in Zhengzhou, Central China's Henan Province, ordered a hitch service from Chinese ride-hailing provider Didi Chuxing just like the company's other 450 million users in the country, but she never made it home.

Three days later, she was found dead in a semi-naked state with her chest stabbed more than 20 times. Police also found semen on her body, the Beijing News reported.

She was allegedly murdered by the Didi driver who picked her up that day, and who later killed himself by jumping into a river, Henan police said.

Didi has reportedly apologized to the victim's family and suspended its inter-city hitch service across the country for a week since May 12 to overhaul operations. Hitch is one of the 11 services Didi offers in China.

The case has sparked a national outcry over passenger safety, the online car-hailing platform's responsibilities and data privacy.

Didi Chuxing claims it provided 7.4 billion travel services to 450 million users in over 400 cities in 2017.

#### Illegal data collection

On Chinese Twitter-like Weibo, the topic "Didi driver murders airline stewardess" had drawn 24 million views and 41,000 comments by Tuesday.

Many netizens criticized Didi for poor oversight of drivers and improperly collecting personal data.

Some hitch service drivers revealed online that the company asks them to comment on passengers who cannot see the remarks. Comments such as "really beautiful," "sweet voice" or "long white legs" were frequently seen on the service's evaluation page.

"Didi is suspected of infringing

on passengers' personal information by illegally collecting and sharing it," Xie Yongjiang, deputy director of the Institute of Internet Governance and Law at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, told the Global Times.

Xie said that remarks on passengers' appearance together with the regular commuting path could accumulate and make it easier to identify a person, which resulted in the leak of personal information.

Gu Dasong, an associate professor of transport laws at Southeast University, East China's Jiangsu Province, told the Global Times that Didi's hitch service actually provides a social platform for making friends and is an environment-friendly travel option, but remarks on appearance may be used by criminals like the murderer in the Zhengzhou case.

This is not the first time Didi Chuxing is in trouble over a murder case. In May 2016, a 24-year-old teacher from Shenzhen was killed by a Didi driver, Caijing reported.

Fear has led some young female passengers to use a man's name and picture and hide their real age on Didi's platform.

Internet companies including Didi should ensure data safety and personal information should not be disclosed without user consent, Xie said, suggesting Didi make its comments function optional and change it to a grade-based one from being descriptive.

Gu said that making friends and green commuting should be encouraged, but Didi should rope in civil society groups on environmental protection to reduce chances of misuse of the hitch service, and organize offline activities to guide Didi users.

#### Policy needed

The suspect in Zhengzhou

case acted illegally by using the Didi account of his father, who had passed the safety checks required by the ride-hailing company's inter-city hitch business, a Didi statement said.

The company will intensify vigilance over its drivers and resolve the information discrepancies between drivers and their vehicles.

"The rules made by car-hailing firms are for the company's development and commercial purposes, so it's important that governments in different cities come up with guidelines on the responsibilities of these companies and detail requirements for drivers," Gu said.

The State Council issued guidelines for taxi development in 2016, which said that drivers and vehicles belonging to online booking services should meet basic requirements, and internet taxi booking platforms should improve management of vehicles and drivers.

But very few cities drafted local guidelines on the management of online car-hailing platforms, Gu said.

"With government guidelines it will be easier to identify

platforms involved in illegal operations and protect passengers' rights," Gu said.

Didi said it cooperated with the police department to fire drivers who used to be criminals, drug addicts and mentally disabled in 2016, but media reports said the suspect in the case had been accused of traffic offences.

According to Gu, excluding all former criminals is not right. Government guidelines should regulate drivers' background, and those who don't fall foul of the law for a certain period after finishing their prison terms should be allowed to drive for Didi.

► The murder of a woman by a Didi driver triggers calls for increased vigilance and tighter car-hailing company rules

RIDE TO DEATH



Photo: VCG

## Doctor develops mental illness after interrogation at police station

By Xu Hailin

A doctor out on bail has been reportedly hospitalized with mental illness symptoms after spending 12 hours in a police station to which he was summoned for questioning.

Guangdong-based Tan Qindong became a public figure after he called a popular Chinese medicinal tonic "poison" on his blog, which led to his arrest in January.

Police from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region picked up Tan from Guangdong Province for allegedly damaging the reputation of Hongmao Pharmaceutical Company.

Tan was put into psychiatric care after being released on bail in April, his wife Liu Xuan told the Global Times on Tuesday, adding that the interrogation on Friday triggered the mental condition.

Liu said that police officers

from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region interrogated him during Tan's 12-hour stay at a police station in Guangzhou.

After returning from the police station, Tan locked himself up in the bedroom Friday midnight before crying, soliloquizing, slapping himself in the face, and even banging his head against the wall, Liu Xuan posted late Monday on her WeChat account.

According to Liu, Tan is in

Guangdong General Hospital, with a disease diagnosis certificate reading "Tan is hospitalized due to post-traumatic stress disorder, including anxiety, panic and insomnia for four months, and its exacerbation four days ago." The post was deleted as of press time.

Tan wrote the blog post in December 2017, saying "Hongmao medicinal liquor is poison from the heaven." The public bureau of Inner Mon-

golia Autonomous Region's Liangcheng county, where the pharma company is based, arrested him in early January.

Tan was out on bail on April 17 after the local procuratorate in Inner Mongolia returned the case to the public security department citing lack of evidence and for further probe.

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## ► Israeli-Palestinian conflict's 'bloodiest day' in years Gaza death toll hits 60 during US embassy move protests

Palestinians were gathering Tuesday for fresh protests along the Gaza border, a day after Israeli forces killed dozens there as the US embassy opened in Jerusalem on what was the conflict's bloodiest day in years.

Palestinians on Tuesday marked the Nakba, or "catastrophe," commemorating the more than 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were expelled in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

It came a day after the US transferred its Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to the disputed city of Jerusalem in a move that infuriated the Palestinians and was widely condemned.

Most of the 60 Gazans killed Monday were shot by Israeli snipers, Gaza's health ministry said.

The toll included a baby who died from tear gas inhalation along with eight children under the age of 16, the ministry said.

At least 2,400 others were wound-

ed in the bloodiest day in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the 2014 Gaza war.

Some funerals were held on Monday, while others were taking place Tuesday.

Hundreds of people took part in the funeral of Yazan Tubasi, 23, killed east of Gaza City. His father Ibrahim, 50, said his son had a young son.

"I am happy that my son is a martyr," he said, though he was crying uncontrollably. "He is among dozens who died for the sake of Palestine and Jerusalem."

Small numbers of protesters began returning to the border area on Tuesday, with larger crowds expected later.

In the West Bank, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas declared a general strike on Tuesday after accusing Israel of "massacres."

On Monday, tens of thousands had gathered near the border in protest while smaller numbers of stone-

throwing Palestinians approached the fence and sought to break through, with Israeli snipers positioned on the other side.

The death toll led to strong condemnation from rights groups and concern from a range of countries.

But the US, which blamed Hamas, blocked the adoption of a UN Security Council statement that would have called for an independent probe into the violence, diplomats said.

Despite the bloodshed, the embassy inauguration went ahead as planned in Jerusalem, attended by a Washington delegation that included US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, both White House aides.

Israel's military said 40,000 Palestinians had taken part in the protests and clashes.

AFP

## Iran upbeat on nuclear deal hopes after talks with EU

Iran's foreign minister said Tuesday that efforts to save the nuclear deal after the abrupt US withdrawal were "on the right track" as he began talks with European powers in Brussels.

Mohammad Javad Zarif met EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini ahead of evening talks with his counterparts from Britain, France and Germany – the three European signatories to the 2015 deal who are scrambling to preserve it.

Tehran has warned it is preparing to resume "industrial-scale" uranium enrichment "without any restrictions" unless Europe can provide solid guarantees that it can maintain the economic benefits it gained from the nuclear agreement despite the US reimposing sanctions.

Zarif gave an upbeat assessment after a "good and constructive" meeting with Mogherini.

"I believe we're on the right track to move forward in order to ensure that interests of all the JCPOA remaining participants, particularly Iran, will be preserved and guaranteed," he told reporters. The deal's official name is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

But European diplomats have sought to play down expectations of Tuesday's meeting, stressing the enormous challenge of finding a way around US sanctions punishing foreign businesses trading with Iran, which have global reach.

"There is no one magic solution – there will be a complicated, comprehensive series of options at both the EU and national level, therefore it will take some time," a senior EU official said.

The European Union insists the deal is working, pointing to repeated UN inspections verifying the Islamic republic's compliance with its side of the bargain, and Mogherini's spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic told AFP ahead of Zarif's arrival that "we must do our utmost to preserve it."

EU leaders aim to show a united front on preserving the Iran deal when they meet for a pre-summit dinner in Sofia on Wednesday, officials said.

Mogherini and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker will outline to the leaders what measures the bloc could take to shield its now substantial economic interests in Iran.

European firms, especially those from France and Germany, rushed to invest in Iran following the 2015 accord, under which Tehran agreed to freeze its nuclear program in return for the repeal of punishing international sanctions.

German exports to Iran totaled nearly 3 billion euros (\$3.6 billion) in 2017, while French exports soared from 562 million euros in 2015 to 1.5 billion in 2017 and oil giant Total has pledged to invest some \$5 billion in the South Pars gas field.

AFP

### ► Ready, set, fast



**Malaysia's Mufti of the Federal Territories, Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri uses a surveyor's instrument during the sighting of the new moon which signals the beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, on the observation deck of the KL Tower in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.** Photo: AFP

## Fiery Iraqi cleric eyes coalition government as voters reject ruling elite

Populist Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr on Tuesday eyed a broad coalition after appearing to deal a blow to both Iranian and American influence with a shock election triumph that has upended Iraqi politics.

Counting was still ongoing three days after the first parliamentary poll since the defeat of the Islamic State group, but the fiery Shiite preacher's grouping was in the lead with 16 of 18 provinces tallied.

Victory for the veteran nationalist's Marching Towards Reform alliance with Iraq's communists – pitched an anti-corruption outsider force – would be a slap in the face for Iraq's widely reviled ruling establishment.

Sadr – who has ruled himself out of becoming prime minister – looks likely to be the key powerbroker and has already mooted a technocrat government of some dozen parties

that bridge sectarian divides.

But with his group set to be far from a majority in parliament, wrangling over any potential coalition should take months – and there remain major obstacles ahead that could thwart Sadr's ambitions.

The elections Saturday – hit by record abstentions – saw a clear rejection of the Iraqi elite that has run the country since the ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Tallies put the anti-establishment Conquest Alliance of pro-Iranian former paramilitary fighters who helped battle IS in second, and incumbent Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's bloc back in third.

Abadi – a consensus figure favored by the US – had been seen as likely frontrunner after declaring victory over the jihadists five months ago.

Sadr rose to prominence in the wake of the US invasion,

when his militia fighters fought a bloody insurgency against American troops.

After years on the sidelines, he has now reinvented himself as a crusading champion of the poor who has linked up with secularists to battle corruption.

AFP





▶ US group says satellite photos suggest dismantlement 'well under way'  
**North Korea closing nuclear site: monitor**

Satellite photos indicate North Korea has begun dismantling its nuclear test site ahead of a historic summit between leader Kim Jong-un and President Donald Trump, a US monitor said Tuesday.

In a move welcomed by Washington and Seoul, North Korea said at the weekend it will "completely" destroy the Punggye-ri test site, in a ceremony scheduled between May 23-25 in front of invited foreign media.

But no observers from international atomic monitoring agencies have been invited, raising concerns over the openness of the process.

Punggye-ri, in the northeast of the

country, has been the site of all six of the North's nuclear tests, the latest and by far the most powerful in September last year, which Pyongyang said was an H-bomb.

North Korea pledged to close the testing ground after Kim last month declared the country's nuclear force complete and said it had no further need for the complex.

The respected 38 North website said Tuesday that satellite images dated May 7 showed "the first definitive evidence that dismantlement of the test site was already well under way."

Several key operational buildings as

well as smaller sheds had been razed and rails connecting the tunnels to their waste piles were removed, the monitoring group said.

Excavation of a new tunnel has also been halted since late March, it added.

Images showed preparatory work for the destruction ceremony had also begun, including a newly positioned foundation among the waste piles believed to have been built for invited journalists.

"It is conceivably for a future camera position to record the closure of the West Portal," the group said.

However, no tunnel entrances appear to have been permanently closed and

some main buildings are still intact, it added, saying the destruction of those facilities was likely to be carried out in front of the media.

Dialogue brokered by South Korea has seen US-North Korea relations go from trading personal insults and threats of war last year to a summit between Kim and Trump which will be held in Singapore on June 12.

The two Koreas are due to meet on Wednesday to discuss follow-up measures from their summit last month, Seoul's unification ministry said.

AFP



Supporters of India's Bharatiya Janata Party celebrate election results outside the party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. Photo: VCG

**India Modi's party emerges strongest in southern state poll**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party was set on Tuesday to win the largest number of seats in a big southern state election, giving him momentum for a re-election bid next year and opening a path for more reforms.

A government in Karnataka led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will help Modi silence critics who said his popularity had waned after the rocky adoption of a nationwide sales tax and a sudden ban on high-value notes late in 2016.

The BJP was leading in 105 seats in the election to the 225-member state assembly, the Election Commission of

India said, with the opposition Congress party leading in 75 seats.

A party must have 113 seats to form a government and the BJP will probably have to seek the backing of smaller parties.

"The result provides some reassurance to the BJP that its popularity remains intact," said Shilan Shah, a senior India economist at Capital Economics.

"That could embolden the government to pursue reforms in future, including loosening foreign direct investment restrictions and moves towards privatization."

If it forms a government

in Karnataka, the BJP and its allies would govern 22 of India's 29 states. A strong showing in the state, which has a population roughly that of France, allows Modi to aggressively push forward his reforms agenda without fear of political backlash.

It also gives the BJP a southern beachhead, besides its core base in India's north and west.

In the last four years, Modi has moved to boost the economy, but shied away from politically-sensitive reforms to revamp the labour sector and land acquisition, which the World Bank called for in March.

His government faced snip-

ing in recent weeks over soaring fuel prices, a decision to privatize state carrier Air India and a lack of jobs for millions of young workforce entrants each year.

But Modi's victory in Karnataka, where he led the party campaign, showed he remains the top vote-getter in Indian politics, leaving Rahul Gandhi, the young leader of the main opposition Congress party, struggling.

AFP

Page Editor: wangbozun@globaltimes.com.cn

**EU, Cuba build ties in face of US pressure**

The EU and Cuba are to sign a renewable energy deal on Tuesday, a step toward normalizing relations in defiance of Washington's continuing hardline stance on Havana.

As it scrambles to save the Iran nuclear deal after US President Donald Trump ditched it last week, the EU will seek to add substance to its landmark cooperation agreement with Cuba, which came into effect in November.

EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini has condemned the US economic blockade of the communist island as "obsolete" and "illegal," but under Trump the US has rolled back the rapprochement championed by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Mogherini and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla will lead the first meeting of the EU-Cuba Joint Council in Brussels.

The highlight will be the signing of an 18 million euro (\$21.5 million) project to support Cuba's goal of getting a quarter of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

The EU also plans to finance a food security support program for the island with a contribution of 19.7 million euros.

"We are committed to support Cuba's economic and social reforms," Mogherini said in a statement ahead of the meeting.

"Jointly, we want to foster sustainable development, promote democracy and human rights, and find common solutions to global challenges, such as climate change and security related topics."

AFP



## ► Ominous sign



**Volcanic smoke billows from Mt. Shimmoe on the southwestern Japanese island of Kyushu on Monday, prompting the weather agency to warn of falling ash and flying rocks in nearby areas.** Photo: VCG

## ► Paves way for legalized betting

# SC lifts federal ban on sports gambling

The US Supreme Court on Monday paved the way for states to legalize gambling on baseball, basketball, American football and other sports – a business worth tens of billions of dollars annually.

The nation's top court ruled 6-3 in favor of New Jersey, the eastern state that has lobbied for years for the right to allow sports betting.

The court declared unconstitutional a 1992 federal law which banned wagering on professional and university sports except in four states where the market was already in place – Nevada, Delaware, Montana and Oregon.

Congress had enacted the legislation – championed by then US senator Bill Bradley, a Democrat and former star basketball player for the New York Knicks – on the grounds that gambling would threaten the integrity of sporting events.

In its opinion, the high court said the US Congress reserves the right to regulate sports gambling directly, “but if it elects not to do so, each state is free to act on its own.”

The ruling, which eliminates Nevada's near-stranglehold on sports betting in the United States, is expected to lead to a rush by state legislatures to authorize sports wagering in a bid to reap tax revenue.

Former New Jersey governor Chris Christie, who had fought the law on

behalf of the state's down-on-their-luck casinos in Atlantic City, welcomed the ruling.

“A great day for the rights of states and their people to make their own decisions,” Christie said. “New Jersey citizens wanted sports gambling and the federal Gov't had no right to tell them no.”

Two leading fantasy sports companies – FanDuel and DraftKings – immediately announced plans to branch out into sports wagering.

“In the same way we revolutionized fantasy sports, we will bring innovation to the sports betting space,” FanDuel said in a statement.

DraftKings CEO Jason Robins said his company plans to “provide our customers with innovative online sports betting products.

“Today's Supreme Court ruling is welcome news to the millions of Americans who currently wager \$150 billion illegally each year through off-shore, black market bookies,” Robins said.

“States are now free to allow their residents to place mobile sports bets with licensed, trusted companies based in the US and that pay taxes here.”

British bookmaker William Hill, which already takes bets in Nevada, said it also hoped to get in on the action.

AFP

## Pope meets Chilean bishops on sex abuse scandal

Pope Francis began receiving Chilean bishops at the Vatican on Tuesday in a bid to address a child abuse scandal within the Church in Chile that has come to haunt his papacy.

The 34 bishops, three of whom are already retired, are to hold private and group meetings with the Argentine pontiff between Tuesday and Thursday.

“Firstly, we want to share our pain and shame,” said Bishop Fernando Ramos, a spokesman for the Chilean delegation.

“Pain because there are victims of sex abuse, and shame because these abuses occurred within the Church,” he told reporters.

The visit comes two weeks after Francis held private meetings with three victims of Chilean paedophile priest Fernando Karadima, and promised to adopt “adequate and lasting” measures to stop child sex abuse within the Catholic church.

Karadima was forced into

retirement in 2011 after eventually being found by the Holy See to have been a serial abuser of minors during the 1980s and 1990s.

Controversial cardinal Javier Errazuriz, a key advisor to Francis, was also summoned as part of the Chilean delegation at the pontiff's request.

Errazuriz is accused by Karadima's victims of ignoring and helping to cover up the abuses committed by Karadima.

In a statement, the Vatican said Francis believed it was “necessary to examine in depth the causes and consequences, as well as the mechanisms that have led, in certain cases, to concealment and serious omissions towards the victims.”

Speaking to reporters, Bishop Ignacio Gonzalez said: “The main focus is the victims, we can always make amends and move towards reconciliation with them.”

The unprecedented summoning of the Chilean delegation is also a chance for Francis

to repair some of the damage done during his visit to Chile in January, when his defence of controversial Chilean bishop Juan Barros caused a public outcry.

The pontiff strongly defended Barros, who was also accused of covering up Karadima's abuses, saying that he was convinced of his innocence and demanding “proof” before he would speak out against him.

He later apologized to the victims, admitting he had made “grave mistakes” after reading a 2,300-page report on the abuse in Chile.

Experts and sources within Chilean church suggested the pope could remove Barros from his duties and set in motion a major shake-up of the church hierarchy within the Latin American nation.

AFP

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## NASA spacecraft data shows new evidence of watery plumes

A fresh look at data from a 1997 flyby of Jupiter's moon, Europa, suggests that NASA's Galileo spacecraft flew directly through a watery plume, raising hopes of probing the jets for signs of life around the second planet from Earth.

The revelations Monday came after scientists revisited a puzzling reading from an instrument aboard Galileo, which in 1995 became the first spacecraft to enter the orbit of a gas giant planet.

What they found was the most direct evidence yet of plumes emerging from Europa's frozen surface, researchers reported in the scientific journal *Nature Astronomy*.

Given the suspected abundance of warm, liquid water under its thick ice shell, the moon is considered a “top candidate” by NASA for life on a solar system body other than Earth.

In the last several years, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has detected evidence of

plumes on Europa, but from afar.

Galileo came much closer during its 11 flybys of Europa.

“On one particular pass by Europa, the spacecraft came very, very close to the surface – as I remember less than 150 kilometers above the surface – and it was on that pass that we saw signatures that we never really understood,” said Margaret Kivelson, professor emerita of space physics at the University of California, Los Angeles, on NASA TV.

That region was in an area where the Hubble Space Telescope had spotted repeated evidence of plumes.

When another researcher presented findings recently on Hubble's collection of observations, “that led us to realize we had to go back and look at Galileo data,” said Xianzhe Jia, associate professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

AFP



# Boost for Brexit-bound Britain

▶ Royal wedding to contribute £1b to UK economy: consultancy

The royal wedding of Prince Harry and his American fiancée Meghan Markle is a moment of light relief for a Britain weighed down by political, social and economic woes.

With growth shrinking and the government riven over Brexit, Saturday's wedding is set to provide a national boost and give people an excuse to party.

Around 100,000 people are expected to pack the streets of Windsor, west of London, to join in the festive atmosphere and get a glimpse of the newlyweds' carriage winding through the town.

Some 2,640 people have been invited inside the Windsor Castle grounds for a closer look – among them Rashid Bhayat.

"It certainly could be a moment of national unity. It is a real opportunity for the country to celebrate," the chief of a youth inclusion charity told AFP.

The wedding in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle brings together Queen Elizabeth II's grandson, who is sixth in line to the throne, and former actress Markle, who at 36 is three years his senior.

The dress and the wedding rings are a closely-guarded secret, as is Harry's uniform and whether he will be given a new title.

The service starts at midday (11:00 GMT), with the newlyweds emerging to pose on the chapel steps at 1 pm (12:00 GMT) before a 25-minute carriage ride through Windsor town.

Queen Elizabeth is then giving a reception for the 600 guests in the castle's St. George's Hall.

In the evening, Harry's father Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, is hosting a private reception for 200 family and close friends at nearby Frogmore House.

## Fun and surprises

"Even the palace are promising fun and surprises so hopefully we're all going to have a big smile on our face and we'll be toasting this royal romance of the year," royal biographer Andrew Morton told AFP.

"What you're going to see is the symbolic union of the special relationship, of America and Britain."

The same cannot be said of Markle's own family.

Her older half-brother Tom and half-sister Samantha have not been invited.

Tom wrote an extraordinary open letter to Harry on April 26, saying TV fame had made his half-sister a "jaded, shallow, conceited woman that will make a joke of you."

Markle's father, who had been due to walk his daughter down the aisle, may also be a no show.

According to celebrity news website TMZ, Thomas Markle, who recently caused a furor by posing for paparazzi photos, has pulled out of accompanying his daughter down the aisle at

Windsor Castle because he does not want to embarrass her.

Kensington Palace did not confirm the report but pleaded for "understanding and respect" for the couple during a "difficult situation."

Politicians are also off the guest list, so US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May will not be attending.

It will be a chance for the British public to leave behind temporarily the deep divisions that have emerged over Britain's future outside the European Union.

It could also bring a welcome boost to the economy.

The British economy grew at a rate of 0.1 percent in the first quarter of 2018, its slowest pace in more than five years, and the Bank of England has slashed its growth forecasts.

The Brand Finance valuation consultancy estimates the wedding will contribute £1 billion (\$1.35 billion) to the British economy this year.

That includes £300

million in tourism, £300 million in advertising value for the UK and £250 million in retail and food spending.

## Party time

The royal wedding commemorative china has already gone on sale, while stamps and a special £5 coin have been issued featuring the couple.

Besides the official souvenirs, Windsor shops are stuffed with mugs, bookmarks, tea towels, postcards, British flags, face masks and cardboard cut-outs as the town cashes in on its big day.

Traditional street parties will be held around the kingdom.

Market research firm Mintel, which surveyed 2,000 people online, reported that a third of Britons said the wedding made them feel more proud to be British.

"Where stories about negativity and uncertainty dominate the headlines, it's heartwarming that the fairytale story of a glamorous Californian actress marrying her British prince has captured the public's imagination," said Mintel analyst Jack Duckett.

The last time a US divorcee married into the British royal family, King Edward VIII had to give up his throne. The name Wallis Simpson and 1936 still send shivers through Buckingham Palace.

That Markle, a biracial, divorced US TV star, is being welcomed with open arms is a sign of how Britain has changed since.

"Britain is a very multicultural society. It was not the case of the royal family until now, but Meghan Markle brings a whole new kind of dynamic," said Bhayat.

AFP



Royalists on Monday occupy benches outside Windsor Castle with a life-size cardboard cutout of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, as Britain gets ready to celebrate Saturday's royal wedding, in London, UK. Photo: VCG



**Couple discovers dead mouse leaking fluids from restaurant ceiling**

A couple is seeking compensation from a Hunan Province restaurant after they discovered a dead mouse stuck in the ceiling leaking bodily fluids.

The woman surnamed Yu said she was having dinner with her boyfriend, surnamed, Lin at the Changsha restaurant on Monday when she noticed what she thought was water dripping from above.

"I thought it was condensation from the air conditioner," said Yu, who had ordered soup.

Lin called a waiter over, who instead found the dead rodent stuck in a crawlspace between the ceiling and a grating.

"The mouse might have been squished or electrocuted," said the owner of Chixianghela, surnamed Chen.

Yu notified police. Local authorities have ordered the restaurant to remedy the issue.

The couple is seeking between 4,000 and 5,000 yuan (\$630-788) in compensation.

The owner Chen is only willing to pay 2,000 yuan (\$315), media reported. The parties have yet to reach an agreement.

Morning Herald

**Sun shy**



**A woman in a bonnet rides a motorbike with her face fully protected from the sun in Nanjing, Jiangsu on Tuesday, where highs had reached 34 C. Photo: VCG**

**Too much sex puts Oz marsupials on endangered list**

Two marsupial species whose males die after marathon sex sessions have been put on Australia's endangered list, with scientists warning Tuesday they are racing against the clock to save them.

The tiny black-tailed dusky antechinus and silver-headed antechinus – discovered in 2013 and found in wetter, higher-altitude regions of Queensland state – are known for suicidal mating habits that include up to 14-hour sex sessions.

Climate change, habitat loss and feral pests are also threatening the mouse-like species, with scientists fearful they could soon die off in a country notorious for having the world's highest mammal extinction rate.

"They are very frantic and try and get from one mate to another and the mating itself can last hours, so it's very tiring," Queensland University of Technology mammalogist

Andrew Baker said of the frenzied copulation.

Males go from "absolutely prime health... to falling to pieces before your very eyes" within the annual two-week mating period at the end of the Southern Hemisphere winter, Baker told AFP.

They have so much sex while also trying to hang on to female mates and fighting off rivals that they produce excessive levels of testosterone.

This stops a stress hormone from switching off, which then destroys their organs and kills them off.

"They're honestly like the walking dead towards the end," Baker said.

"I've seen them stumbling around during the day – they are nocturnal mostly – still looking for mates, bleeding from various parts of their body and their hair has fallen out."

AFP

**Massive food fight breaks out at crawfish plant**

A crawfish processing plant in Central China has apologized after video of a massive food fight between employees was leaked online, media reported on Monday.

It was mayhem at Hubei Province-based Chuyu Foods after a disagreement between workers from two shifts resulted in groups chucking whole crayfish and parts at each other early on May 9.

The food fight lasted about 30 minutes before the factory resumed production, Chuyu Foods said.

Uploaded video captured by a mobile phone also shows employees throwing kitchen equipment in addition to lobbing lobsters across the crowded processing area.

Some are seen collecting

and making off with the little critters.

The reason why the crustacean clash sparked or how it was resolved was not reported.

Hubei Chuyu Foods issued an apology for the crawfish-throwing chaos.

"We'd like to apologize for all the people who have supported our company," read the public apology posted on Shayang municipal government website on May 10.

"We will strengthen management and provide better products to give back to our customers and consumers."

The company also said they have penalized those responsible for the fight, without elaborating further.

The Paper

**'Virtual moon base' stay a success**

A group of Chinese volunteers has emerged from 110 days of isolation in a virtual "lunar lab," state media reported Tuesday, as the country pursues its ambition to put people on the moon.

Xinhua news service streamed images of the would-be astronauts emerging from their temporary home, a self-contained environment simulating conditions which

future explorers will face on the moon's surface.

In the video, students wearing masks and blue tennis shirts emerge from the pod carrying baskets of fruit and vegetables, including carrots and strawberries, grown inside the module.

It was the group's second stay in the 160-square-meter Yuegong-1 on the campus of Beihang University, following

a 60-day sojourn earlier.

In between, a second group of four students spent 200 consecutive days in the facility.

The volunteers lived in the sealed lab to simulate a long-term space mission with no input from the outside world.

The facility treats human waste with a bio-fermentation process.

AFP

**New trial for US man whose lawyer proclaimed him guilty**

The US Supreme Court ordered a new trial on Monday for a Louisiana man whose lawyer told a jury he had committed a triple murder despite his claims of innocence.

In a 6-3 ruling, the top US court said the lawyer in the case should have abided by the wishes of accused murderer Robert McCoy.

McCoy, now 44, was convicted in 2011 of shooting to death the mother, stepfather, and son of his estranged wife, Yolanda, in May 2008.

Despite a preponderance of evidence and a dubious alibi, McCoy insisted that he was innocent of the murders.

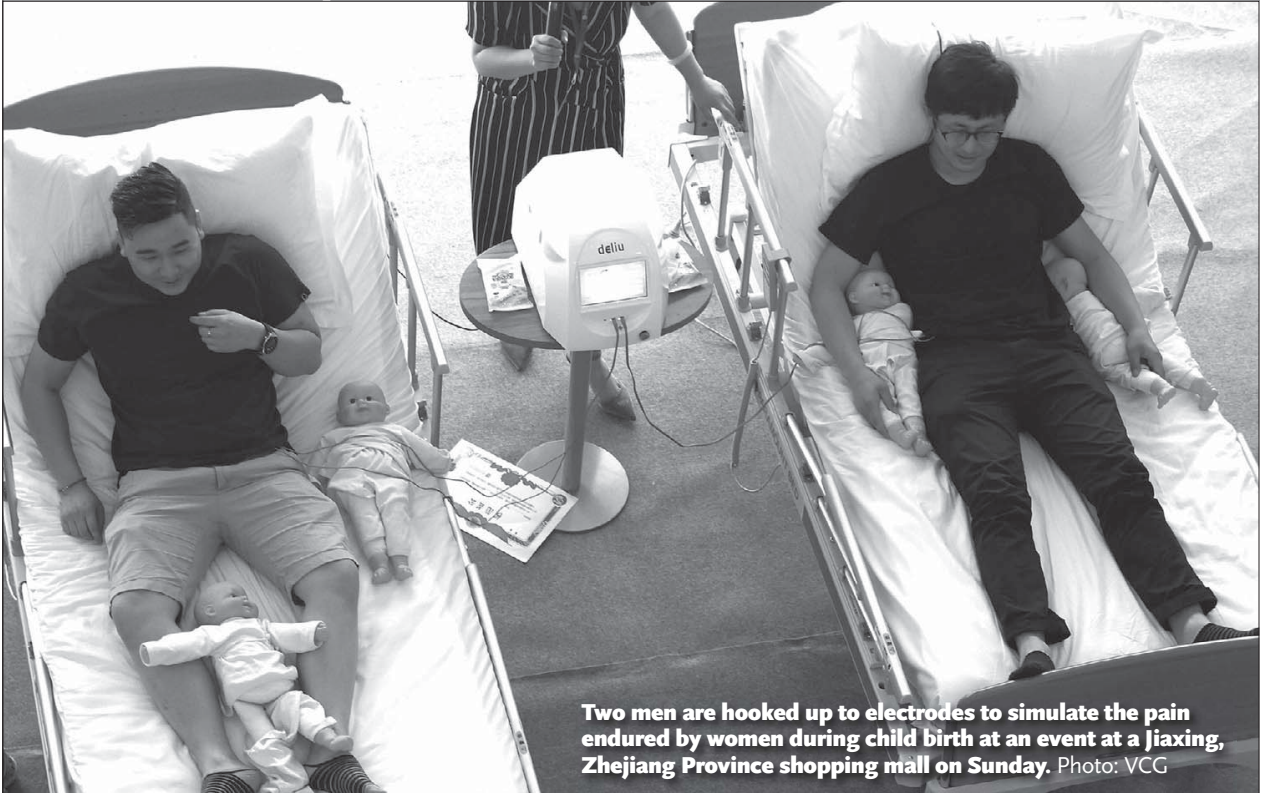
McCoy's lawyer, Larry English, ignored his client's objections and told the jury McCoy had killed the three victims. English also conceded McCoy's guilt during the penalty phase, but urged mercy due to his "mental and emotional issues."

The strategy backfired and McCoy was sentenced to death.

AFP

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**Virtual birth, real pain**



**Two men are hooked up to electrodes to simulate the pain endured by women during child birth at an event at a Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province shopping mall on Sunday. Photo: VCG**



- Marketing companies skirt copyright laws by slightly modifying popular original articles.
- Such companies earn revenue from advertisers and clicks, but do not pay the authors of the original work.
- China has been strengthening its protection of intellectual property rights in a bid to develop intellectual property and encourage innovation.

By Shan Jie

“How can I stand that? Plagiarizing an author’s story is like rubbing his soul on the ground,” Mao Li, a Shanghai-based writer, posted on her WeChat public account recently.

Two months ago, Mao began to receive messages from her readers telling her that her articles might have been “laundered” by another account, named Fat Girl After-school Class.

According to online lingo, “laundering articles” refers to changing and editing other’s original work to make the entire article “look different” while plagiarizing its most valuable content, including the ideas and structure of the original article.

Mao, a full-time writer, has been running her WeChat account since 2016 and has posted 450 original articles about life and relationships, gaining her 130,000 followers.

“I found three other accounts plagiarized me... but this time the situation was too severe,” Mao told the Global Times.

Mao and her fans then began to collect evidence of Fat Girl’s plagiarizing. They found that in recent months, Fat Girl always released stories with similar topics, settings, plots and sentences as those Mao published several months ago. Some plagiarized articles even have more views than Mao’s.

Then Mao noticed Fat Girl was actually a commercial account run by a marketing company. Such companies attract followers and views by posting “fake original articles” and earn profits through publicizing commercial advertisements.

Posting an advertisement on the Fat Girl account costs 80,000 yuan (\$12,600), a person in the know told Mao, which suggests that the account earns more than 500,000 yuan in just half a year, more than Mao’s income.

“These accounts do nothing but plagiarize original articles with opinions that resonate with readers to make sure that the accounts attract as many followers as possible,” said Mao.

Mao revealed that many such accounts are run by marketing companies and they steal clients from the original authors.

Mao’s assistant told the Global Times that after she had accused Fat Girl of laundering articles on WeChat, many of its previous clients announced that they would not continue cooperating with Fat Girl anymore.

However, when asked if she would sue Fat Girl’s company, Mao said that since she did not belong to a company herself, she could hardly afford a lawyer.

“Copying is easy to distinguish, but identifying ‘laundering’ is really difficult. I understand why these self-media platforms cannot eliminate such behavior,” Mao said.

WeChat, the most influential self-media platform in China, had 3.5 million monthly active accounts, according to its statistics in September 2017.

Xinhua reported on May 10 that a pack of 981 public accounts with 240 million followers is worth 3.87 million yuan.

However, as quality original content is rare and highly needed, in order to continue attracting followers, some people turn to “laundering articles,” which has formed an underground chain.

Experts said that it is difficult to decide whether a “laundered” article is a violation of an original work, and urged the government to promote people’s respect of intellectual property rights (IPR).

#### Underground laundering chain

“Looking for writers for entertainment work, 300 words with four pictures... five yuan for one article.” “Message me if you can launder articles. I decide the topic and you just launder, as long as you are not stupid.”

Hundreds of such recruitment ads are posted in a chat group called “self-media articles laundering communication group” on QQ, a popular social media tool. Similar information can also easily be spotted on other social media platforms, such as forum-like Baidu Tieba.

By laundering each article, the writer usually earns less than 10 yuan. According to the posts, the standards for the ghostwriters are very low; some only require the writers to be able to pass the Chinese exams in high school.

“I am able to earn more than 10,000 yuan per month,” Xue, a ghostwriter with three years of experience in laundering

► As self-media China, plagiarism a profitable 1

SMA  
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Laundering articles refers to changing and editing other’s original work to make the entire article look different while plagiarizing its most valuable content, including the ideas and structure of the original article.

articles, told the Global Times. “I wash all kinds of articles, except sports and cars, which I dislike,” he said.

Xue said he washes 100 to 200 articles every day. His articles are provided to commercial accounts on all major self-media platforms, but he refused to name the platforms. “As long as you charge for





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# ART CATS

your time and capabilities, you can make money," Xue said.

Besides manually washing articles, operators of commercial accounts can also launder articles with only one click.

The Global Times reporter found that users copy original articles into certain websites with laundering articles services, and the website will immediately generate a fake original article. In a trial version, some words in the original work were replaced by synonyms in the newly generated articles.

The new articles score 100 percent in plagiarism checks on platforms such as Weibo and WeChat, which suggests the articles were distinguished as completely original, an employee from Naipan, a company providing such services, told the Global Times.

Buying Naipan's service costs 199 yuan annually for one account. It now has more than 10,000 users. "Don't

worry. Nobody will accuse you (of plagiarism)," the employee said.

Despite laundering articles, related services have developed, such as courses teaching writers how to produce popular articles.

On social media platforms such as WeChat, the major income of an account comes from advertisements, but whether the account can attract advertisements depends on the number of its followers and views.

To increase the number of followers, WeChat public accounts must update their content frequently, the Science and Technology Daily reported.

Writing original work requires great effort, but copying and laundering content brings profits in a very short time, Xu Xinming, a Beijing-based lawyer who specializes in IPR, told the Global Times.

Apart from self-media, plagiarism haunts many other fields in China, in-

cluding academia. In April 2017, Berlin-based publisher Springer announced it was withdrawing 107 scientific articles produced by Chinese institutions from editions of the Tumor Biology journal published between 2012 and 2016.

"Many Chinese people have a poor sense about respecting copyrights," Xu noted.

### Legal protection needed

Experts say that from a legal perspective, it is very difficult to define "laundering articles."

"It is not a phrase used in law. Therefore, there are several different conditions to determine how much of the article was plagiarized," Xu said.

People can change some expressions in an article to make it look different, or add some new paragraphs to an article. Such behavior may violate the original author's rights of authorship, reproduc-

tion, revision and adaptation, he noted.

But if the copiers just keep the outline of a non-academic article and take the ideas of the original work, it is hard to say that they have legally violated copyrights, Xu said. "The topics are public and everybody can write about them."

"The law protects content, not ideas or opinions. In another word, to express an idea in a different way is hardly to be judged as a violation of IPR in law," an employee in charge of the WeChat told the Science and Technology Daily.

"It is a long-existing trouble," the WeChat employee said, adding that the platform currently decides the repeatability of two articles by comparing Chinese words.

In 2015, the WeChat public platform released a mechanism to protect original work. Operators of public accounts can now claim their articles originality to avoid being copied by other accounts.

"Relying on existing laws will hardly resolve this issue," the WeChat employee said, noting that the platform is investing massive effort into studying typical cases and designing new rules to stop fake originals.

In the majority of cases, authors of the original work will not go through so much time and effort to sue the copiers, as the loss outweighs the gain, Xu said. "In terms of the platforms, it has been very difficult for them to judge which articles are copied, so they can only rely on the reporting system."

China has been strengthening the protection and use of IPR in a bid to develop intellectual property and encourage innovation.

According to the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20), China will improve rules and regulations related to IPR in newly-emerged fields including Internet Plus, e-commerce and big data. The plan was also applied to online literature after a 2015 White Paper on China Internet Literature Copyright Protection released by consulting company iResearch showed that piracy of internet literature had led to 7.7 billion yuan in lost subscriptions in 2014.

In May 2016, Chinese tech giant Baidu closed a number of its forums related to online novels to "better protect authorized copies and safeguard authors' rights."

Xu noted that law enforcement departments should crack down on the individuals and organizations that provide laundering article services.

After all, intellectual property is a private right, and authors of the original work should refer to the law to maintain their legal rights. Meanwhile, the public should maintain a sense of rights and respect of IPR, Xu said.

"Only after a sense of respecting IPR has been formed will the law support the rights of the authors thoroughly," he noted.



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# Canberra's China policy justly under fire

In his column in Australian Financial Review, former Australian Ambassador to China Geoff Raby slammed Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop for not having visited China in more than two years while angering Beijing with "the most strident public comments on the South China Sea" and an "utterly bizarre speech" questioning Beijing's regional leadership. "China relations can only be unfrozen with Julie Bishop's sacking," Raby appealed to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Bishop immediately hit back at Raby, accusing him of being "profoundly ignorant... about the level of engagement between Australia and China at present and the state of the relationship." "The fundamental interests underpinning the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and China have not changed," Bishop stressed. Turn-

bull stood by Bishop, criticizing Raby's piece as "utterly wrong."

Apparently, problems have emerged in Sino-Australian ties. Canberra's relationship with its largest trading partner is overwhelmed by distrust, with its high-level officials several times accusing China of spying and interfering in Australia's domestic affairs. From a Chinese perspective, Australia is tilting toward the US and has become an active pivot of Washington's tough China policy and a major force in smearing China.

Australians advocating a friendly policy toward China are frequently vilified. Voices defaming China are commonly heard in Australian public opinion. Incidents involving international students from China being threatened or harassed in Australia occur from time to time. Sino-Australian relations have dropped to their lowest point.

Raby said in his previous article that the key reasons are Australian officials' distrust of China and the enormous influence of the security establishment on the Turnbull government's Beijing policy.

In recent years, China has improved ties with Asian countries with which it has disputes, further highlighting Australia's unfriendliness. Canberra has no concrete conflict with Beijing, and thus tensions in their ties are baffling.

While few Chinese neighbors complain about China's so-called interference or infiltration, Australia is obstinate about hyping China's threat, with its so-called evidence originating with its radical interpretation of Sino-Australian economic and cultural exchanges. China isn't viewed as a contributor to the country's economic and societal development but a destroyer of its national security.

Misinterpretation of Sino-Australian ties has only made more troubles for Canberra, not Beijing. The China-Australia relationship doesn't carry much weight in Beijing diplomacy, and Chinese have no sense of urgency to improve ties with Canberra. But the situation is different for Australia. China has tremendous influence on Australia's development. Canberra will certainly feel uneasy for upsetting ties with Beijing.

Bishop and Turnbull are clear that damage to Sino-Australian ties isn't in the national interest, and perhaps that's why they rushed to oppose Geoff Raby's article. Australia's relations with China are among the worst of all Western nations. The remaining business and cultural exchanges between the two sides lack vitality. Frozen Sino-Australian ties will not gain the current Australian government any bonus points.

## Voices

"The final aim of these negotiations is to seek assurances that the interests of the Iranian nation will be defended."

**Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iranian foreign minister,**

saying that the purpose of his global tour was to rally diplomatic support for the country's nuclear deal after the US withdrawal, quoted by AFP Tuesday.

"This is a miracle in the history of Chinese aviation, and shows the special psychological mind-set of pilots."

**an anonymous civil aviation official,** praising pilot Liu Chuanjian for an emergency landing in Chengdu after a broken cockpit window sucked his copilot halfway out of the Sichuan Airlines aircraft, quoted by guanchna.cn Tuesday.

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## Sent to Coventry



Illustration: Liu Rui/GT

## Inclusive policy conducive to Malaysia's development

By Ai Jun

Days have passed since Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as Malaysia's new prime minister, yet the proposal he made to review Chinese investment deals is still flourishing on the homepages of many Western mainstream media.

His complaint against Beijing during the election campaign is the major reason why the world is watching for policy clues over China from the new administration. "We gain nothing from the [Chinese] investment," said Mahathir earlier this month.

But is that so? How can Malaysia gain nothing from China, its largest trade and investment partner? Take the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park. Reports said the program is expected to boost local economic growth while creating thousands of jobs. Moreover, many Malaysian manufacturers of electronic devices are producing corollary equipment for Chinese products, which have been transported to European and US markets. Manufacturing industries from both sides have already formed an industrial chain.

Dating back to 2003, Mahathir,



who was in his first term as the nation's prime minister, once said "Chinese have done very well... Chinese have provided the entrepreneurship and the business skills to enrich the country." During his 22 years in office, he visited China seven times and the trade volume between the two nations jumped from about \$289 million from 1981 to \$20 billion in 2003.

As a widely acknowledged nationalist, Mahathir's goal was utilizing China topics to win more votes from ethnic Malays, some of whom harbor anti-Chinese sentiments.

Unlike other multi-ethnic countries, Malaysia is a very rare nation which has particular law to provide privileges to an ethnic majority. In other words, its law determined that Malaysia is a democracy with unequal treatment of Malays versus other ethnic groups.

According to article 153 of Malaysia's constitution, Malays must be provided with certain preferences in terms of business licenses, scholarships and employment in the public

service. This makes ethnic Chinese feel like outsiders in their own country. The policy hurts Malaysia's development. Over the past few years, an increasing number of second and third generations of Malaysian Chinese, especially those who received a higher education, chose to move or transfer their assets abroad. It is also a crucial reason why Robert Kuok Hock Nien, the richest person in Malaysia and a Malaysian Chinese, shifted his business to Hong Kong in the 1970s. Why is Malaysia stuck in the middle-income trap? Its lawmakers may find some clues in the move.

After Mahathir won the election, he said he had no problem with China's Belt and Road initiative, which was a positive sign. As a pragmatist, he must have known that cooperation could help promote Malaysia's economic transformation and assist the nation's infrastructure construction. It is to be hoped that Malaysia's new government can treat its collaboration with China with a fair-and-square view.

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# Reconfiguring security order in Northeast Asia

By Emanuel Pastreich

The recent meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Dalian is an essential part of the effort to establish a consensus that will ensure the historic summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim is successful.

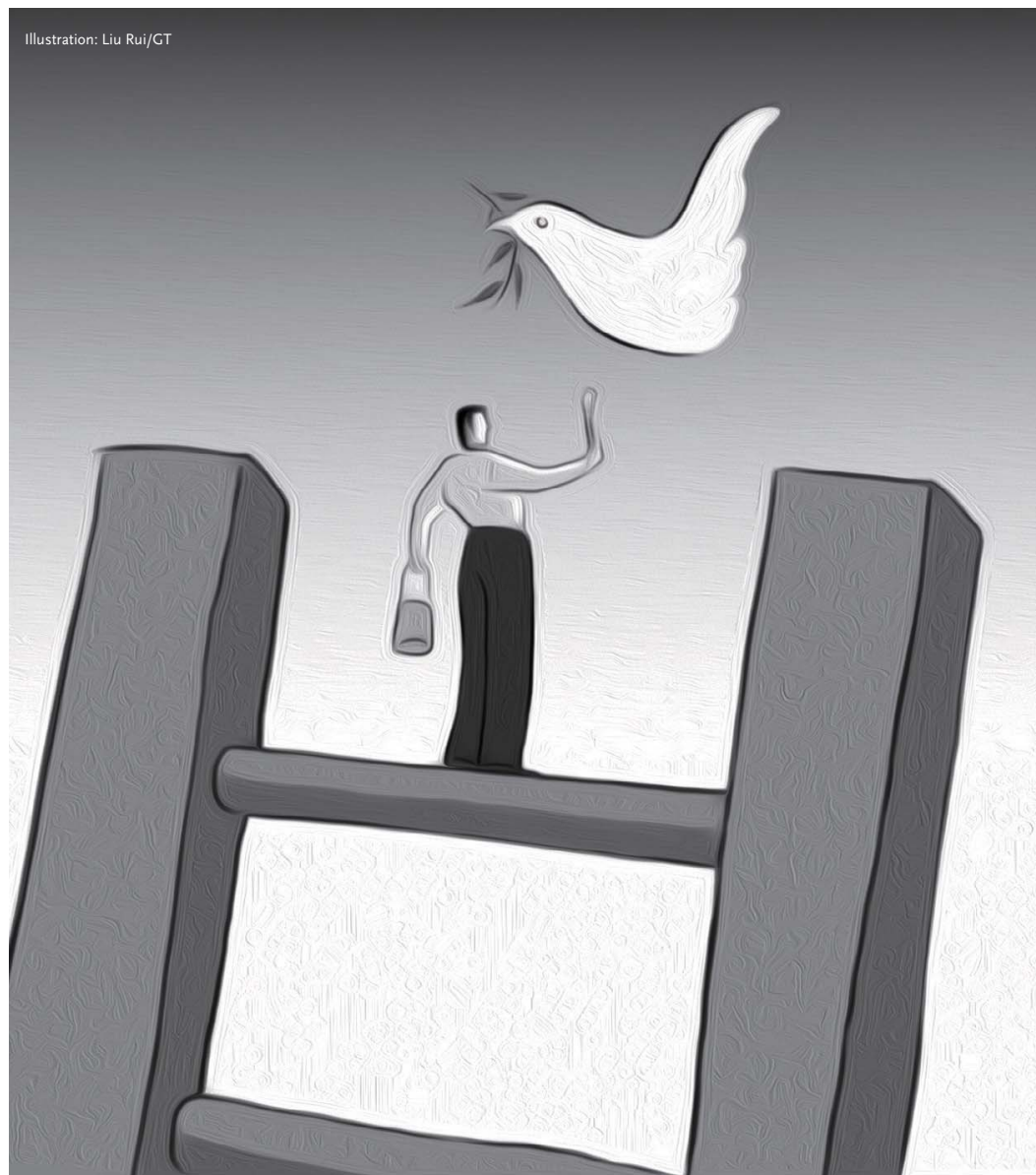
The summit, if held, will fundamentally alter the geopolitical makeup of the region and unlock long hidden elements frozen in a Cold War system. There has been ceaseless chatter about the significance of the much ballyhooed Trump-Kim summit. There has been speculation over the possibility of the summit being able to deliver more than fabulous photo-ops and fascinating anecdotes.

And President Trump is not idle either. He issued numerous tweets suggesting he expects a breakthrough with Kim at the upcoming summit. Yet the same president was tweeting, and lecturing, about a unilateral nuclear attack on North Korea not that long ago.

We rather need a global consensus on what President Xi has called "a community with a shared future for mankind," which is so powerful that it overrides self-centered power games in Washington.

Kim remarked in Dalian that he anticipated "step-by-step and synchronized measures" to normalize North Korea-US relations that "will ultimately realize denuclearization and establish a lasting peace on the peninsula."

Such a plan sounds logical to any nonproliferation expert. It was the strategy under Bill Clinton and Kim Dae-jung. But today such experts have no influence whatsoever on US policy. Trump is surrounded



by extremists like John Bolton who have no interest in a gradual approach to anything, and know little about technology.

Russia has also shown vital interest in negotiations over the Korean Peninsula. Russia's influence in geopolitics has risen exponentially over the last five years and it could well be in a position to demand a seat in the discussions. More importantly, US-Russian rela-

tions have hit such a low that political conflicts with Russia will end up coloring any agreement, whether intended or not.

That brings us to the extremely serious problems that lie beneath the surface of glitzy media coverage of negotiations with North Korea. We are facing a perfect storm involving politics, economics and simple institutional collapse that threatens the survival of any agreement. We will be facing

a crisis on a scale we have not seen since the 1930s if this process goes forward in Washington. The ability of the global community to agree on basic principles of international relations will be questioned at the moment a debate about the future of the Korean Peninsula is being launched.

China's response to this intricate position on the Korean Peninsula will be critical. It is essential that China adhere to

the high standards for international affairs set down in the UN Charter and that it work together to establish common goals for collaboration.

At the same time, we need to bring in a complex group of politicians, academics, creative thinkers, youth and NGOs to debate with a strong sense of historical significance about the future of the peninsula and the integration of East Asia. If we look back to the founding of the United Nations, we realize that it did not grow out of the short-term concerns of politicians, but rather from an earnest global movement that demanded a transparent and accountable form of governance in the debris of the fascist bid for global conquest.

The response of institutions to the international crisis will require imagination, will-power, bravery and a vision for what a better world could be. We cannot let this dangerous drift toward chaos continue. The time has come to turn the resolution of the crisis on the Korean Peninsula into a movement for a new concept of peace which engages so many people in so many ways.

The solution must be so transformative that it cannot be set back. In fact, the transformation of the Korean Peninsula should be assumed to be by its very nature an occasion that comes every 500 years when we must completely rethink the threats and opportunities of our age and make a definitive and inspired effort to come up with a new system of things.

The author is a non-resident fellow at Center for China and Globalization and director of The Earth Management Institute at Kyung Hee University in South Korea. [opinion@globaltimes.com.cn](mailto:opinion@globaltimes.com.cn)

## Focus on positive aspects, shun irritants to better India-China ties: expert

By Yang Dingdu

Promoting economic cooperation is key to stabilizing and improving relations between India and China, the world's two biggest developing countries and emerging economies, C. Raja Mohan, director of Carnegie India, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Both Chinese and Indian leaders want to keep bilateral ties sound and stable. "The challenge is to change understandings into specifics," Mohan said, referring to the informal meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in late April.

The two-day tete-a-tete in Central

China's Wuhan was widely applauded by scholars and experts, who said that the meeting provided a good chance for Beijing and New Delhi to further exchange views over long-term and strategic issues.

Bilateral ties can be improved by managing the "negative elements" and outdoing them with positive ones. "Political differences will remain, they must be balanced with economic relations," Mohan said.

"Increased trade, increased Chinese investment, more Indian companies going to China and vice versa, those are what gives you stability," Mohan said, calling for improved trade relations, better market access and investment condi-

tions. Last year, Indian exports to China went up nearly 40 percent to \$16.34 billion, while overall bilateral trade hit a historic high of \$84.4 billion, up 20.3 percent year on year, according to statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce.

China is India's largest trading partner. Both are the world's major economic engines and offer huge opportunities in bilateral trade.

Mohan said he feels that building strong people-to-people links offers a short-cut to better ties.

Both China and India should make travel easier while promoting cooperation in tourism and education. "These are easily done, not difficult things to

do," he added.

Mohan also suggested both countries cooperate in infrastructure projects in the region, saying "we can do projects in other countries, through which we can build some trust."

"Differences will not automatically disappear," Mohan said. "We need to cooperate. Increase the positive to reduce the negative."

The author is a writer with the Xinhua News Agency. The article first appeared on Xinhua. [opinion@globaltimes.com.cn](mailto:opinion@globaltimes.com.cn)





## US pullout from nuclear deal worsens stability in Mideast

By Zhang Yuan

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was on Sunday in China, one of the stops in his rushed trip after US President Donald Trump announced quitting the Iran nuclear deal. The external political and security dynamics of Iran are in a flux with diplomacy facing enormous challenges. Trump's vaunted withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal is destabilizing the Middle East and even the globe.

The Iran nuclear deal – the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – is a crucial multilateral achievement. It is an example of an attempt to ease international crisis through multilateral political negotiations. The agreement means that major countries are willing to work toward peacefully resolving hot button issues. Thanks to the Barack Obama government, the deal was signed toward the end of his presidency and the results brought about by the agreement have benefited more than the eight signatories.

The US withdrawal from the deal disrespects multilateral diplomacy. It may create fresh chaos in an already volatile region and jeopardize world peace. Every multilateral agreement is a binding international document that has come about as a result of repeated discussions and consultation among various parties, and is signed after consensus among the parties. All the parties are bound to make compromises and concessions. The US withdrawal, however, has put paid to the possibility of future communication and negotiations between Washington and Tehran, and the likelihood of the two finding a solution under the multilateral framework is highly impossible.

Zarif's visit signaled Iran's resolve to stick to the nuclear deal despite the

new crisis generated by Trump's controversial decision to come out of the agreement.

Weeks before Trump announced he would abandon the deal, officials from France, Germany and the UK visited the US to dissuade him from doing so. The three EU nations have recognized the indispensable role the deal plays in the fight against nuclear proliferation. However, it is unfortunate that they failed to stop Trump and after withdrawing from the agreement, the US announced it is preparing stricter sanctions on Tehran. The move will affect many European companies that have trade ties with Iran and force the belief that other EU countries may come out of the agreement.

Beijing and Tehran have always maintained friendly relations. The Chinese government's proposal has played a significant role in resolving the Iranian nuclear logjam. China can provide a platform for political peace talks and help find a solution. It supports all sides staying within the deal, so as to jointly share the responsibility of alleviating the security dilemma in the Middle East.

The Iran nuclear deal remains even with the US jumping ship. As long as other signatories keep the deal alive, Tehran can keep obeying it. But the premise is that European countries, Russia and China must withstand the impending pressure from Washington. If more countries withdraw from the deal, Iran will threaten to restart its nuclear program, derailing efforts of the international community to curb confrontation in the Middle East.

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## Iran needs to find ways to weather sanctions storm

By Zhao Jianming

President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the Iran nuclear deal earlier this month, moving to re-impose sanctions on Iran. Trump's exit marks the start of the US subjecting Iran to extreme pressure. The US may use Syria to wear out Iran militarily. Tehran has become the most important external supporter of Bashar al-Assad's government since civil war broke out in the country. However, as Saudi Arabia, Israel and the US ratcheted up military tensions, the civil war has become a battle of attrition. The longer the unrest lasts, the more resources Iran will put into it.

In the Middle East, the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia will collaborate to oppose Iran. The Trump administration's strong stance toward Iran has intensified because of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's wariness over the Iran nuclear issue and Israel's threat of taking unilateral action against Tehran. The three countries have reached a consensus on together opposing Iran.

Upping the pressure on Iran, Trump signed an executive order imposing sanctions on any foreign company continuing to do business with Iran. Boeing's deal with Iran signed during the Obama administration might be scrapped. Besides, the US is likely to further impose curbs on foreign companies extracting oil in Iran. French energy giant Total will bear the brunt. President Trump intends to further isolate Iran economically.

The US also uses the North Korean nuclear issue to press Iran. The date of Trump's announcement to withdraw from the Iran deal was moved from May 12 to May 8, which might show US' intention of dominating negotiations on North Korea. The future of the North Korean nuclear crisis will exert pressure on Iran, forcing Iran to make concessions.

Iran will be bruised if the

nuclear deal is abandoned. Its currency has plummeted. Almost each time President Trump examined the Iran nuclear deal, the Iranian rial plunged. Shortly after Trump's announcement, the Iranian currency dived to a record low of about 65,000 rials to 1 US dollar.

Moreover, a general feeling of insecurity has intensified in Iran. The country's domestic security controls were strict, but street demonstrations broke out since the end of 2017. Iranians aired their grievances against falling living standards and foreign affairs, and appealed to the government to focus on people's living conditions instead of supporting Syria and Lebanon's Hezbollah. President Trump also expressed his support for the demonstrations. He intends to encourage Iranians to oppose the government by slapping sanctions and making it harder for people to eke out a decent living.

Iran may regain its strong diplomatic stance. Iran's Hassan Rouhani won the presidential election and re-election because of the emergence of a relatively stable economy and improved relations with the West, especially with the US. However, President Trump frustrated the mild-mannered politician's diplomatic policies. While the US keeps pressing Iran, there will be more hawks in the government likely to affect Iran's diplomacy. Conservatives like Ebrahim Raisi and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad may have more influence in politics.

While Iran's geopolitics and economy keep worsening, it has to cope passively. First, Iran is likely to control its domestic security more strictly. For example, it has banned the popular messaging app Telegram. Second, Iran will persist in stabilizing its currency and crack down on speculation and arbitrage. Besides, Iran will develop its nuclear diplomacy and strive for the support of the UK, France, Germany, China and Russia.

The coming few weeks may be important to observe Iran's diplomacy. President Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif both said that whether Iran will restart enriching uranium depends on the other five parties' talks. Since the five countries promised to keep the deal, Iran will ask for specific measures, for example, comprehensively removing economic sanctions and increasing investment in the country. The other five parties shouldn't submit to US pressure. Iran's negotiations with the five countries will in turn trigger another round of games with the US. We will have to wait and see.

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Illustration: Liu Rui/CT





# BRI: The project that will change our world

By Shamas ur Rehman Toor

The Belt and Road initiative (BRI) has been a much talked about project in recent years. Its scale is unprecedented. The initiative will not only improve intra-Asia connectivity but also enhance the link between Asia, Europe and Africa. The initiative will impact 65 countries (or more) that are home to nearly 60 percent of the world's population, representing nearly 40 percent of global GDP and vast natural resources. BRI will cost hundreds of billions of dollars in investment over the coming years.

In a world where increasing protectionism is causing countries and regions to drift apart, BRI will bring them closer by improving economic integration through trade and movement of goods and ideas. In the age of hyper internet connectivity, bringing people closer can lead to unprecedented cross-fertilization of ideas, spur innovations and improve cross-cultural understanding of various civilizations, religions and countries. The project, if realized as conceived, could have an even broader impact on our future world.

First, more jobs for future youth: According to the UN, global population is expected to increase to 8.6 billion in 2030 and nearly 85 percent of people will be living in Asia, Africa and Europe – continents to be connected by the BRI. While populations in Asia and Africa grow, the continents will need a steady growth in new

jobs that can absorb a growing population of young and educated people. BRI will not only help spur economic growth, but also help support increasing needs for employment among youth. We have seen how youth unemployment contributed to the Arab Spring in 2010 and the aftermath of that continues to afflict the Middle East. BRI will directly and indirectly create millions of new jobs as well as business opportunities across Asia and Africa that will absorb the young workforce in the future and in turn improve socio-political stability across regions.

Second, engine for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Many BRI countries in Asia and Africa have a long way to go to achieve their targets under SDGs, which need trillions of dollars in investments in infrastructure, human development, industry, climate and governance. Much of these investments will need domestic mobilization of resources. Countries with increased economic

activities will be able to raise more taxes and hence be in a better position to make necessary investments for SDGs. Countries which are economically interconnected and interdependent will also be able to transfer skills, technology and resources that will support tremendous gains in human and infrastructure development and in turn help achieve the targets of SDGs.

Third, peace and stability: History has taught us that economic interdependence leads to peace and stability in countries and regions. BRI will not only improve connectivity of regions, but also increase interdependence among countries to keep up trade and investment flows. This economic interdependence will improve peace and stability in Asia and beyond. Peer-pressure, connectivity and interdependence will also motivate countries to end friction with next-door neighbors. Countries will need to find new ways to solve

their problems and engage through solutions. Opening up of countries to one another will also enhance people-to-people contacts and exchanges, which are critical elements in resolving disputes.

Fourth, enhanced multilateralism: With increased connectivity, trade and economic interdependence, BRI is likely to integrate Asia, Africa and Europe into a mega economic zone never seen before. BRI will likely result in more multilateral institutions and arrangements that will need to address political as well as economic challenges of countries. Six major multilateral financial institutions have already signed a MoU with the Chinese Ministry of Finance for collaboration under BRI. This early involvement of major multilateral financial institutions is important. It will not only help ensure green practices and high standards of transparency in BRI transactions, but also help introduce

best practices in preparing, designing and implementing BRI

projects, especially in countries with weak capacity. With enhanced multilateralism in the BRI region, imagining an Asian Union or Euro-Asian Union may not be a far-fetched dream.

Fifth, controlled economic migration: As Europe's population shrinks and ages, pressure will build on European economies to import young and skilled labor from Asia and Africa. With better economic cooperation policies among countries, BRI will help improve flow of skilled labor between national borders and ease pressure on developed nations in terms of skilled labor. BRI may open a whole new era of controlled economic migration of people to various countries that is driven by economic interdependence and connectivity.

Besides the economic impact of the multi-billion dollar international initiative, its socio-cultural and political implications deserve attention. As President Xi Jinping of China said in his keynote address at the 2017 APEC summit in Vietnam, economic globalization is an irreversible trend of the time, the world needs to prepare itself with investments in hard and soft infrastructure to share the benefits of the next wave of globalization. BRI will be a catalyst in ensuring that a shared future binds countries and civilizations.

The author is a senior strategy and policy officer at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Views expressed in this article are author's personal and do not reflect views of AIIB in any way. [opinion@globaltimes.com.cn](mailto:opinion@globaltimes.com.cn)



Illustration: Liu Rui/GT

## Relocation of US' Israel embassy to Jerusalem fuels regional tension

Relocation of the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will fuel regional tensions and have consequences, according to Jordanian analysts and officials.

Jordan's Minister of State for Media Affairs Mohammad Momani said that the act of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem and recognizing the city as the capital of Israel is a clear violation of UN resolutions. "Jordan rejects the US decision that lacks legal grounds, and Jordan, like the rest of the world, rejects the US move," said the minister in a statement to the press on Monday.

East Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, said the minister, stressing the kingdom's custodianship of the city.

The minister added that Jordan, which signed a peace deal with Israel in 1994, will make efforts to relaunch

peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis and will continue to work with the international community to protect Jerusalem and the holy sites.

The minister warned of serious consequence of provocations in Jerusalem.

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua, retired major general and strategic analyst Adeeb Sarayreh said the US move will worsen the situation.

"This US move only serves extremism and violence in the Middle East," Sarayreh said, adding that there is a need for unified efforts to face the US move.

"The Palestinian issue is the key issue in the Middle East and will remain as such... Any provocations will only worsen the situation," he said.

Political analyst Raed Omari agreed. "I believe a new intifada is likely to occur in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

after the invalid US move," Omari told Xinhua. "The decision by US President Donald Trump is reckless and is likely to fuel more tension... Jordan is involved as the Palestinian issue directly affects the kingdom," said Omari.

He added that the US decision, which was rejected by an overwhelming majority of countries, violates UN resolutions and undermines peace efforts.

"The US decision preempts any future peace talks and is a key obstacle to making peace," said Omari.

In December, the UN General Assembly voted 128-9 with 35 abstentions to adopt a resolution on the status of Jerusalem, which shows that few countries favor the US decision to recognize the holy city as the Israeli capital and mirrors the isolation of the US on the issue. The resolution, tabled by Turkey

and Yemen in a rare emergency special session at the UN, affirmed that the US decision has "no legal effect, is null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with relevant resolutions of the Security Council."

It also called upon all UN member states to "refrain from the establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem."

The nine countries that voted against the text were Guatemala, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Togo, as well as the US and Israel.

This is an article of the Xinhua News Agency. [opinion@globaltimes.com.cn](mailto:opinion@globaltimes.com.cn)



From left: Producer William Jehannin, guest Andrew Mlangeni and director Nicolas Champeaux pose for a picture in Cannes, France, on Monday.

Photo: IC



► Mandela comrades take spotlight in Cannes documentary

## 'THE OTHERS'

mai 2018

Half a century after the historic trial at which Nelson Mandela escaped the gallows, one of his fellow former prisoners walked the Cannes red carpet on Monday for the premiere of a documentary about those with him in the dock.

Andrew Mlangeni is one of the last surviving defendants of the 1963-64 Rivonia trial of Mandela and nine others who faced the death sentence on charges of plotting guerrilla warfare and acts of sabotage against South Africa's apartheid regime.

"I knew that one day I would come out of prison... But I never thought in my life I would ever come to France, never mind appearing in a film which is seen by the entire world," the 92-year-old, who spent 27 years behind bars, told AFP.

Mandela's impassioned three-hour address to the court, during which he declared that a democratic South Africa was an ideal "for which I am prepared to die" was the most significant of his career.

It conferred a demi-god status on him that overshadowed the sacrifices of his co-accused.

*The State Against Mandela and the Others*, a French-funded documentary based on the recently released audio recordings of the proceedings, attempts to redress the balance by putting his comrades center stage.

"Mandela was not expressing his view alone, he was expressing the view of all the accused. We were almost certain that we were going to hang. But we were prepared. We were prepared for anything," Mlangeni said.

The film uses animation, interviews and archival footage to show how the defendants turned a trial aimed at dealing a knockout blow to the anti-apartheid movement into an indictment of the country's white supremacist rule.

"We decided we had to conduct this not as a criminal trial but a political trial," says Ahmed Kathrada, one of three former prisoners – one black (Mlangeni), one white (Denis Goldberg) and one of Asian origin (Kathrada) – interviewed for the feature.

Kathrada, who died last year, is one of the heroes of the documentary by journalist Nicolas Champeaux and filmmaker Gilles Porte.

Born into a family of Indian Muslim immigrants, he refused, like his comrades, to appeal his sabotage conviction to avoid the indignity of being seen to beg for clemency.

### 'It's life!'

Animated charcoal drawings are used to recreate clashes between the preening prosecutor, depicted as a vulture in flapping black robes, and the accused, who refused to be bowed.

Powerful testimony from the likes of Mlangeni, who watched his parents work for whites "for peanuts," and Mandela's mentor Walter Sisulu, who complained of constant harassment of his family by the police, moved the world – and the judge.

At the end of the eight-month trial, the men were spared the noose. Mandela and seven others were sentenced instead to life in prison, a verdict they greeted with relief.

"It's life! And life is wonderful!" Goldberg recalls shouting across the courtroom to his mother.

But Mandela's ex-wife Winnie was already steeling herself for the long road ahead.

"That's when my 'Amandla' [Power] started," she says in one of her last interviews before her death last month, uttering the rallying cry of the anti-apartheid movement with a clenched-fist salute.

### Poetry in animation

For Champeaux, a former correspondent in South Africa who gained access to the 256 hours of digitized recordings, the trial had all the makings of an epic tale that needed to be shared.

"There's the bad guy, the traitor, the love story, the suspense, the inscrutable judge, the families trembling in the gallery," he told AFP.

But it is also a reminder, he said, "that when you are wedded to a cause, those close to you suffer."

Coming ahead of the centenary of Mandela's birth, the film aims above all to remind the world that South Africa's tortured path to democracy was achieved by teamwork.

It is a reminder, says Porte, "that all great things that happen in this world are achieved collectively."

AFP

## Johnny Depp 'keen to star' in J M Coetzee film adaptation

Johnny Depp may be about to work with the acclaimed Colombian director Ciro Guerra, whose new film *Birds of Passage* is one of the hits of the Cannes film festival.

The *Pirates of the Caribbean* star has "reached out" to Ciras, a hot arthouse talent who won a rake of awards for *The Embrace of the Serpent*, Screen magazine reported on Monday. Depp will "possibly" star

in Ciras' next film based on a novel by South African Nobel laureate J M Coetzee, which already features Mark Rylance and Robert Pattinson, it added.

Shooting on Guerra's first English-language feature, based on Coetzee's own adaptation of his breakthrough 1980 novel *Waiting for the Barbarians*, is scheduled to begin in autumn in Morocco. It will tell the story of a

magistrate in a colonial town who is accused of consorting with the enemies of a fictional empire, modeled on apartheid South Africa.

Publishers Penguin included the book in its Great Books of the 20th Century series.

Depp, who is set to play villain Gellert Grindelwald in the upcoming *Harry Potter* spin-off *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, would feature

alongside *Twilight* star Pattinson, who got his first big break in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, according to Screen.

Once Hollywood's highest paid actor, Depp has seen his stock slip in the past few years, dragged down by a messy divorce from actress Amber Heard replete with domestic abuse allegations.

Angry *Harry Potter* fans had called for his lead role in

*Fantastic Beasts* to be recast over the allegations, but author J K Rowling and director David Yates stood by their choice.

Heard withdrew the claims after the pair reached an out-of-court divorce settlement.

AFP



# BBMAs to rock China



Bruno Mars and Kendrick Lamar (below) Photos: IC

As the countdown continues to May 20, when the 2018 Billboard Music Awards takes place in Las Vegas, China's streaming giant Tencent Video announced in a press release on Monday that it will livecast the upcoming awards ceremony as well as original content from the red carpet ceremony on its platform.

According to the full list of nominations on billboard.com, Kendrick Lamar and Ed Sheeran and Bruno Mars lead the nominees with 15 BBMA nominations apiece. All three are up for Top Artist, competing against Drake (9 noms total), and Taylor Swift (5 noms total) in that field.

It's also a good day for Post Malone, who is up for 13 BBMAs in 12 categories, and Imagine Dragons, who snagged 11 nods in 10 categories. Justin Bieber and Cardi B are tied with 8 nominations, and the boys behind "Despacito," Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee, have 7 apiece. Cardi is up for Top New Artist, facing off against 21 Savage, Camila Cabello, Khalid and Kodak Black.

Ariana Grande, the record-

breaking pop star who just made her triumphant, gravity-defying return with "No Tears Left to Cry" is set to act as the opening artist for the 2018 Billboard Music Awards. She joins the star-studded schedule with previously announced performances from BTS, Camila Cabello, Dua Lipa and Shawn Mendes for one of music's biggest nights of the year.

Korean pop band BTS, who enjoy high popularity in Asia especially in China, will perform at the awards, with the K-pop phenoms set to give the debut TV performance of the new single from their forthcoming *Love Yourself: Tear* album. In the K-pop scene, the debut performance of a new single is a big deal, known as a "comeback" performance. With their upcoming BBMAs performance, BTS is setting themselves up as Korean-culture leaders that can create bigger and larger opportunities to lift the Korean wave.

Additionally, Macklemore and Kesha will bring their collaboration "Good Old Days" to the stage. The song, from Macklemore's 2017 solo album *Gemini*, peaked at No.48 on the Billboard Hot 100 in March and

their performance at the BBMAs will mark the second televised rendition of the collaboration after the duo appeared together on *Ellen* last year.

Janet Jackson will receive this year's ICON Award at the show and will also take the stage for a highly anticipated performance of her greatest hits, her first performance on TV in 9 years.

Because of each of these big names boasting a huge amount of music fans in China and their great influences in the music scene, Tencent Video Music has acquired the exclusive streaming and live broadcast rights to the Billboard Music Awards in the Chinese mainland until 2020.

Agencies - Global Times

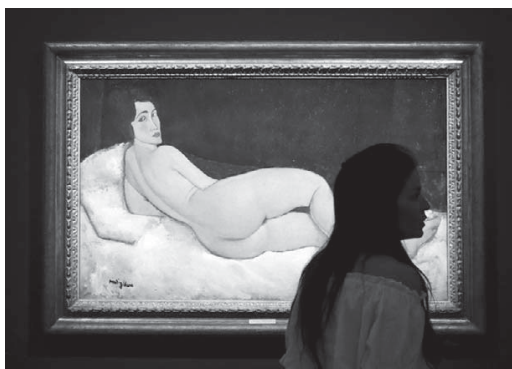


## Painting by Modigliani sells for \$157.2 m in New York: Sotheby's

A stunning nude that is the largest painting produced by Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani sold for \$157.2 million in New York on Monday, becoming the fourth most expensive work of art sold at auction.

Painted a century ago, Modigliani's masterpiece *Nu couche (sur le cote gauche)* fetched the highest price in Sotheby's history and was the star single lot in the May art auction season in New York.

Modigliani follows Leonardo da Vinci and Pablo Picasso as the third highest-selling artist



*Nu couche (sur le cote gauche)* Photo: IC

at auction. Monday's sale failed to eclipse the \$170.4 million paid for another Modigliani nude at Christie's in 2015.

Nearly 147 centimeters wide, the picture was

the cover star of a recent retrospective at the Tate Modern gallery in London.

Modigliani reinvented the nude for the modern era, and when his series of paintings were first exhibited in 1917, they were considered so shocking that police closed the show in Paris.

Bidding was restrained, lasting three to four minutes and opening at \$125 million before auctioneer Helena Newman brought the hammer down at \$139 million. The final price includes a buyer's premium.

The price chalks up a healthy profit for its seller, who acquired the picture in 2003 for \$26.9 million.

Modigliani completed 22 reclining nudes and 13 seated nudes between 1916 and 1919. Most of the former are found in museums, such as The Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Simon Shaw, co-head of impressionist and modern art at Sotheby's, said the painting sold Monday, while rooted in tradition, reflected the changing status of women during World War I. "This is a nude of a very self-possessed, sexually confident woman who is not looking out from a distance. She's absolutely meeting our gaze," he told AFP prior to the sale.

Modigliani's dealer Leopold Zborowski gave him a stipend of 15 francs a day (\$15) and paid the models five francs to pose for the artist.

AFP

## Marvel's 'Avengers: Infinity War' tops North American box office for third weekend straight

*Avengers: Infinity War* dominated the North American box office for a third straight weekend, raking in \$62.1 million as it easily fended off competition, industry figures showed on Monday.

The Disney blockbuster, featuring a string of Marvel superheroes out to save the universe from powerful purple alien Thanos (Josh Brolin), has a cumulative three-week take of \$548.1 million, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Returning to their Marvel roles in the film are Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow and Chris Hemsworth as Thor.

Running a distant second with what normally would be a respectable \$17.9 million was *Life of the Party*, a Melissa McCarthy comedy in its first weekend out.

McCarthy - who co-wrote the script with her husband,

the movie's director Ben Falcone - stars as a newly divorced mother who returns to college, where her daughter is in her senior year.

*Breaking In*, a new thriller starring Gabrielle Union, was third at \$17.6 million.

Review website Rotten Tomatoes dismissed the film as a "rote, disposable action thriller" but praised Union's performance as a mother fighting to save her children from criminal hostage-takers.

Rom-com *Overboard* slipped from second to fourth place with a box-office take of \$9.9 million in its second weekend in theaters. The Lionsgate remake, starring Anna Faris and Eugenio Derbez, is about a struggling single mother who persuades a rich playboy with amnesia that they are married.

AFP





# BOX-OFFICE FRAUD

The controversy arising from the massive ticket refunds for Chinese romance movie *Us and Them* on online ticketing platforms during the film's May Day holiday debut two weeks ago has triggered concerns about artificial inflation of box-office numbers in China.

The film, directed by Taiwan singer/actress Rene Liu, grabbed the No.1 spot at the three-day holiday box office with 640 million yuan (\$100.8 million). However, an unusual amount of ticket refunds on Chinese ticketing platforms including Maoyan and Taopiaopiao that weekend led some to suspect that the studios behind the film were trying to inflate its pre-sale numbers in order to build hype for the film.

Some 380,000 tickets were refunded on Chinese ticketing platform Maoyan alone, roughly equivalent to 13 million yuan, according to an announcement from the platform, also one of the film's distributors and marketing partners.

According to a report from China Film News on April 30, China's State film bureau announced in a statement that it was investigating the "abnormal" refunds.

While the investigation is still underway, a second announcement from Maoyan on May 3 suggested that 46 percent of the refunds were possibly due to ticket scalpers while 54 percent were routine refunds by users on the platform.

## Long-term damage

Despite the platform's clarification, the incident triggered backlash from media and Chinese industry insiders, who accused

Maoyan and those behind the film of trying to "manipulate the market."

"Previously, online ticketing platforms usually operated as neutral third parties providing relatively objective information and data to the industry," said Liu Jianfeng, head of Poly Film Investment Co Ltd's Public Affairs Department, in an interview with Beijing Business Today.

"But now, with the ticketing platforms also taking part in marketing and distribution, the platforms' other

branches might be influenced by this change," said Liu.

If government authorities do determine that the refunds were indeed part of a fraudulent attempt to bolster presale numbers, while the parties responsible may have succeeded in building hype for the film, experts note that their actions will end up damaging the film industry over the long run.

"Cinemas might not want to participate in presales anymore. If that happens, in the end it is the film market as a whole that will suffer," Chen Shaofeng,

associate director of Peking University's Cultural Industry Institute, said in an interview with Beijing Business Today.

## Ongoing issue

This is not the first time that attempts to artificially inflate box-office numbers has caused trouble for the Chinese mainland film market, now the second-largest in the world.

Back in 2009, animated co-production *Astro Boy* was screened in the Chinese mainland on October 23. Days later, its distributor Enlight Media announced that the film's opening weekend box office had reached 40 million yuan. However, according to official box-office data released by China Film News, that number should have only reached 17 million yuan.

The incident sparked a backlash among Chinese audiences and Enlight Media quickly released an announcement apologizing for their reported box-office numbers, explaining that the 40 million yuan was supposed to have been just an estimate.

In 2015, Chinese fantasy comedy film *Monster Hunt* was also embroiled in a box-office scandal. The film, grabbing a total of 2.43 billion yuan, was the highest-earning film in China that year.

The controversy arose after it was revealed that *Monster Hunt*'s producers had booked screenings, including midnight showings, at some 29 cinemas for 40.42 million yuan more than a month after the premiere that they claimed were free showings for a "specific audience segment."

Facing criticism from netizens, the film's producers explained that the showings were a "public welfare" move so more people would have the chance to see the film.

According to cinema data, all of the seats for these screenings were sold out, however, an investigative report by China Central Television news in April 2016 revealed that many of these showings were actually empty.

Netizens note that if the 40 million yuan from the free screenings is deducted from *Monster Hunt*'s box-office total, that would make *Furious 7* the No.1 film of that year.

In 2016, Chinese action film *Ip Man 3* was also dragged into a controversy after the National Film Market Administrative Office announced that 7,600 screenings of the film, equivalent to 32 million yuan, were "problematic" and would not be counted toward its final box office.

Purposely inflating or misreporting box-office figures is a "tough, long-time problem that the film industry has continued to face," the Xinhua News Agency quoted an official from the State film bureau as saying in 2017.

The film watchdog has been trying to improve the situation by introducing new regulations aimed at curbing these dishonest practices.

In March, 2017, 326 cinemas were fined by the bureau for faking box-office figures. This was the same month in which China's Film Industry Promotion Law was enacted – the first law to officially tackle fraudulent box-office numbers.

Global Times

Promotional material for *Ip Man 3* and *Us and Them* (top)

Photos: IC

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xuliuli@globaltimes.com.cn

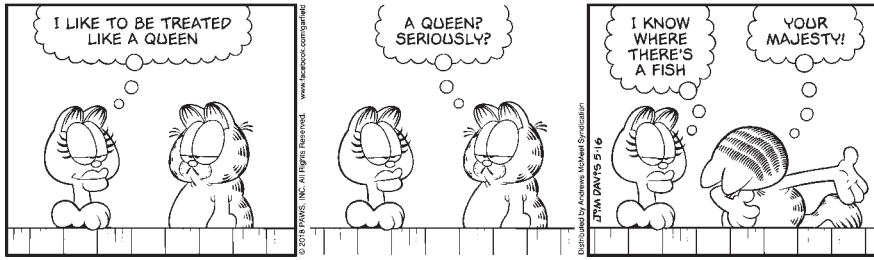


► 'Us and Them' refund dispute rekindles concerns about fraudulent practices in China's film industry





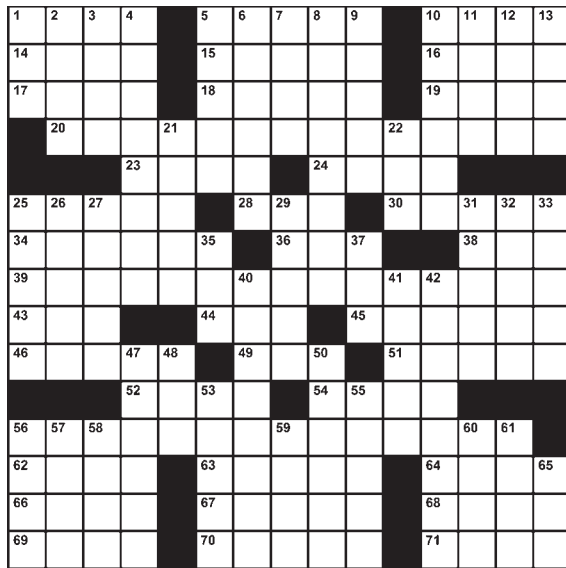
Garfield



Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Small measurement
- 5 Vast hole
- 10 It joined the U.S. in 1896
- 14 Alaskan city
- 15 "Potter" character Malfoy
- 16 Shelf-clearing event
- 17 Formal event
- 18 Coffee intruder (var.)
- 19 Advocate with oomph
- 20 Leaving to drive home
- 23 Let month-to-month
- 24 Seemingly in two?
- 25 What talk is, it's said
- 28 Way-narrow fish
- 30 Slang
- 34 Apartment inhabitant
- 36 Kona International gift
- 38 The avant-garde's Yoko
- 39 Trending toward quite a fall



- 11 Edible root
- 12 Birdbath organism
- 13 Be mindful of, as advice
- 15 Old Plains abode
- 16 Historical period
- 17 Horseshoe sounds
- 18 John with a hammer
- 19 Organic compound
- 20 Bring amusement to
- 21 Autumn decoration
- 22 Cinched
- 23 Copy machine insert
- 24 Not be right
- 25 "\_\_\_ your turn"
- 26 Whip in a debate
- 27 Aquaman's surroundings
- 28 Clothing, old-style
- 29 Drawers or bloomers
- 30 Place for a pad
- 31 More sore
- 32 Daytime serials
- 33 Script units
- 34 Pooch of Dennis the Menace
- 35 Fairy tale beast
- 36 Drafts in London
- 37 Weight on the house?
- 38 Garment of India
- 39 Way too confident

Today's Solution



DOWN

- 1 Gerunder?
- 2 Ark captain
- 3 951, of old Rome
- 4 Calamine lotion target
- 5 Throw into the mix
- 6 Author Emily
- 7 Not yin
- 8 Moved crablike
- 9 Bantu language group
- 10 Shark with money

Horoscope

Happy birthday:

You will increase your chances of success by taking things slow today. Go over every detail with a fine-toothed comb, twice if you have to. In the end, your patience is sure to pay off. Your lucky numbers: 2, 7, 9, 12, 17.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Your creativity will be on the rise today. Do everything you can to get yourself involved in artistic endeavors and you may even surprise yourself with what you end up creating. Fortune will be with you when it comes to money matters. ★★★★★

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

There is a difference between lending someone a sympathetic ear and acting as their emotional crutch. If someone is relying on you to fix all their problems, it might be time for some tough love. ★★★

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Don't be afraid to let your hair down today. Leaving seriousness behind every now and then is a great way to recharge your spiritual energies so go ahead and do whatever catches your fancy. ★★★★★

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Do not hesitate to push yourself to the limit today. You may not believe it, but you have everything you need inside you to overcome the challenges that you will encounter throughout the day. Have faith in yourself! ★★★★★

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

A trip down memory lane may put a smile on your face, but avoid looking at the past through rose-colored glasses. Make sure you remain grateful for all the blessings you have in your life right now. ★★★

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Do not allow difficulties at work to spill over into your home life. Your home should be a bastion you can turn to during times of major stress. A major promotional deal will enable you to save some money. ★★★

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

No matter how difficult things may get, the show must go on. You will have to reach deep inside to find the strength you need to continue moving forward. Lady Luck will smile down on you when it comes to affairs of the heart. ★★★★★

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Make sure you pay close attention to the changes that are taking place at work. You will be able to make yourself more competitive and likely to get a promotion by filling in a much needed niche at the office. ★★★★★

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Never take those close to you for granted. Do something special for them today so that they understand just how much they mean to you. Education will be the key to moving your career forward. ★★★

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Negativity will be a huge roadblock to success today. Do your best to avoid those who would drag you down just to make themselves feel better. Friendship and romance will be highlighted. ★★★

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Do not ask anyone else to do something you would not be willing to do yourself. Leading by example will be the best way to motivate your team to reach greater heights. Blue will be your lucky color. ★★★

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Romance is in the air so do not be surprised by what happens if you turn the lights down low. A number of issues will have to be dealt with at work. ★★★

RATINGS ★

- 5: Head for Macao!
- 4: Ye gods! The planets align!
- 3: Things are looking up.
- 2: Don't bet on things working out.
- 1: Watch out for black cats and ladders.

Learning Chinese

Chat attack

carry the blame  
背锅  
(bēi guō)

A: Did you see that movie that has been really popular lately? The ending was really unexpected!  
最近的热门电影看了吗? 结局真的让人难以预料!  
(zuìjìn de rènmén diànyǐng kàn le ma? jiéjú zhēn de ràng rén nán yǐ yùliào!)

B: Yup. A lot of netizens are yelling at one of the characters. He is carrying

all the blame for the bad things that happened. I really feel it isn't fair.  
就是呢, 其中一个人物被网友们骂惨了, 所有的错误都是他一个人背锅, 我觉得特别不公平。  
(jiùshì nē. qízhōng yíge rénwù bèi wǎngyǒumen mà cǎn le. suǒyǒu de cuòwù dōu shì tā yí gè rén bēiguō. wǒ juéde tèbié bù gōngpíng.)

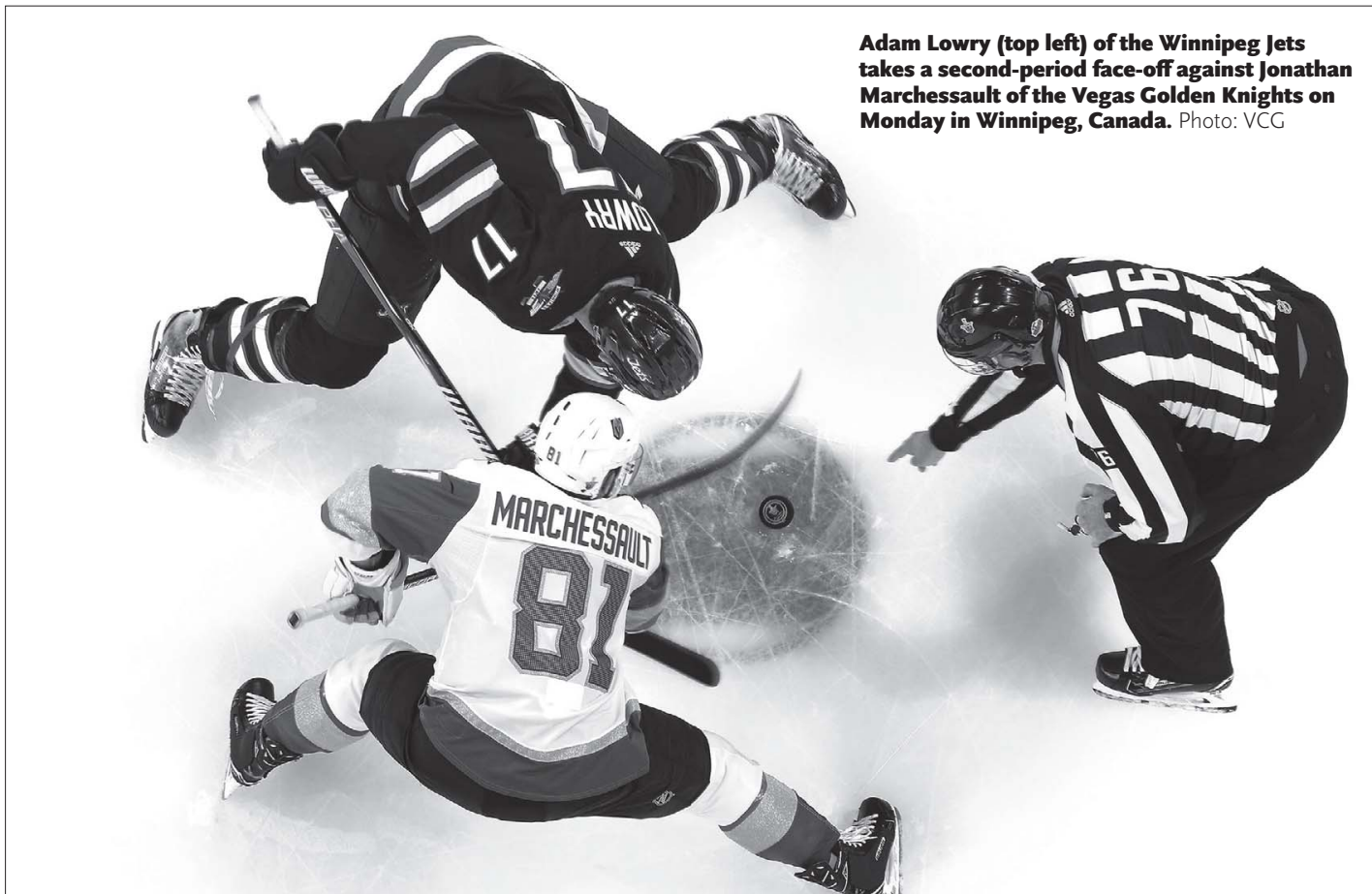
A: I know who you're talking about and I agree that it's not fair. His actions were necessary for the plot. Someone had to mess up in order to keep the

story going, otherwise there wouldn't be a sequel to this film.  
我知道你说的是谁了, 确实不公平。可这是剧情需要, 必须有人犯错来推动故事发展, 不然电影没下一部了。  
(wǒ zhīdào nǐ shuō de shì shuí le. quèshì bù gōngpíng. kě zhèshì jùqíng xūyào. bìxū yǒurén fàncuò lái tuīdòng gùshì fāzhǎn. bùrán diànyǐng méi xià yī bù le.)



Illustration: Xia Qing/GT





Adam Lowry (top left) of the Winnipeg Jets takes a second-period face-off against Jonathan Marchessault of the Vegas Golden Knights on Monday in Winnipeg, Canada. Photo: VCG

## Ball-tamperer given second chance at state level

### ► CRICKET

Cameron Bancroft has been cleared to play club cricket in Western Australia while serving his ban for ball-tampering in South Africa, as he looks for redemption over a scandal that tarnished his name.

The 25-year-old opening batsman was suspended for nine months from state and international cricket over a plot to try and alter the ball with sandpaper during the third Test in Cape Town, South Africa in March.

Then captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner were both banned for a year.

Under Western Australia Premier Cricket rules, any Cricket Australia suspension is automatically extended to club ranks, unlike in New South Wales where Smith and Warner are able to play while serving their bans.

At an extraordinary meeting of the 16 Western Australia Premier Cricket clubs to discuss the issue on Monday evening, Bancroft was granted special dispensation to turn out for his club side Willetton.

Bancroft, who has played just eight Tests, begged for forgiveness in the aftermath of the tampering incident, saying it was something he would regret for the rest of his life.

As part of his punishment, he must also undertake 100 hours of voluntary service in community cricket.

New national team coach Justin Langer has indicated he will be welcomed back into the team once his ban is served, if his form justifies selection.

AFP

## ► Marchessault scores twice in 3-1 victory in Winnipeg Vegas pull even at 1-1 with Jets

Jonathan Marchessault scored two goals and the Vegas Golden Knights defeated the Winnipeg Jets 3-1 on Monday to level their NHL playoff series.

The Golden Knights, enjoying the greatest season of any first-year expansion club in major North American sports history, equalized the best-of-seven Western Conference finals at 1-1 with Game 3 on Wednesday at Las Vegas.

The series' winner will face either Washington or Tampa Bay in the Stanley Cup finals.

Slovakian left wing Tomas Tatar opened the scoring for Vegas 13:23 into the opening period, and the Golden Knights

made it 2-0 just 3:58 later after a mid-rink turnover allowed Marchessault to charge in alone and beat Winnipeg goaltender Connor Hellebuyck.

"We just played hard right off the bat and were able to get that two-goal lead. We played really well with that lead," Marchessault said.

Kyle Connor answered for the Jets with 12:43 remaining in the third period. The NHL's top rookie goal scorer's third playoff goal lifted Winnipeg within 2-1.

But just 88 seconds later, the Golden Knights silenced the Canadian crowd as Marchessault netted another, taking a

centering pass from William Karlsson and backhanding the puck into the net.

Vegas netminder Marc-Andre Fleury, a three-time Stanley Cup champion with the Pittsburgh Penguins, made 30 saves for the Golden Knights, who return home for the next two games and would host a sixth game before their devoted fans if needed. "They are the best fans in Vegas and they are definitely going to show it off," Marchessault said.

The Jets-Knights matchup is a fairy-tale matchup, with Vegas formed only a year ago, its roster assembled from cast-offs by other clubs in an expan-

sion draft plus offseason moves by General Manager George McPhee.

In 17 prior seasons, the Jets had not won a playoff series, missing out on the postseason in 10 of 11 campaigns as the Atlanta Thrashers before moving to Winnipeg in 2011, adopting the same name as the former NHL club that moved to Arizona in 1996.

But this season, the Jets caught fire, ousting Minnesota in the first round and defending Western Conference champions Nashville in seven games in the second round.

AFP

## Female fighters to spice up One Championship's Singapore fight night

### ► MMA

#### By Lu Wen'ao in Singapore

Local favorite martial arts fighter Angela Lee of Singapore will face off against Japanese veteran Mei Yamaguchi in a world title bout as the two headline a star-studded fight card on Friday's One Championship fight night.

Singapore-based martial arts promoter One Championship will have three world title bouts on a single night at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

The match between women's atomweight world champion Lee and Yamaguchi on Friday will be a rematch of their so-called Bout of the Year in 2016, when then 19-year-old Lee fought her

way back in the final two rounds after being bloodied to win via a unanimous decision.

"I am excited to put in the best performance of my life and will remind the world who I am as a fighter, as a martial artist and as a world champion," Lee told a news conference on Monday. "I have missed the competition, the lights, the spectacle and everything that comes with it."

The 2016 victory made Lee the sport's youngest-ever world champion, and that has become one of the driving forces behind mixed martial arts' (MMA) continued rise across the region. But her opponent seems more challenging than two years ago.

"I am not the same martial artist as I

was two years ago," Japan's Yamaguchi said in fluent English. "I've made some key improvements to my game and I am excited to show everyone what I have worked so hard for."

In addition, One's reigning featherweight and lightweight world champion Martin Nguyen will defend his featherweight crown against Singaporean challenger Christian Lee, while multiple Muay Thai world champion Sam-A Gaiyanghadao meets Lion Fight lightweight world champion Sergio Wielzen for the inaugural One Super Series Muay Thai flyweight world championship.

Also on Monday, One Championship unveiled its mobile app for the fans, which provides free access to the fights under the Asian MMA outfit.

In a world dominated by pay-per-view when it comes to combat sports, One's move has raised some eyebrows as it may backfire on its own revenue. But it does not worry Chatri Sityodtong, the CEO and founder of One Championship.

"Everyone can now celebrate Asia's greatest cultural treasure martial arts globally at the palm of your hand," he said. "We believe this is the right way to celebrate martial arts. It's part of our culture, of our history, of our values and it's something that should be celebrated all over the world."





► Germany coach Loew agrees contract extension to 2022

# Injured Neuer named in preliminary squad

Injured Manuel Neuer was named in Germany's extended 27-man World Cup squad on Tuesday, but there was no place for Brazil 2014 winner Mario Goetze.

Neuer, Germany's captain and goalkeeper, has not played since September and still has to prove his fitness at a fortnight-long training camp in northern Italy, which starts next week.

The 32-year-old Bayern Munich star is one of four goalkeepers named by head coach Joachim Loew, who will have to cut four names when the final 23-man squad is submitted for the World Cup, which start on June 14 in Russia.

"Manuel is getting back into full training this week at Bayern Munich – that assures us that he can tolerate the full load in the training camp," explained Loew.

"Then we want to get a full idea, talk to him frankly and honestly, asking, 'Is it possible to play at the World Cup?'"

There is no place in Loew's squad for Goetze, who scored the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final, after an erratic season at Borussia Dortmund.

However, Loew pulled a surprise by handing a first call-up to Freiburg striker Nils Petersen, 29, the top-scoring German in the Bundesliga this season

with 15 goals. Yet there is no place for Bayern striker Sandro Wagner, who helped Germany win the Confederations Cup in Russia last year.

Loew has also selected Mesut Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan despite the pair landing in hot water with the German FA over the weekend after the Premier League stars posed for pictures with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Ozil is in the squad despite suffering from a back injury, while Bayern defender Jerome Boateng has also been called up even though he is currently sidelined by a groin injury.

Germany open their Russia 2018

campaign against Mexico in Moscow on June 17, with the defending champions also facing South Korea and Sweden in Group F.

Before the unveiling of the preliminary World Cup squad, Loew said Tuesday he had agreed to extend his contract with Germany to 2022.

Loew, whose current deal runs out in 2020, has been in charge for 12 years and in 2014 led Germany to their fourth World Cup title. He has been in charge for 160 matches, winning 106, more than any other Germany coach.

AFP

## ► Step forward



**Tianjin Quanjian midfielder Axel Witsel (left) competes for the ball with Guangzhou Evergrande midfielder Zheng Zhi during the second leg of their Asian Champions League round-of-16 matchup on Tuesday in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. Quanjian advanced to the quarterfinals on away goals after a 2-2 tie, having drawn the first leg 0-0 in Tianjin last week.**

Photo: VCG

## FA Cup final ball to feature names of 137 goal scorers

### ► SOCCER

The names of 137 goal scorers from this season's FA Cup campaign will feature on the ball that will be used for Saturday's final between Manchester United and Chelsea, the English FA said Tuesday.

United playmaker Alexis Sanchez and Chelsea winger Willian are among the names to be included as part of the FA's "Ball for All" initiative to celebrate players from different divisions across the country that took part this season – the 137th edition of the competition.

"Over 3,000 goals have been scored in this season's competition, from all levels of the football pyramid," FA's director of professional game relations Andy Ambler said.

"The 137 goal scorers from across the country are representatives of all who have contributed to this season's competition."

Other names on the ball will include Wigan Athletic's Will Grigg, who scored the winner as the third-tier League One side shocked Premier League champions Manchester City in the fifth round.

Liam Pullen, a player for Chipping Sodbury Town, scored the National League Step 6 side's first-ever FA Cup goal this season and has also been named on the ball, which he will present ahead of kickoff at Wembley on Saturday.

Reuters

## Teen wonder Sessegnon inspires Fulham to playoff final

### ► SOCCER

Teenage sensation Ryan Sessegnon scored once and created another as Fulham edged closer to a Premier League return Monday with a 2-0 win over Derby County in their Championship playoff.

Thanks to a 2-1 aggregate victory, the Cottagers will now play the winners between Aston Villa and Middlesbrough.

English wingback Sessegnon, 17 – whose performances have attracted the attention of Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and French champions Paris Saint-Germain – brought the tie level two minutes into the second half with his 16th goal of the season,

before his corner was headed home by center back Denis Odoi in the 66th minute.

For Fulham – bidding to regain their Premier League status after a hiatus of four seasons – it is an historic moment as it is the first time they have won in eight playoff matches.

"We showed a lot of bottle today," Sessegnon told Sky Sports.

"Credit to the lads, we pushed and pushed and should have scored in the first half."

"This club needs this kind of happiness," purred Fulham manager Slavisa Jokanovic to Sky Sports.

"After 43 years we will play at Wembley and it is an important

achievement for us."

After a quiet first half Sessegnon struck early in the second to rock Derby.

Sessegnon – who many are urging England manager Gareth Southgate to take to the World Cup in June – seized on Stefan Johansen's chest-down to fire the ball into the net past Scott Carson.

Derby replied with Bradley Johnson bursting powerfully into the area and forcing Fulham keeper Marcus Bettinelli into a smart save.

However, the hosts – unbeaten at home since October – turned the screw ever tighter with Aleksandar Mitrovic and Aboubakar Kamara going close.

Carson, though, could do

nothing about Odoi's bullet header from Sessegnon's corner in the 66th minute, the Belgian defender rising above his marker to power it into the net.

Derby manager Gary Rowett realized dramatic action was required if his side were to avoid remaining out of the top flight for an 11th season and threw on two of his substitutes including Czech international striker Matej Vydra.

Vydra had a golden chance of bringing the tie all square on aggregate five minutes after his introduction but headed fellow substitute Kasey Palmer's superb cross over the bar.

AFP







Kevin Durant of the Golden State Warriors dunks against the Houston Rockets at Toyota Center on Monday in Houston, Texas. Photo: VCG

► Harden scores game-high 41 in loss

## Warriors blast past Rockets in opener

**NBA 2017-18**

Season wins leader Houston battled an entire campaign to seize a home-court edge throughout the NBA playoffs, but defending champions Golden State stole it away with a 119-106 victory on Monday.

Kevin Durant scored 37 points and Klay Thompson added 28 for the Warriors to capture the best-of-seven Western Conference finals opener in a rare series start on the road for a team seeking its third NBA crown in four seasons.

Stephen Curry added 18 points, six rebounds and eight assists while Draymond Green contributed nine rebounds and nine assists for the Warriors.

NBA scoring champion James Harden netted 41 points to lead the Rockets, who host Game 2 on Wednesday.

Durant scored 17 first-half points and sparked Golden State after the Rockets played aggressively at the start, using two big runs to jump ahead only to have the Warriors overtake them by the middle of the second quarter.

"You know they are going to come out with a lot of energy," Durant said. "We just tried to take their best punch and keep fighting."

"To withstand that run says a lot about our team," Green said. "The further you get along in the playoffs, the more inten-

sity you need to bring." Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni knows that all too well.

"If we're going to knock these guys off, we have to get a better mental focus," D'Antoni said. "We ran out of gas a little bit in different spots and they didn't."

"It's just a bunch of stuff we can clean up and we will."

Chris Paul had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who fell behind in the third period and couldn't catch up in the fourth.

Durant says the Warriors know Harden will always be a threat but Golden State must remain poised against a Rockets lineup that can unleash a barrage of three-pointers if their focus lapses.

"We know James is always going to score over us. We just had to keep solid and keep playing hard," Durant said.

"This Houston team never stops. They are always in the game with three-point shots. We play a calm steady game, look for a good shot and play good D [defense] every time down."

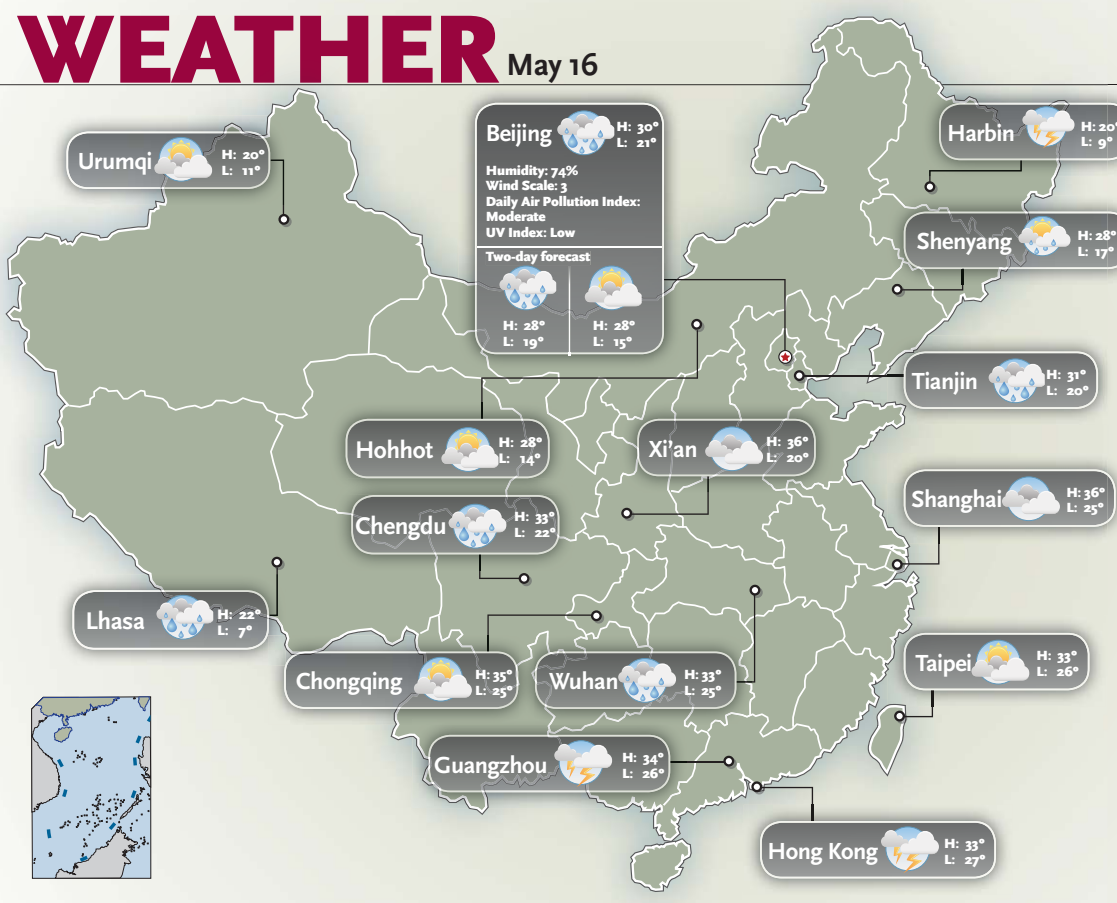
AFP

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## WEATHER May 16

- Clear
- Cloudy
- Overcast
- Rain
- Shower
- Thunder
- Wind
- Snow
- Smog



### NATIONAL


City	Hi (°C)	Lo (°C)	Forecast
Dali	26	13	Cloudy
Guilin	32	25	Shower
Hangzhou	36	26	Cloudy
Kunming	27	15	Cloudy
Lijiang	25	14	Cloudy
Macao	31	25	Cloudy
Nanjing	34	24	Thunder
Qingdao	20	16	Thunder
Sanya	33	28	Cloudy
Shenzhen	32	26	Thunder
Suzhou	35	25	Thunder

### INTERNATIONAL

City	Hi (°C)	Lo (°C)	Forecast
Amsterdam	22	13	Cloudy
Bangkok	34	26	Rain
Berlin	21	11	Rain
Brussels	23	15	Cloudy
Cairo	25	14	Cloudy
Colombo	31	26	Rain
Frankfurt	21	12	Rain
Karachi	37	27	Clear
Kuala Lumpur	35	25	Rain
London	20	11	Overcast
Manila	33	25	Rain
Melbourne	13	4	Rain
Mexico City	26	15	Rain
Moscow	24	10	Rain
Mumbai	33	27	Rain
Nairobi	23	16	Rain
New York City	32	18	Rain
Paris	24	15	Cloudy
Rome	21	13	Rain
San Francisco	17	12	Rain
Sao Paulo	24	15	Rain
Seoul	25	19	Rain
Singapore	32	25	Rain
Sydney	17	12	Rain
Tokyo	27	20	Overcast
Washington	31	19	Rain



► **Biz Update**  
Economic momentum steady **B2**




► **Biz Overview**  
A shares to get boost from MSCI inclusion **B4-5**



► **Biz Comment**  
India's economy hinges on transport **B6**



► **Biz Insight**  
Chasing a better life **B8**



**GLOBAL TIMES** 发现中国，发现世界  
**BUSINESS**

www.globaltimes.cn WEDNESDAY MAY 16, 2018



► Tech level high but commercialization lacking

**BeiDou strategy needed**

**TECH**  
**By Ma Jingjing in Gu'an**

China's self-made BeiDou Satellite Navigation System is ready for wider consumer market application, but an orderly industrialization strategy is required, experts said at the BeiDou Industrialization Forum held in Gu'an, North China's Hebei Province on Tuesday.

The BeiDou technology has reached the same level as the US' Global Positioning System (GPS), but the industrialization of BeiDou is an urgent issue that needs to be resolved so that it can achieve more widespread application.

In terms of performance alone, BeiDou is at the same level as GPS, said Deng Zhongliang, a professor with the School of Electronic Engineering at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications.

"For example, with the enhancement of XiHe, the wireless network for fused communications and navigation, BeiDou can provide not only outdoor positioning, but also indoor positioning. In this aspect, it leads global navigation technologies," he told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Currently, the price of BeiDou chips

for automobiles has been reduced to 20 yuan (\$3.14) from 200 yuan. That is about the same level as GPS chips.

BeiDou can be used in a variety of areas, including geographical data collection, surveying, mapping and navigation.

The popularization of BeiDou should be combined with specific industry applications, such as smart wearable devices, said Fan Benyao, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Although a lot of companies have been involved in the research and development of BeiDou applications, they are in a somewhat disorderly state, Fan said. This can lead to repeated research and development, which is a waste of resources, he noted, adding that the industrialization of BeiDou should be regulated.

**Commercial potential**

"The industrialization of BeiDou lies mainly in applications – how to develop sectors that have not seen BeiDou applications and how to promote domestication of BeiDou-related technologies that have been widely applied," Fan said.

"Now, most new smartphones are

**"BeiDou can provide not only outdoor positioning, but also indoor positioning. In this aspect, it leads global navigation technologies."**

**Deng Zhongliang**  
Professor with the School of Electronic Engineering at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications

equipped with both GPS and BeiDou, and how companies develop BeiDou-based applications to meet specific needs will create industry segmentation. They can selectively make products catering to mass consumption or certain industries," Deng said.

Many private enterprises at the forum expressed their hopes of providing services based on BeiDou.

"Our company plans to adopt BeiDou positioning technology, partially replacing GPS, for future projects," Xia Mingwei, project manager with Beijing

Bikece Technology Co, told the Global Times on the sidelines of the forum.

Bikece provides visualization services such as detecting leaking underground pipelines.

**Serving B&R initiative**

Apart from the domestic market, BeiDou has covered about 30 countries and regions along the routes of the China-proposed Belt and Road initiative, such as Pakistan and Southeast Asian countries.

After the launch of 18 BeiDou satellites in 2018, China can provide basic services to these countries.

Asked why countries that already use GPS would need BeiDou, Deng said that with China-made smartphones being exported to other countries and regions and BeiDou covering the Asia-Pacific region, people in these countries and regions are naturally exposed to BeiDou.

"In regions surrounding China, BeiDou's positioning function is superior to that of GPS. It can provide more effective navigation services," he said.

**A man looks at a model of the BeiDou Satellite Navigation System in Gu'an, North China's Hebei Province on Tuesday.**  
Photo: Ma Jingjing/GT

Page Editor: chudaye@globaltimes.com.cn





► No clear impact yet seen from trade tension with US

# Economic momentum steady in April: NBS

## ► ECONOMY

China's steady economic momentum continued in April, with more vitality released and efficiency enhanced, although the impact of China-US trade tension has not yet shown itself in the economic data, said an official from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Tuesday.

Industrial output rose 7 percent in April year-on-year, up 1.0 percentage points compared with March. The production of new-energy vehicles, integrated circuits and industrial robots saw increases of 82.2 percent, 14.3 percent and 35.4

percent, respectively, data from the NBS showed.

"The supporting effect of new driving forces has been further strengthened, as has overall economic vitality," Liu Aihua, a spokesperson for the NBS, told a press conference in Beijing.

China's retail sales of consumer goods grew 9.4 percent year-on-year to reach 2.85 trillion yuan (\$450 billion) in April, slightly down from the 10.1 percent rise seen in March, according to the NBS.

Online consumption continued to be robust with sales surging 32.4 percent to reach

2.58 trillion yuan during the January-April period, up 0.4 percentage points from the same period in 2017.

Fixed-asset investment reached 15.44 trillion yuan during the first four months of this year, up 7.0 percent from 2017.

Zhao Xiao, a professor with the University of Sciences and Technology in Beijing, told the Global Times Tuesday that the growth rate anticipated by the market had been 7.4 percent. "The figure of 7.0 percent turned out to be the lowest since 2000," Zhao said.

Infrastructure spending increased by 12.4 percent year-

on-year from January to April, but the growth rate has been slowing since the second half of 2017.

However, a growth rate of above 12 percent is still considerable, given the country's efforts to move from high-speed to high-quality economic development, said Liu, as it means there is less room for growth.

The slowdown in infrastructure investment is partly due to the government's desire to normalize public-private projects, which are relatively new in China and need improvement, and efforts to curb local government debt, Liu noted.

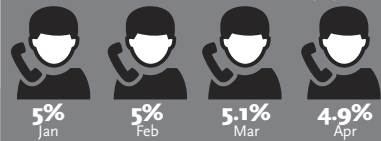
In April, exports and imports showed robust growth despite the Sino-US trade friction, which has not yet shown any impact on the domestic economy, according to the NBS spokesperson. But looking to the future, "there are still many uncertainties," she said.

The overall trend of domestic economic development this year is upward based on consumption and trade data, said Dong Dengxin, director of the Finance and Securities Institute at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology.

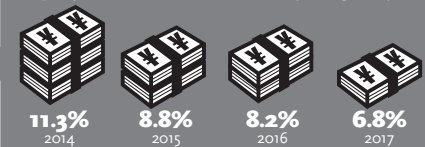
Global Times

## ► China's economic performance

Nationwide polled unemployment rate in the first four months of 2018 (%)



Growth rate of salaries of urban private firm employees from 2014 to 2017 (change, %)



Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Graphics: GT

## Nation, CEE to deepen forestry collaboration

### ► COOPERATION

China and Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries are willing to further deepen their cooperation in the area of forestry and work together on preventing negative effects from climate change, participants at the 2nd High Level Meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for Cooperation in Forestry between China and the CEEC agreed on Monday (EU time).

Liu Dongsheng, deputy head of China's State Forestry and Grassland Administration, said at the press conference after the meeting that China and the 16 CEE countries have common views on climate change, and need to stand together to cope with its negative effects.

He suggested the establishment of forestry-related multilateral or bilateral platforms among the members of the 16+1 cooperation mechanism in order to boost cooperation among universities and academic bodies.

Liu mentioned forest tourism and medicinal forest tourism as some promising industrial branches that require joint cooperation to secure progress, and he concluded that China supports the establishment of "smart forests" across the world, aiming to achieve better efficiency in managing forests as well as protection of animals.

Xinhua - Global Times

## RoundUp

### TRADE

#### Food trade agreement reached

China and Kazakhstan reached an agreement on food trade during a meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states held last week in Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, according to Kazakhstan news agency Kazinform.

Chinese and Kazakh representatives signed an agreement on safety and inspection standards for rapeseed exports, and China announced the lifting of the export ban on Kazakh meat products.

China and Kazakhstan are expected to sign an agreement on inspection standards for Kazakh meat exports soon.

### COOPERATION

#### China-Belarus fund established

Chinese company CITIC Construction and Belarusian lender Belarusbank created a Chinese-Belarusian investment fund on Monday.

The fund will have initial capital of \$1 million.

CITIC Construction will have a 60 percent stake and Belarusbank will have a 40 percent stake.

It is planned that \$50 million-worth of projects will be implemented in the next two years.

Agencies - Global Times

## Tianjin halts land sale meant to pay debts of Bohai Steel unit

### ► DEBT

Authorities in Tianjin, a port city in North China, have ordered a court to freeze a land auction planned by a creditor of a former unit of the debt-stricken Bohai Steel Group, according to three sources and documents viewed by Reuters.

Bohai Steel and its units have been undergoing a State-backed debt restructuring program since 2016 as the conglomerate struggles with liabilities of around 192 billion yuan (\$30.26 billion) in one of the most high-profile failures of a State-owned enterprise in years.

The land up for auction, valued at 238 million yuan, had been seized by National Trust, a creditor of the asset's owner, Tianjin Metallurgy Steel Wire and Cable Group, a unit of Tianjin Metallurgy Group that defaulted on a trust loan, according to three sources with

knowledge of the matter.

Tianjin Metallurgy Group was a subsidiary of Bohai Steel before it was spun off in 2016 under the Tianjin government-directed rescue plan for the indebted conglomerate.

The land sale suspension would raise questions over the local government's commitment to disposing of assets owned by failing State-owned enterprises.

In a letter dated May 10 sent by Tianjin's land resources bureau to Tianjin No.1 Intermediate Court and viewed by Reuters, the bureau "demanded" that the court halt the auction, citing the expiration of a land license.

The Tianjin municipal government and Tianjin Metallurgy Group didn't immediately respond to faxed requests seeking comment.

Reuters - Global Times

## Figuratively Speaking

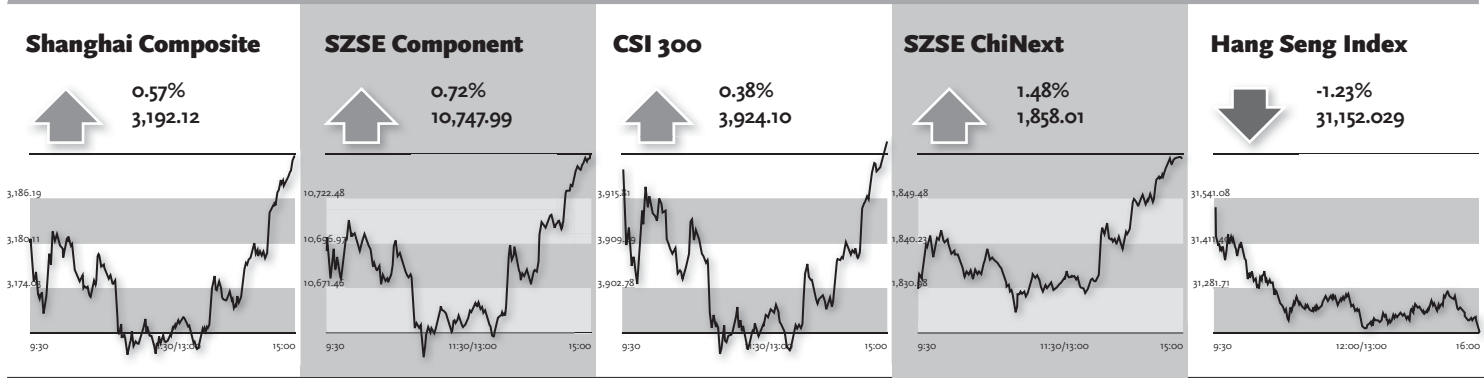
**5.3%** Drop in China's services trade deficit in 2017, pointing to a more optimized structure, noted a trade report by the Ministry of Commerce.

**6.82 million tons** Volume of natural gas imports in April, up 34.2 percent year-on-year, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Tuesday.

**62.4 billion yuan** Planned investment for 2018 in 70 key projects in South China's Hainan Province, the Hainan Development and Reform Commission said on Tuesday.



Market-rates



X-rates

	1 US dollar = 6.3486 yuan
	1 euro = 7.5711 yuan
	1 British pound = 8.6063 yuan
	100 Japanese yen = 5.7858 yuan
	1 Hong Kong dollar = 0.80877 yuan

► China optimistic Shanghai contract will become major intl benchmark

# Crude futures boom amid looming Iran sanctions

A US decision to re-impose sanctions on Iran is supporting China's newly established crude oil futures, traders and analysts said.

Since its launching in March, Shanghai crude oil futures have seen a steady pickup in daily trading, while open interest – the number of outstanding longer-term positions and a gauge of institutional interest – has also surged.

The crude oil futures on Tuesday were at 472.20 yuan (\$73.4), up 0.77 percent.

Traded daily volumes hit a record 250,000 lots on May 9, more than double the day before, spurred by news of the Iran sanctions.

The jump helped the front-month Shanghai futures contract account for 12 percent of the global oil market last week, up from 8 percent in week one.

"The contract is thundering into action," said Stephen Innes, head of trading for Asia-Pacific at futures brokerage OANDA in Singapore.

As the world's biggest im-

porter of crude oil, China hopes the Shanghai contract will eventually rival international benchmarks Brent and West Texas Intermediate.

The ascent of Shanghai crude is aided by China's strong demand for oil, with imports hitting a record of 9.6 million barrels per day in April.

China is also the biggest buyer of Iranian crude oil, and the recent boost in trading volume at least in part flowed from the sanctions decision, said Barry White, senior vice

president for derivatives in Singapore at financial services firm INTL FCStone.

"The sanctions... can potentially accelerate this process of establishing a third [oil] benchmark," White said.

China took almost a quarter of Iran's exports in 2017, leaving both sides exposed to the impact of US sanctions.

Anticipating shortages, speculators helped push the Shanghai contract to a dollar-converted record high of around \$75.40 per barrel last

week, outpacing gains on rival benchmarks.

"Chinese refiners are worried as costs of purchasing crude rise... and showed a strong interest in using Shanghai crude for hedging in the wake of the sanctions," said Zhang Huiyao, deputy head of crude with Huatai Futures.

Reuters – Global Times

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► Efficient inspection



**Two inspectors at Yiwu port, East China's Zhejiang Province, examine meat imported from Canada on Tuesday. This is the first batch of meat, which weighed 25 tons, to be imported by local companies at the land port. The port is low in transportation costs. Prior to this, meat can only be imported via sea ports.**  
Photo: VCG

## Mainland stocks lifted up by MSCI optimism

### STOCKREVIEW

Chinese mainland stocks ended higher on Tuesday, underpinned by a rally in late trade, as optimism toward MSCI's inclusion of 234 Chinese large caps helped overcome worries about the Chinese economy and the China-US trade war.

The blue-chip CSI300 index ended 0.38 percent higher at 3,924.10 points, while the Shanghai Composite Index closed up 0.57 percent at 3,192.12 points

Positive comments from fund managers helped ease investor concerns after China reported weaker-than-expected investment and retail sales in April, and following comments from US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad that the two countries are still "very far apart" on resolving trade frictions.

MSCI, the US index publisher, said on Tuesday that 234 Chinese large caps will be partially included in its global and regional indexes on June 1, following a review ahead of China's inclusion in MSCI's widely tracked equity benchmarks.

The largest percentage gainers in the main Shanghai Composite Index were Cultural Investment Holdings Co up 10.05 percent, followed by Jiangsu Rutong Petro-Machinery Co gaining 10.03 percent and Zhejiang Dehong Automotive Electronic & Electrical Co up by 10.02 percent.

The largest percentage losers in the Shanghai index were Aurora Optoelectronics Co down 9.98 percent, followed by Shanghai Diesel Engine Co losing 7.62 percent and Luenmei Quantum Co, which was down by 5.87 percent.

Reuters – Global Times

## Aluminum smelters ramped up output in April as prices rallied

China's aluminum production rose in April to its highest level on a daily basis since June, as higher aluminum prices encouraged smelters to ramp up output in their first full month after the end of winter restrictions.

Output in the world's top producer rose by 1.1 percent to 2.77 million tons in April from a year earlier, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday.

That equates to 92,300 tons per day, the highest since June last year and up from 89,500 tons in March, which was one day longer, according to Reuters calculations.

During this past winter, smelters in 28 cities in northern China were ordered to cut output by at least 30 percent to limit air pollution. The restrictions ended on March 15.

Some smelters were hesitant about switching their pots back on straightaway due to low aluminum prices, high costs and a well-supplied Chinese market.

However, the US imposed sanctions on Russian producer United Company Rusal on April 6. That pushed up Shanghai aluminum prices by 4.8 percent in April, while London aluminum prices spiked by 12.5

percent on fears of a supply shortage.

The data also reflects new capacity which has been brought on stream recently by State-run companies and far exceeded the amount of output cut over the winter.

The favorable price arbitrage kept Chinese aluminum exports buoyant despite the US imposing a 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports.

In the first four months of the year, China produced 10.89 million tons of aluminum, up 0.2 percent from the same period last year, the data shows.

Reuters – Global Times



## AT&S says revenue growth heavily driven by production in mainland

### ► MANUFACTURING

Austria-based high-end printed circuit board maker AT&S posted revenue growth of more than 20 percent in fiscal 2017-18 (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018), with significant contributions from the production of its two plants in the Chinese mainland – one in Shanghai and the other in Southwest China's Chongqing Municipality.

Revenue was 991.8 million euros (\$1.18 billion), up 21.7 percent on a yearly basis, the company said at a press conference on Tuesday in Shanghai.

It said that revenue growth was mainly due to rising demand in sectors like automobiles and medical products.

The company declined to reveal its revenue statistics in the mainland market when asked by the Global Times.

Monika Stoisser-Goehring, CFO at AT&S, told the Global Times on Tuesday that most of the end customers are US-based companies, and Asian customers only account for a small portion of the total.

But Chen Jiang Phua, chairman of the board of AT&S (China), disclosed that AT&S' mainland plants have contributed a lot to revenue growth, as in the past five years 80 percent of the company's sales were in Asia, particularly from the mainland plants.

The two plants' "high utilization level" also contributed to rising revenues, the company disclosed.

Chen said that the company might increase production at its Chongqing plant in the next financial year if market demand continued to evolve in a positive way.

AT&S has invested about 1.4 billion euros in the two mainland plants, the company disclosed.

The two plants manufacture products like substrates for semiconductors and printed circuit boards.

Global Times

## RoundUp

### DEALS

#### Geely, BAIC deny merger talk

Chinese vehicle producers Geely Automobile and Beijing Automotive (BAIC) jointly issued on Tuesday a statement to Chinese media denying reports of merger discussions between them, saying such reports are groundless and false.

Reports of Geely negotiating the acquisition of BAIC made the rounds on Chinese media on Tuesday morning. Geely is one of the fastest-growing Chinese automakers, with 1.24 million units sold in 2017. Geely is the owner of Swedish automaker Volvo, and it acquired last year a 9.7 percent stake in German automaker Daimler.

### DEALS

#### Bitcoin miners mull HK IPOs

Two Chinese Bitcoin mining equipment makers plan to raise up to \$1 billion each from Hong Kong listings this year, riding on strong global interest in cryptocurrencies, IFR reported on Tuesday, citing people familiar with the plans.

Canaan Creative filed a listing application to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Monday, reported IFR, a Thomson Reuters publication.

Zhejiang Ebang Communication has also started working with advisers on a proposed Hong Kong float of up to \$1 billion, reported IFR.

Global Times – Reuters

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### ► EQUITIES

By Campos Santiago and Shen Weiduo

US index publisher MSCI announced Tuesday the inclusion of 234 China's A shares to its influential global equity indices, including the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, making good on a long-discussed plan and offering a significant boost to the Chinese financial market.

The move, which is scheduled to take effect on June 1, would bring more foreign investment into A shares and improve the domestic financial market in terms of services, experts noted.

The announcement, made as part of MSCI's Semi-Annual Review, follows MSCI decision on June 2017 to include for the first time yuan-denominated stocks on its world-leading indices, and marks a milestone for China's financial markets.

The 234 stocks lean toward financial institutions, mining, pharmaceutical and food companies, according to a report by Ping An Securities. Companies

added to the index include well-known names such as ICBC, Kweichow Moutai, Midea Group and Sinopec.

Analysts said that while markets are expected to take some time to reflect the change, the inclusion would bring more foreign capital into the A-share market.

"Passive investment flows linked to the index will bring as much as \$15 billion to A shares starting next year," Li Lifeng, chief equity strategist at Sino-link Securities, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

Howard Wang of JPMorgan Asset Management said that as much as \$230 billion in passive inflows would move to MSCI China companies in the next five years, according to a report on news website sina.com on Tuesday.

The MSCI inclusion comes as foreign capital in the nation's equity market is already on the rise mainly through stock connect programs that link exchanges in the Chinese mainland with the one in Hong Kong.

Mainland and Hong Kong regulators announced on April 11 that the

.....  
"China's finance sector must upgrade its capabilities and provide more efficient services if it wants to attract global capital."

**Zhao Xijun,**

deputy director of the Finance and Securities Research Institute at the Renmin University of China.

northbound daily quota for the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect would be increased to 52 billion yuan (\$8.2 billion) from 13 billion yuan. The move took effect on May 1.

MSCI's decision signals the recognition by foreign investors of China's financial

► Move will attract foreign capital, improve market stability: experts

# A shares to get boost from MSCI inclusion

## Tech giants bet on growth of Indonesian logistical sector

### ► INVESTMENT

Domestic technology companies, including Alibaba Group, Tencent Holdings and JD.com Inc (JD), have poured billions of dollars into Indonesia's e-commerce sector and logistics in recent years.

Alibaba has invested at least \$6 billion into nearly every aspect of Indonesian e-commerce, including Lazada. Lazada uses Alibaba's inventory management systems and has tied up with ride-hailing companies, often using their motorbikes to deliver goods in a country with creaking infrastructure and traffic-clogged cities.

The payoff could be huge. It is a market forecast to grow from about \$7 billion last year to \$63 billion by 2027, according to Morgan Stanley.

"Indonesia, both in terms of the

customers and behavior, is a very unique challenge and we need to adapt," said Florian Holm, co-chief executive at Lazada Indonesia.

Lazada and Tokopedia, in which Alibaba is also an investor, dominate Indonesia in customer traffic, with more than 117 million monthly website visits each, according to data from e-commerce aggregator iPrice.

Alibaba doubled its investment in loss-making Lazada to \$4 billion in April, underscoring its global ambition in e-commerce.

Between the investment and the rewards lie enormous complexities.

The World Bank has said logistical costs swallow up about one-quarter of Indonesia's GDP, citing bottlenecks in supply chains, long dwell times in ports and lengthy trade clearances.

Lazada has opened warehouses in places like Balikpapan, on the coast of Borneo, to avoid hauling everything from Jakarta. Holm said that had reduced shipping costs by 90 percent.

Competitive pressure is growing. Chinese competitor JD arrived in Indonesia in 2016.

Indonesia's e-commerce sales are set to rise from 3 percent of retail activity now to 19 percent by 2027, Morgan Stanley estimates. The same report said there were 159 million smartphones in Indonesia at the end of 2016, and that could rise to 275 million by 2021.

Indonesia's young population and room for improvement in transportation and communications add to the prospects for growth, the bank said.

That has attracted other Chinese

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opening-up and reform, experts noted. "Foreign ownership of A shares is on a clear rising trend, which shows foreign confidence in Chinese corporations and regulators," said Li.

The opening-up of China's finance sector will also bring challenges to domestic companies and investors, Zhao Xijun, deputy director of the Finance and Securities Research Institute at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times.

Zhao noted that the inclusion could help the Chinese financial market to offer better services and focus more on fundamentals.

"Chinese and foreign investors have different mind-sets and investment behaviors. For example, Chinese investors prefer to buy in those with quick returns, while foreign investors tend to care more about the long-term return," Zhao said, adding that there

are also issues with frequent stock suspensions and limits to short-selling in China's stock markets.

"China's finance sector must upgrade its capabilities and provide more efficient services if it wants to attract global capital," he said.

Analysts also noted that A shares could play an even bigger role in the MSCI indices in the future.

MSCI adopted an inclusion rate of 2.5 percent, meaning the newly added shares will only have a weight of 0.39 percent in the Emerging Markets Index. MSCI will add a further 2.5 percent after its Quarterly Review in August 2018, rising to a 5 percent inclusion rate and a 0.78 weight on its index. This is seen as a temporary move by experts.

"MSCI adopted a low inclusion rate to serve as a temporary buffer given the daily limits on the Hong Kong-Shanghai Stock Connect," said Li.

"The inclusion rate will rise over time, but it will be a long-term process," he said.

## Around the world

### Alibaba to open Vancouver office

Alibaba plans to open its first Canadian office in Vancouver and to hire at least 30 employees within two or three years.

Steve Wang, general manager of Alibaba Group North America, announced the news at a forum held in Vancouver, local newspaper Business in Vancouver reported on Monday.

The report said that staff in the future Vancouver office will likely work to help Canadian entrepreneurs understand and access Alibaba's platforms, as well as to link tourism-related businesses with Alibaba's online travel platform Fliggy.

The announcement follows an agreement between the Canadian federal government and Alibaba in 2016, which resulted in a surge in the number of Canadian businesses using Alibaba at that time.

### Didi approved for tests in the US

Ride-hailing provider Didi Chuxing has been approved to launch live trials of autonomous vehicles on roads in California, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

The approval was issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles and is Didi's first license for testing on public

roads in the US.

In 2017, Didi set up its main US research facility in California to focus on developing artificial intelligence, including for autonomous driving.

Didi is still finalizing plans to begin road trials to make sure that the test would be done in a "prudent and safety-first" manner, said the report, citing Sun Liang, senior communications director of Didi.

### HNA to divest Spanish hotels

HNA Group will start a formal process to sell its 29 percent stake in Spain's NH Hotel, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

According to a statement released by the Spanish regulator on Monday, HNA has received several expressions of interest for its stake, so it decided to launch a formal process for the sale.

In January, HNA said it had hired JP Morgan and Benedetto, Gartland and Co to look for possible buyers. The stake was valued at around 632 million euros (\$753 million) at that time.

NH Hotel has nearly 400 hotels, with one-third of them located in Spain.

Global Times

## Listed banks in China see rising profits: EY

### EARNINGS

Listed banks in China witnessed a continued uplift in profit growth amid technology-powered high-quality development, as their net profit growth has increased for two consecutive years, according to a report released by consulting firm EY on Tuesday.

The report said the 41 listed banks collectively realized a net profit of 1.54 trillion yuan (\$242.47 billion) in 2017, up 5.1 percent year-on-year, growing by 1.42 percentage points faster than in the previous year.

For the 31 listed banks (including 26 A-share listed banks and five H-share listed banks) that have disclosed their results for the first quarter of 2018, the growth in total net profit saw a further increase of 5.95 percent as compared with the same period of 2017.

The report contributed the growth to the steady improvement in asset quality and slower growth in impairment allowances as the nonperforming loan (NPL) balances of the 41 listed banks totaled 1.31 billion yuan, up 56.8 billion yuan from the prior year-end, with the weighted average NPL ratio dropping to 1.55 percent from 1.65 percent at the end of 2016.

Geoffrey Choi, assurance leader of EY financial services in the Asia-Pacific, warned that for some listed banks, the balances of loans overdue for more than 90 days were still higher than the balances of NPLs, and borrowers from overcapacity industries and borrowers with high leverage were still exposed to credit risks, putting asset quality under significant pressure.

Global Times

An investor watches stock prices on a board in a local securities firm in Jinhua, East China's Zhejiang Province on Tuesday. Photo: VCG

## Cities ease restrictions on new apartment pre-sales

### PROPERTY

Several major Chinese cities have begun to ease restrictions on pre-sales of new apartment buildings, and are in some cases for the first time in about a year allowing developers to raise prices slightly.

The loosening in cities such as Shanghai, Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang Province, Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu Province and Xiamen, East China's Fujian Province, has led to a surge in the marketing of new home developments over the past two months, with developers also eager to ramp up the launches to boost their cash flow.

"Both factors will lead to an obvious rise in housing supply in

the top cities in the second quarter," said David Hong, the Hong Kong head of research at CRIC, a real estate research firm.

"Many developments which have already reached the pre-sales requirements last year will be launched into the market," Hong said.

The changes highlight competing interests between China's stability-minded central government and revenue-hungry local authorities, as well as the challenges in artificially containing a still hot market that has remained a one-way bet.

The mild loosening is city-specific, according to nine developers interviewed by Reuters, and there is little expectation of a

nationwide easing in curbs anytime soon. Developers said, for example, pre-sale approvals remain extremely strict in Beijing because it is closely monitored by the central government.

But real estate experts said it could be a sign of things to come elsewhere in the country as the cities, relying heavily on land sales and property taxes, try to boost real estate sales and keep housing supply in line with demand.

Any relaxation should bolster the developers' profitability and could help to support economic growth at a time when there are fears it could be flagging, though if it is restricted to only a few cities the impact will be modest,

economists and analysts said.

The pent-up demand for land development is high as Chinese cities sold a record 5.2 trillion yuan (\$817.67 billion) worth of land usage rights in 2017, up 40.7 percent from a year earlier, data from the finance ministry shows.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development did not respond to faxed requests for comment. The housing authorities in Shanghai, Nanjing, Xiamen and Hangzhou didn't answer calls from Reuters.

The Xinhua News Agency reported last week that the ministry reiterated that policies to control home prices and prevent speculative investment in the property market will not be changed or loosened.

Reuters

companies, such as Tencent Holdings, which owns regional e-commerce player SEA. Tencent and JD have stakes in Indonesia's ride-hailing provider Go-Jek, while JD has invested in online travel company Traveloka.

But Usman Akhtar, a partner at McKinsey & Co in Jakarta, said Indonesian firms such as Blibli, backed by a unit of the Djarum group, remain a force.

"I would not characterize Indonesia as turning into a replica of China's e-commerce market, at least not yet," said Akhtar, referring to how JD and Alibaba dominate in China.

Kusumo Martanto, who heads Blibli, told Reuters that the company had seven warehouses in Indonesia and seven more planned, and said it is important for local e-commerce companies to compete against Chinese players.

Global Times - Reuters



# India's economy hinges on improved transportation

By Shi Lancha

According to the Central News Agency, a report by Boston Consulting Group shows that traffic jams in four major Indian cities (New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata) cause annual economic losses of 1.47 trillion Indian rupees (\$21.81 billion). Traffic congestion is also a huge obstacle to India's industrial transformation and economic development.

India's economy has grown rapidly over recent years, and the level of development in some areas has increased significantly. But why is the traffic still so bad? The problem has many causes.

The first cause is poor urban planning. India does not have a household registration system, and the central government has no restrictions on population movements. Land is privately owned, so any site that's been in use for a long time is regarded as being owned by the user. Most land in cities can be used freely by farmers, who go to cities to make a living. This has led to an urban population boom and transportation problems.

The second cause is a serious shortage of transportation infrastructure. In 2015, India had about 90,000 kilometers of highways, but fully sealed sections made up only about 1,000 kilometers.

Many roads are full

of potholes, keeping driving speeds below 20 kilometers per hour.

There are also serious overloading problems and frequent accidents on railways and highways. India's inadequate transport infrastructure has failed to keep up with demand sparked by rapid economic growth.

The third cause is cultural inertia and weak awareness of traffic rules. Religious beliefs involve many animals such as monkeys and cows, which wander freely on the roads. Drivers and pedestrians often circle around these animals or simply wait for them to pass. This has also led to the inefficiency of India's transportation.

It can thus be seen that the causes of traffic jams in India are manifold, complex and deep-seated. It will take much time to find solutions, but in the meantime, traffic problems hinder economic development.

India must improve its urban planning. Its first-tier cities have grown much faster than urban areas as a whole. The main reason is that India's urban planning system has an inverted pyramid structure, which is reflected in unbalanced development.

India must also expand its transportation infrastructure. It has already announced many

projects and plans for this purpose. Last year, India approved the Bharatmala infrastructure development plan involving investment of \$107 billion to upgrade more than 83,000 kilometers of road within five years.

However, due to difficulties in land acquisition and lack of funds, transportation infrastructure projects in India often develop slowly. Plans aren't enough; India needs to mobilize more international forces and integrate its own resources to accelerate infrastructure projects.

India should also continue to promote reform. India's reforms have borne fruit in

Traffic congestion is also a huge obstacle to India's industrial transformation and economic development.

recent years. For example, the goods and services tax (GST) reform, the largest tax reform since India was founded, unified the chaotic intrastate and interstate sales taxes.

This generated real public benefits, eliminating tedious formalities and time-consuming taxation, and it improved the efficiency of freight transportation. More reforms like this should be introduced.

The efficiency of the transportation system is reflected in long-distance logistics costs, which affect bulk commodities and people's travel costs.

To some extent, it affects the foundation of economic development.

Although the growth model of the Indian economy is not driven by the manufacturing and industrial sectors, economic growth will be difficult without solving transportation problems.

India, don't let traffic jams tie your legs!

The author is a Beijing-based economic commentator. bizopinion@globaltimes.com.cn



Illustration: Luo Xuan/GT

## Putting aside mutual suspicion can help China, India cooperate to aid Africa

By Hu Weijia

India has for the first time embarked on an initiative to build convention centers in 21 African countries, India's Economic Times reported. Strategic suspicion has prompted some people to read too much into China and India's respective cooperation with Africa. But if suspicion can be set aside, China and India can form an alliance with other parties to write new stories in Africa.

In the fiscal year ended in March, infrastructure growth in India slowed to a three-year low of 4.2 percent. India's lack of world-class infrastructure

### EYECONECONOMY

poses potential obstacles for its expansion and economic development.

As of April, not every village in India had access to electricity. With such an enormous infrastructure gap at home, India is likely to meet mounting challenges as it helps other countries with their infrastructure projects.

India needs to find ways to realize its African dream, and China is a potential partner. China and India should enhance strategic communica-

tion and take advantage of a warm relationship to jointly invest in Africa's infrastructure projects.

India has advantages in investing in the African continent, which is home to many Indian migrants. India has centuries-old connections with Africa thanks to colonial linkages and ties forged in the days of anti-colonial struggle. Now, Indian companies have been increasing their presence in Africa in the areas of telecoms, agriculture, vehicles and education.

However, sustained development across the African continent requires massive invest-

ment in critical infrastructure. But India alone cannot bridge the infrastructure funding gap.

Multilateral cooperation is an inevitable choice for the development of African countries. Some local analysts in Africa have suggested that infrastructure development requires urgent international action. India must eventually understand that economic cooperation with Africa is not exclusive.

Infrastructure development involves complex tasks of project planning, design, coordination, construction, operation and regulation. Chinese and Indian companies can enhance cooperation in certain areas

based on their respective advantages. Africa is one of the focuses of the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative.

The potential obstacle faced by the two countries to enhancing cooperation in Africa is that India is avoiding the B&R initiative. The key is for both nations to restrain their mutual suspicion, although that is not an easy thing to do.

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# Online options feeding boom in secondhand car sales

By Li Qiaoyi

Illustration: Luo Xuan/GT

Secondhand cars are becoming increasingly popular in China, with the nation's auto market maturing and its internet-savvy population availing of a growing number of auto trading sites.

This shift explains the growing investor interest in the country's used car market, which is being powered to a large extent by the internet. It could offer big opportunities, not just for domestic auto trading sites, but also for foreign carmakers and retailers who are gaining greater access to the world's largest auto market.

In a fresh sign of enthusiasm for used cars, China's Craigslist-like classifieds firm 58.com inked a memorandum of cooperation last week with Pang Da Automobile Trade to make joint investments in the creation of an auto e-commerce firm. The classifieds site already has a strong presence in the online auto trading sector, and is aiming for a larger slice of the country's used car market.

Another factor is that cars are increasingly seen as a routine purchase, rather than the special item they used to be. As China's city roads become ever more gridlocked, new car sales seem to have been losing momentum. Figures from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed that new passenger-car sales totaled 24.72 million units in 2017, a rise of just 1.4 percent year-on-year, down sharply from the rise of 14.93 percent in 2016.

But at the same time, sales of secondhand cars have been surging, even though they are

currently only around half the level of new car sales. This is the reverse of the situation in the US, where the ratio of used to new car sales is more than two to one.

Sales of used cars hit 12.4 million last year, a rise of 19.33 percent from the year before, according to the China Automobile Dealers Association. And used car sales will outnumber new car sales by 2020, according to the association's estimate.

In an effort to support used car sales, it was announced in

March in the annual government work report that barriers to used vehicles being sold between provinces would be removed.

Online sales have contributed a lot to this used-car boom, even though brick-and-mortar retailers still account for a big chunk of the market.

Chinese people are increasingly comfortable with the idea of using smartphones as a

medium for various trading activities, and the growing popularity of online auto trading platforms that make buying used cars easier, more transparent and affordable is also galvanizing demand.

The likes of 58.com, renrenche.com and guazi.com have not been wasting time. Advertisements from these online auto trading platforms have proliferated since last year, and buying cars online has become a default choice for many people. The platforms also offer various

services, such as car valuation, safety inspections, insurance programs, and used car financing, among others.

Foreign automakers are seeking ways to profit from the trend as well. Secondhand car sales data from 58.com revealed that the Volkswagen Jetta, Honda Accord and Audi A6L were the top three in terms of used car sales rankings during the first quarter of 2018.

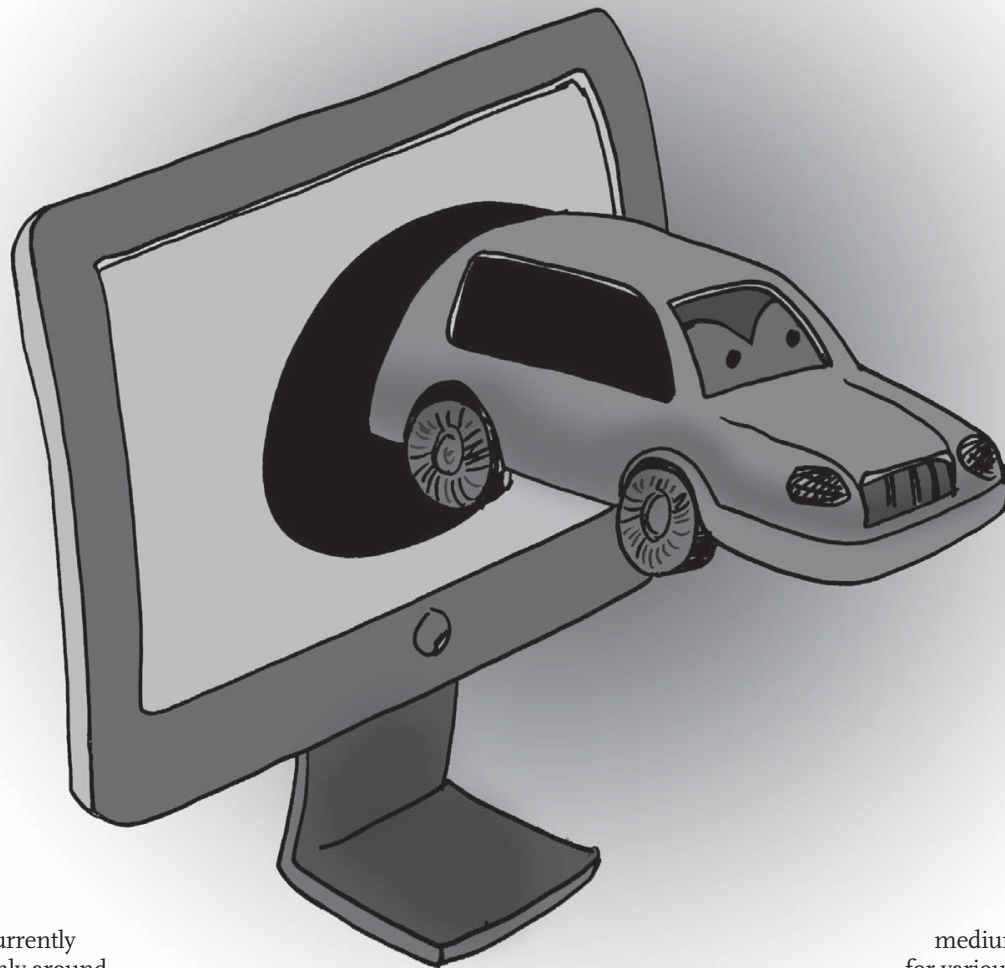
Foreign car firms have instructed many of their Chinese dealerships to start offering sales of certified preowned vehicles as well as new cars.

Given the growing preference for online purchasing, foreign automakers would be wise to make this shift as well and align their China market strategies more intimately with the nation's online appetite.

With the country working on substantial cuts in auto import tariffs and moving to relax foreign ownership limits in the automobile sector – the shareholding limits will initially be scrapped for new-energy vehicle manufacturers before being applied to the overall sector – foreign new-energy cars are expected to get a boost.

Some foreign retailers of used cars, such as Japan-based Gulliver International, entered the Chinese market a long time ago. At that point it might have been too early to tap into the country's preowned car market, but now would be a good time to translate all that experience into success in this promising area.

The author is a reporter with the Global Times. bizopinion@globaltimes.com.cn



## Silver Lake ready to bet on UK property search firm but cooling market brings risk

Zoopla has enticed a new twist on a classic UK property punt. Silver Lake on Friday offered \$3 billion for ZPG, owner of the property search firm. The US buyout group's bet mirrors that of the property speculators that use its target's website. Leverage makes it look a better deal, but increases the risk if the market tanks.

Silver Lake's offer values ZPG at 490 pence (\$6.66) per share, a 31 percent premium to the Thursday closing price. The company's largest shareholder, Daily Mail and General Trust, which owns just under 30 percent of ZPG, is on board.

ZPG is a hodgepodge of small tech-

nology companies assembled over a decade of takeovers, chiefly comparison site uSwitch and property search firm PrimeLocation, as well as Zoopla. The property bit of its 245 million pounds of 2017 revenue comes mainly from estate agents paying Zoopla and PrimeLocation fees for listing homes and apartments.

At the offered valuation, there's a way for Silver Lake to make a return. As things stand, analysts expect ZPG to make 311 million pounds of revenue in 2018, and 121 million pounds of EBITDA. Assume it uses 500 million pounds of debt for the acquisition of ZPG's 2.3

billion pounds of enterprise value, and revenue grows at a 10 percent clip over the next five years – if it sold out at the same EV/EBITDA multiple after using 30 percent of EBITDA to pay down debt, the buyout group could almost double its money and generate a 14 percent internal rate of return, according to Breakingviews calculations.

It's conceivable that Silver Lake could do better, given that when a customer buys or rents a property they might also switch their broadband or energy provider. There are two catches. Big technology companies like Google could replicate ZPG's business model and

steal customers. Worse, Halifax reported a 3 percent month-on-month decline in UK house prices for April. True, punters use Zoopla to find rental properties as well as buying opportunities. But when the housing market turns down, the best place to be is not leveraged at all.

The author is Aimee Donnellan, a Reuters Breakingviews columnist. The article was first published on Reuters Breakingviews. bizopinion@globaltimes.com.cn





By Chen Qingqing in Pingxiang

**T**ran Van Deo from Tinh Lai Chau, a province in the northwestern region of Vietnam, heads to an employment agency in Pingxiang to get his paperwork approved for a Chinese work visa.

"This is my second time applying for a work visa in China... I live a poor life in my hometown and it's very hard to earn money there," Deo told the Global Times.

With the prospect of making more money to secure a better life, the 23-year-old Vietnamese man was motivated to travel about 360 kilometers to the small Chinese city, which sits along the China-Vietnam border in South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. He now happily works as a logger cutting down trees in mountainous areas nearby.

"If I worked very hard back in my hometown in Vietnam, I would make about 5 million to 6 million Vietnamese dong per month, which is roughly 1,700 to 1,800 yuan [\$267.9 to \$283.6], and this is the highest salary level there. Here in China, I can make about 3,000 yuan per month," he said.

Pingxiang, a town adjacent to the Vietnamese town of Dong Dang just across the border, has been witnessing an inflow of Vietnamese workers over the past few years thanks to the boom in border trade. And some Chinese and Vietnamese towns near the border areas even share some dialects.

However, many Vietnamese who come to China to work illegally have also exacerbated issues such as drug dealing and human trafficking within the border town, noted a local resident who prefers not to be identified.

"Many Vietnamese workers have day jobs in the town, and go back to Vietnam at night, with some illegal activities usually taking place in remote and mountainous areas," he said.

In Pingxiang, anti-drug campaign slogans are displayed in the streets, and hotels also distribute brochures to advise guests on how to protect themselves from catching HIV/AIDS, which is more common in regions near Asia's Golden Triangle drug hotspot.

The Golden Triangle is the area

Pingxiang, located in the southern part of South China's Guangxi Autonomous Region, has recorded exponential growth in border trade with Vietnam. The town has also been welcoming more Vietnamese workers who fill a variety of job vacancies in labor-intensive industries. Global Times reporter Chen Qingqing traveled to Pingxiang last week to find out why Vietnamese workers want to come and work in China as well as how local authorities are legalizing this workforce.

## ONE BELT ONE ROAD

where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers.

"Also, some illegal immigrants carry guns with them, which poses a danger to Chinese society," the anonymous source said.

To clamp down on illegal workers, the town launched a border workforce cooperation scheme in mid-2017, noted Zhang Tianjun, deputy director of the Bureau of Human Resources and Social Security in Pingxiang.

"Local labor-intensive industries such as mahogany furniture and sugar production are all facing shrinking local labor forces, but Vietnamese workers can help fill this gap," Zhang said.

### Legalized workforce

In February 2017, the Guangxi regional government approved Pingxiang and another border city called Dongxing as pilot places to carry out the workforce scheme designed to tackle the shortage of labor in border areas.

Pingxiang has also set up a cross-border workforce management center to help streamline visa application processes, covering health checkups, entries and exits as well as insurance.

After factories that need workers report their requests to the local employment agencies, representatives from those agencies begin recruiting suitable workers and helping them get their paperwork ready for the work visa application process.

On a regular Thursday morning, hundreds of Vietnamese workers wait in the workforce management center. When their employment agency representatives finish registering them with customs, the police, the exit-entry administration and insurance

### Location of Pingxiang



agencies, the Vietnamese workers are assigned to different factories based on their skills and experience.

"In order to build strong cooperation and trust among all of these authorities, we screen out some workers who have a criminal background," said Zhang.

The average monthly salary for a Vietnamese worker is about 2,200 yuan to 2,800 yuan, which is about 10 percent lower than their Chinese counterparts, he noted.

When the scheme took effect in mid-2017, "work visas became effective for 30 days, and now we're trying to expand it to 180 days," Zhang said.

On average, the cross-border workforce management center approves about 500 work visas every day for Vietnamese people. "The number surged to around 5,000 to 6,000 shortly after the Chinese New Year – a peak recruitment period... One day, we saw about 8,854 Vietnamese workers arriving in Pingxiang," he said.

The increasing number of Vietnamese workers in the border town also reflects the rising demand for manpower in labor-intensive industries, especially as local authorities have been working on several projects to expand the cargo-handling capacity of the Pingxiang land port.

Those projects also aim to ensure the land port plays a big role in the

Southern Transport Corridor, a complementary part of the China-proposed Belt and Road initiative.

### Growing appetite

In a border inspection zone four kilometers away from the Pingxiang Friendship Gate – a gateway to Vietnam – dozens of Vietnamese women are busy unloading onions in bags from trucks, which would later be transported to Vietnam. Some have already finished their day of work and sit on the other side of the zone, counting the money they have made.

"They all come from Vietnam, about 500 workers every day," said Lin Quan, a manager in the zone.

But the thriving border trade between China and Vietnam has beefed up traffic jams at the border area.

Thankfully, local authorities have been on a mission to expand cargo inspection zones since 2012, with results being realized in 2016.

That year, Pingxiang port recorded a fruit trade volume of 2.04 million tons, accounting for one-quarter of the total volume in China, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. Pingxiang has also remained the largest import-export fruit market in China for the fifth consecutive year.

As more vegetables are shipped from China to Vietnam, traders at the border have also hired Vietnamese workers to unload and upload cargos. "We import about 1,500 TEUs [twenty-foot equivalent units] of watermelon, 1,000 TEUs of litchi and hundreds of TEUs of dragonfruit every year from Vietnam, and annual growth is estimated to reach 20 to 30 percent [this year]," said Chen Huiyun, manager at trading company Xingyi.

"Sometimes, we hire more than 10 Vietnamese workers. Compared to Chinese workers, Vietnamese workers have turned out to be more hard-working and have team-building spirits. Also, they have little requests for their employers in terms of salary and accommodation," Chen said.

Work in China has become a trendy thing in Vietnam, noted Deo. "Coming to work here to earn more money, for a better life, is widely spoken about where I come from," he said.

▶ Vietnamese workers flock to China as border town legalizes cross-border work to meet growing trade

# Chasing a better life

Vietnamese workers wait in an inspection zone in Pingxiang, South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Thursday. Photo: Chen Qingqing/GT

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