

Vacations  
become trips  
of healing

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Deadly gales

11 die as violent storms  
batter northern Europe

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Bora sees promise

Former national team soccer coach says  
China still has time to learn SPORTS, PAGE 11



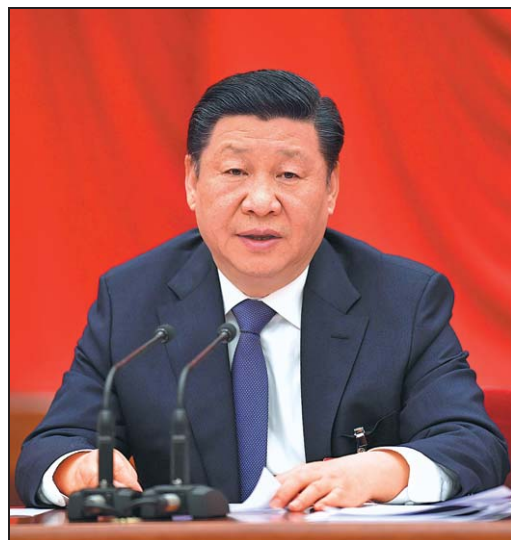
# weekend CHINADAILY

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РЕЛИЗ ПОДГОТОВИЛА ГРУППА  
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General Secretary Xi Jinping delivers a key speech at the Second Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, held from Thursday to Friday. LI XUEREN / XINHUA



The Second Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee is held in Beijing. The session, presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, was held from Thursday to Friday. PANG XINGLEI / XINHUA

## China tops US in survey on leadership

By CHEN WEIHUA  
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More people in the world approved of China's leadership than US leadership in 2017, according to a Gallup poll released on Thursday.

The Gallup World Poll found the median approval of US leadership at 30 percent, trailing 31 percent for China.

The US approval rating hit an all-time low, down by 18 percentage points from the 48 percent during former president Barack Obama's last year in office and four points lower than the previous low of 34 percent during former president George W. Bush's last year in office, Gallup said in a news release on its website.

Disapproval of US leadership climbed. The 43 percent median disapproval — 15 percentage points higher than the previous year — set a record as well, not only for the United States but for any other major global power that Gallup has asked about in the past decade.

**31 percent**

The median approval rate of China's leadership in the world according to the Gallup World Poll

Comparatively, China boasts an edge with its worldwide disapproval rating of only 30 percent.

US leadership approval ratings declined by 10 percentage points or more in 65 of the 134 countries and areas in which the survey was conducted. They declined the most among residents of allies and partners in the Americas and Europe, according to the poll conducted between March and November last year.

Comparatively, China performed better, with 28 percent approval and 35 percent disapproval in the Americas.

The approval rating of US leadership declined nearly as much in Europe as it did in the Americas, to 25 percent. It declined substantially in 21 out of the 28 current members of the European Union.

China tied the US, with the same 25 percent approval rating in Europe. But China's disapproval rating there of 48 percent was lower than the 56 percent for the US.

The US also suffered a major drop in its leadership approval in Asia.

Overall, 30 percent of those surveyed in Asia approved of US leadership, while 32 percent approved of China's leadership. The US disapproval rating in the region was 39 percent, while China's was 31 percent.

Of the four countries that were the focus of the Gallup survey, Germany was at the top, with an approval rating of

See Survey, page 3

# New era update urged for Constitution

## Inclusion of Xi Thought proposed at key session of CPC Central Committee

By AN BAIJIE  
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The Communist Party of China Central Committee, at a key session that concluded on Friday, proposed to write Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era into the Constitution.

The Second Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, held from Thursday to Friday, was presided over by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the session.

The session was attended by 203 members and 172 alternative members of the CPC Central Committee, members of the Standing

Committee of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, leading officials in charge of relevant affairs, some deputies to the CPC's 19th National Congress elected from grassroots organizations, and experts.

At the session, the leaders reviewed and adopted a proposal for amending some parts of the Constitution. Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the National People's Congress, introduced the draft proposal at the session.

Major theoretical achievements, principles and policies adopted at the 19th CPC National Congress should be incorporated in the upcoming revision to the Constitution, according to a communique issued after the plenary session.

## At the key session of the CPC Central Committee, the leaders reviewed and adopted a proposal for amending some parts of the Constitution.

Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi as the core, the whole Party and country have put the implementation of the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress as the top political task, launched many publicity activities, and initiated a campaign to learn the spirit of the congress and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, which has led the whole Party and nation to have more unified thoughts and stronger actions, according to the communique.

It pointed out that as the country's supreme law, the Constitution has played an important role in the practice of the Party's governance and the process of reform and opening-up.

Facts prove that China's current Constitution is a good one that accords with China's national situation, fully reflects the common will of the people, fully protects the democratic rights of the people and fully protects the people's fundamental interests, said the communique. Safeguarding the authority

of the Constitution is the premise to safeguard the country's unity, esteem and authority, and it is also the guarantee to protect the people's interests and ensure the country's long-term peace, according to the communique.

With unprecedentedly strong efforts made by the CPC Central Committee with Xi as the core since the Party's 18th National Congress, the Party has made historical achievements in building socialist rule of law, it said.

The CPC attaches great importance to the role and function of the Constitution in the governance of the country, and the Party has taken effective measures to strengthen the implementation and supervision of the Constitution, it said.

The communique pointed out that the Constitution must be improved along with

the practice of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and such improvement is an outstanding characteristic and basic rule of China's Constitution.

China enacted its Constitution in 1954. In 1982, the fifth session of the fifth National People's Congress adopted the present Constitution, which has been amended in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004.

The current Constitution needs to be amended because socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and there are new tasks in the new era, the communique said. Some amending should be done to apply the Party's and people's theoretical innovation, practical innovation and systematic innovation outcomes in order to update the rules of the Constitution, it said.

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## Nearly 3,900 fugitives nabbed in 5 years

By ZHANG YAN  
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China has captured 3,866 economic fugitives, including 756 corrupt officials, from more than 90 countries and regions since March 2013, when the country launched a campaign to hunt fugitives globally, a report released on Friday says.

During the same period, a total of 9.62 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion) of illicit money has been retraced, according to a bluebook on China's anti-corruption efforts released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Researchers also suggested that discipline watchdogs and law enforcement agencies use more open channels to fight corruption and reward people

who report graft. For example, WeChat accounts or mobile apps could be used to publicize fugitives' identity and asset information to encourage the public, whether in China or abroad, to report information.

In the past few years, a large number of corrupt officials fled overseas to escape punishment. As one of the key measures to fight graft after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in late 2012, China launched a campaign in March 2013 codenamed "Skynet" to hunt such people worldwide.

In April 2015, Interpol issued red notices to capture the 100 most-wanted corrupt former officials. So far, 51 have returned to face justice. Most of the rest are still at large in

**“The fundamental way is to take effective measures to prevent these suspects from fleeing China.”**

Jiang Laiyong, a senior researcher at the China Anti-Corruption Research Center at the CASS

such Western countries as the United States, Canada and Australia, according to the bluebook.

“Law enforcement cooperation with other countries should be further carried forward to bring more such people back to China to face justice,” said Jiang Laiyong, a senior researcher at the China Anti-Corruption Research Center at the CASS.

Communication should be smoother, and more agreements on sharing confiscated assets should be signed between China and other countries, he said.

“The fundamental way is to take effective measures to prevent these suspects from fleeing China,” Jiang said.

The bluebook suggests that China improve money laundering investigations and use more experts for anti-graft theoretical research.

## Welcoming party



Local children wearing panda hats during a carnival welcome the arrival in Finland on Thursday of giant pandas Hua Bao and Jin Bao Bao. One of the pandas sits in an enclosure as it arrives at Helsinki-Vantaa airport in Vantaa, Finland, before continuing the journey to Ahtari zoo.

MARKKU ULANDER AND TIMO AALTO/  
LEHTIKUVA VIA AFP  
See story, page 9

## Growth may moderate but will remain stable, analysts say

By XIN ZHIMING  
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The Chinese economy is expected to remain resilient this year, and policymakers need to focus on reform and prevention of financial risks to improve the quality of growth, economists said.

China's year-on-year GDP growth reached 6.9 percent last year, which beat general market expectations, according to data released by the National Bureau of Sta-

tistics on Thursday.

“China's GDP growth in 2017 indeed surprised us on the upside,” said World Bank Lead Economist for China John Litwack, who attributed the high growth rate to the resurgence in the world economy, which increased demand for China's exports, and greater business and investor confidence about China.

Nomura Securities said exports and the new economy are the main driving forces. “The upside was mainly driv-

en by information technology and transportation services, which is a sign of strong performance in the internet-led new economy.”

But analysts said growth may moderate this year, although it will remain stable and resilient.

“We currently expect somewhat slower growth in 2018 at 6.4 percent,” Litwack told China Daily. “While the world economy is still expanding, we do not expect that same increase in export

demand this year.”

UBS, a securities company, said in a report that China's growth may dip to 6.4 percent this year, citing weakening industrial output, investment and retail sales growth, although it said real estate investment and construction may continue to help shore up the economy.

Nomura Securities believes internet businesses “will likely continue to outperform this year, as China is rebalancing toward the new economy.”

Economists suggested that as growth stabilizes and is no longer on top of the agenda, the country needs to press ahead with necessary reforms to lay a groundwork for high-quality growth in the middle term.

“China's leadership has properly prioritized the quality of growth over quantity of growth, with the goals of reducing further financial risks, eradicating poverty and improving the environment,” said Litwack of the World Bank.

“China's biggest challenge is not to achieve stable growth this year, but to ensure that the economy and welfare of the population can continue to grow at an accelerated pace over the medium term,” he added.

He also said China should continue its deleveraging drive to contain financial risks, a move that he said will be important for achieving the goal of sustainable and high-quality growth in the medium term.

ANN

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## Looking ahead

Events coming up in the next few days

### Foreign Minister Wang to visit Chile and Uruguay

China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, will undertake official visits to Chile and Uruguay from January 21 to 25, the Foreign Ministry announced. Wang will also lead a delegation to the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Forum of China and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Santiago, Chile, from January 19 to 22.

### Micro-films to receive the big-star treatment

The third Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival International Exhibition for Micro-films will be held in Haikou, Hainan province, in late March. More than 7,000 micro-films were entered from November. During the event, micro-films

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### Oddities: Tales of the very unusual, on ice, in the sky and in the water

A thrill-seeker dangles from wire above huge waves; a glass bottomed-pool on a cliff in Bali offers views of the Indian Ocean below; Scott Sears becomes the youngest person to trek solo to the South Pole; miniaturist creates model of Discolandia Record Store; brothers create first manned flying bathtub using drone technology. Interesting, red-hot and downright odd anecdotes from around the world in our news review.



### Business: Asia's most valuable companies in 2017

Twenty-six companies from the Chinese mainland were listed among Asia's top 50 most valuable companies at the end of the year, according to Nikkei. The Chinese technology company Tencent was top of the list, with a market value of \$493.34 billion, followed by Alibaba and Samsung. Nikkei said the market value of Asia's companies reached \$25.74 trillion, 28 percent higher than a year earlier. That valuation accounted for 31.8 percent of the global total.



### Technology: We hope AI turns into real products, says Baidu head



Zhang Yaquin, who used to be the chairman of Microsoft China and is now the president of Baidu Inc, was just 12 years old when he was enrolled in the Special Class for the Gifted Young at the University of Science and Technology of China. He obtained his doctoral degree in electrical engineering from the University of Washington when he was 23. In a video, Zhang Yaquin talks about the core competencies of Baidu and of his views about AI products in the future.

including documentaries, internet films, anime films and virtual reality films will be shown.

### An exhibition where women get to tell their story

"Her Story" photo exhibition will be held at the headquarters of Visual China in Beijing on Tuesday. The exhibition will focus on 19 women of different professions, including playwright, driver and chef. In partnership with Visual China, the United Nations Development Programme says it wants to use the photo exhibition as a vehicle to publicize the idea behind "Her Story". It hopes to raise awareness of gender equality in the workplace and promote the career development and economic empowerment of Chinese females to ensure that no one is left behind in the social development process.

### Economy: Reform commission official's upbeat forecast

China's economy will grow by between 6.5 percent and 6.8 percent this year, Fan Hengshan, deputy secretary general of the National Development and Reform Commission, forecast on Thursday. "I am afraid it may be difficult for economic growth in 2018 to exceed the 6.9 percent growth recorded last year, which was unexpected," Fan told participants at the New Order, New Power forum held by the news portal Hexun.com. However, Fan said he was optimistic about the economic outlook, as the effects of major reforms over the past two years would continue to become apparent this year.

### Wealth: After visits to the dump, the money's in the bag

A shop owner on Alibaba's e-commerce platform Taobao has found money making opportunities with used woven bags. By turning them into backpacks, wallets and handbags based on his own designs, he could bring in 100,000 yuan a month. After studying design in college, A Zu, 26, was inspired to try making handcrafted items using discarded woven bags. Now his online shop could sell more than 200 of these items a month. A Zu's daily routine includes finding woven bags at a dump, and he said that only those with good-looking or distinctive patterns can be selected as materials for his products. Usually after collecting these samples he visits refuse reclamation stores to buy woven bags with a pattern similar to that of the samples.

### Currency: Cross-border capital flows tipped to remain steady

China's cross-border capital flows are expected to remain stable this year, given the positive external environment and strong economic fundamentals, a senior official with the country's top foreign exchange regulator said on Thursday. The country's cross-border capital flows are unlikely to be affected much by the impact of expected US Federal Reserve interest rate rises this year, going by figures showing that the market did not overreact to the Fed's move in the past year, said State Administration of Foreign Exchange spokesman Wang Chunying. The dollar index fell 9.9 percent last year, during which time major emerging market currencies appreciated against the dollar.



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## As New Year nears, taste buds celebrate

KUWAIT CITY - "I love Chinese food and I'd love to go back to China again," Kuwait Television director Ahmad Alhomoud said at a Chinese New Year's celebration in Kuwait on Jan 13. Alhomoud said he had attended the annual celebration for more than 20 years. It helps Kuwaitis better understand Chinese culture, he said.



Dancers from China's Inner Mongolia Art Troupe perform at a theater in Kuwait City last February. AFP

The celebration, hosted by the Chinese embassy in Kuwait in collaboration with the Association of Chinese Companies in the country, brings together representatives of Chinese companies in Kuwait, Chinese students and Chinese citizens living in Kuwait.

Dozens of employees of Chinese companies and Chinese students performed Chinese songs, traditional dances and martial arts to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

"I am so happy to be here tonight," Alhomoud said. "It's amazing to watch Chinese martial arts."

Alhomoud said he was in China for two weeks last year on a business trip.

"I went to Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai and tasted different Chinese food. What I liked most was fried prawns."

"Chinese food is very popular in Kuwait. As a part of traditional culture Chinese cooking helps us know your country."

Fayez Shalaan, media adviser of the Kuwaiti International Parliament of States For Safety and Peace, said he has been to China four times.

"I went to Beijing and Shanghai as a tourist. Chinese calligraphy, acrobatics and lion dances left a deep

impression on me. I really like Chinese culture, especially traditional Chinese snacks."

Pointing at spring rolls served at the celebration, he said: "In Kuwait spring rolls are well known, and you can find them in supermarkets and restaurants. I know spring rolls have a long history, and that Chinese eat them during Spring Festival."

The Belt and Road Initiative, first put forward by President Xi Jinping in 2013, gives full play to the role of cultural exchange in an effort to promote collaboration

among countries along the route of the Belt and Road Initiative.

In a speech at the celebration, China's Ambassador to Kuwait, Wang Di, said China and Kuwait have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of culture, and Chinese performing arts organizations that visited Kuwait last year gave Kuwaitis the chance to experience China's traditions and culture.

"I hope that within the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, Kuwait and China can seize the opportunity to promote collaboration and strengthen our cultural communication," Alhomoud said.

Wang said: "In 2018 we will further integrate the initiative with Kuwait's development strategy, deepen pragmatic cooperation in various fields and maintain close cultural exchanges. I hope that the celebration here will promote mutual understanding and friendship between people in China and Kuwait"

- XINHUA

## A moment in time: The end of the line



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**Soldiers stand guard (above)** along the line that used to mark the boundary between the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and the rest of the city in the 1990s.

The Jibu Customs House building in Shenzhen was demolished in July 2015 (right).

The State Council issued a guideline this month approving the removal of the boundary line to improve public transport, enhance environmental and ecological protection, and gradually to improve public services and facilities.

The line, established in 1982 with wire fences that ran for 84.6 kilometers, marked the boundary for China's first special economic zone inside Shenzhen in 1980.



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### SAT - SUN JAN 20-21

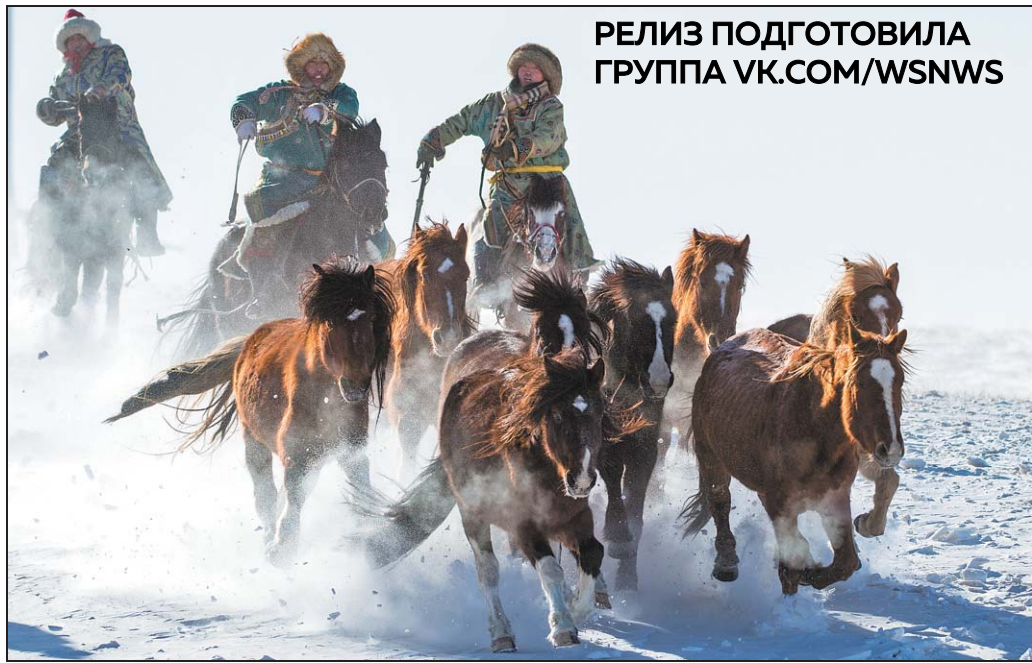
# weather

TRAVELER'S FORECAST

LOW/HIGH TEMPERATURES, IN DEGREES CELSIUS, AND EXPECTED CONDITIONS

Region	City	Jan 20	Jan 21	Conditions				
CHINA	Beijing	-4/7	-6/3	S				
	Shanghai	8/11	8/11	O				
	Bangkok	25/34	24/32	D				
	Singapore	24/33	23/31	S				
	EUROPE	Athens	10/15	13/16	C			
		Berlin	-1/2	R/Sn	-2/0			
		ASIA-PACIFIC-MIDDLE EAST	Abu Dhabi	13/25	17/25	S		
			Bangkok	25/34	24/32	O		
			AMERICAS	Buenos Aires	20/29	27/33	D	
				Caracas	26/27	26/27	D	
				AFRICA	Cairo	10/16	9/19	C
					Cape Town	20/29	21/26	D

## Get along, little ponies



РЕЛИЗ ПОДГОТОВИЛА ГРУППА VK.COM/WSNWS

Shepherds train horses on the snow-covered grasslands of Xilinhot, the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, on Thursday. The region's equine culture is part of the growing popularity of its winter tourist industry. LIAN ZHEN / XINHUA

## Financing to be eased for returnees

By ZHANG YUE  
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China will make financing easier for migrant workers and veterans who return to their rural homes and start businesses, a senior official said.

Zhang Yizhen, vice-minister of human resources and social security, made the remark during a news briefing on Friday on an upcoming guideline of policy incentives for

migrant workers, college students and veterans who choose to start businesses in rural regions. It was approved at the State Council's executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday.

Zhang said State-owned commercial banks will direct their subbranches to approve credit for those who return to start businesses. Also, the financing model covering government, banks and insurance will be

extended to rural startups.

The Agriculture Bank of China will put a major emphasis on their inclusive financing in rural areas, Zhang said, and more financial organizations will be encouraged to set up in areas where rural startups have accumulated.

She said the ministry will work to further implement and improve the loan policy for startups, while the credit record system for those who start busi-

nesses will be improved.

"In our field research, we noticed that the key problem rural startups face is financing, that is, how and where to get funding. Poor credit records, difficulty in getting financing guarantees and limited financing channels are major difficulties," she said.

Seven million people had started businesses in rural areas as of September, the Ministry of Agriculture reported.

## Overarching culture



Actors perform in the stage play *Soul of Kung Fu* in Venice, Italy, on Thursday. The performance was a warmup for China-European Union tourism year events, which began there on Friday.

JIN YU / XINHUA

## Survey: Policies of Trump criticized

From page 1

41 percent. Russia's was 27 percent.

The margin of error across the total sample ranged from plus or minus 2 percentage points to plus or minus 5.1 points, Gallup said.

The Gallup results were based on face-to-face and telephone interviews with around 1,000 adults ages 15 and older in each of the countries or areas included in the survey. Residents in 134 countries or regions were asked to rate US, German and Russian leadership, while residents in 135 countries or regions were asked to rate the leadership of China, according to Gallup.

In its analysis, the Gallup report criticized Trump for keeping his campaign promise to put "America First" in his foreign policy.

"In doing so, he walked away from key institutions and alliances in 2017 that he felt didn't serve US interests, including abandoning the

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal and withdrawing from the global climate agreement. He further rankled relations with neighbors Canada and Mexico, repeatedly threatening to terminate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and insisting that Mexico would pay for a wall along their shared border," the report says.

The US government received worldwide condemnation in December for its recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Its withdrawal from UNESCO and cutting of funding to the United Nations also received negative response in the global community.

Richard Haas, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, believes the US global leadership has become worse for the most part. "The bottom line is that the United States has added a degree of unreliability," Haas said about Trump's first year in office in a CFR podcast on Tuesday.

## Session: Keeping up with times is stressed

From page 1

The communique stressed that revising the Constitution is a great event of China's political life, a major decision of the CPC Central Committee and a great measure to promote the rule of law.

The amendment process should uphold the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, fully implement the spirit of the CPC's 19th National Congress and follow the action guide of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, The Thought of Three Represents, Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, said the communique.

The major theoretical views and key policies set at the Party's congress, especially Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, should be included in the country's fundamental law to push the Constitution to keep up with the times on the basis of keeping its continuity, stability and authority, said the communique.

The revision must follow such principles as sticking to the CPC's leadership, adhering to socialist rule of law, sticking to correct political direction, strictly following the procedures and rules of the law, fully practicing democracy, reaching wide consensus, reflecting the people's will, being supported by the people, and focusing on some parts rather than an overhaul of the Constitution, said the communique.

It stressed that Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era is the latest outcome of developing Marxism in the modern Chinese context, which should be a guide upheld by the Party and country in the long run.

The CPC's leadership is the most essential character of socialism with Chinese char-

acteristics, and the Party's leadership must be upheld and enhanced in all works, said the communique.

It has great significance for the peace and development of mankind to uphold peaceful development, stick to win-win strategy and push to build a community of shared future for mankind, the communique said.

It said that the reform of China's national supervision system is a great political system reform and a major step to enhance the Party's and government's self-supervision. This requires building an anti-graft network under the Party's unified leadership and building an effective national supervision system that covers all people exercising public power, it said.

The revision should be an opportunity for the country to push the rule of law and the rule of Constitution to a new level, and all public servants, especially leading officials, should enhance Constitution mentality, fulfill their duties in line with the Constitution and laws, and accept supervision from the people, said the communique.

No organization or individual will be permitted to enjoy special privileges that place them above the Constitution and law, and all those who violate the Constitution and laws must be held accountable, it said.

The whole Party should unite closely around the CPC Central Committee with Xi as the core, set Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as the guide, and implement the spirit of the Party's 19th National Congress and this session, said the communique.

The whole Party should stick to the socialism rule of law with Chinese characteristics, safeguard the authority of the Constitution, ensure its implementation and make efforts to build socialist rule of law in the new era, it said.

# Team to follow up on sinking

### Iran thanks China for efforts as oil spill, recovery issues remain

By LUO WANGSHU  
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China has set up an efficient interministry coordination team to handle the aftermath of the sunken oil tanker *Sanchi*, which includes monitoring and cleaning up the marine oil slick that was left and conducting regular search and recovery operations, senior officials said on Friday.

"We're now analyzing and studying the current situation as the sunken ship is still there and leaking oil," said Zhi Guanglu, deputy director of the China Maritime Search and Rescue Center, part of the Ministry of Transport. "Our mission is to remove the oil slick on the surface of the sea. And we're also considering how to handle the tanker."

The most effective way to eradicate pollution is to recover the wreckage, but the owner's opinion should also be considered in salvaging sunken ships as required by international agreements and laws, Zhi said at a news conference.

There are also great risks and challenges, such as the possible explosion of the highly flammable condensate oil, he said.

Zhi said China will start an



**We're now analyzing and studying the current situation as the sunken ship is still there and leaking oil."**

Zhi Guanglu, deputy director of the China Maritime Search and Rescue Center

investigation in accordance with international agreements and laws. Stakeholders will be invited to participate in and witness restoration of the ship's "black box", and contact will be enhanced with the International Maritime Organization to ensure an objective and just investigation.

The Panama-registered oil tanker *Sanchi*, from Iran, carrying 111,300 metric tons of highly flammable condensate oil, collided with a Hong Kong-registered cargo ship about 8 pm on Jan 6 some 160 nautical miles east of Shanghai.

The oil slick was first seen on Jan 9, but its area remained small before the

ship sank. After the sinking, oil spills of different sizes were found in the area. Close monitoring has been carried out, said Huo Chuanlin, deputy director of the environmental protection department of the State Oceanic Administration.

The *Sanchi* had 32 crew members — 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis. As of Friday, three bodies had been found, according to the ministry. The cargo ship's 21 crew members were rescued.

The three bodies were handed to Iran per an agreement with the Iranian Consulate General in Shanghai, Zhi said.

Iranian Minister of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare Ali Rabiei sent a letter of thanks on Wednesday to Chinese Ambassador to Iran Pang Sen. Rabiei expressed Iran's "sincerest gratitude to the Chinese government and people, especially to the Chinese personnel who have risked their life to make every effort to rescue the tanker under the threat of toxic gas and explosion".

The minister regretted the loss of crew members, saying the support and humanitarian aid the Chinese government and people offered to Iran will be remembered forever by the Iranian people.

Xinhua contributed to this story.



## VISION CHINA

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### 新时代大讲堂

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Renowned commentator on China issues
- **Andrew Moody**  
Chief writer of China Daily's Overseas Editions
- **Liu Xin**  
Presenter with China Global TV Network

**Time:** 19:00-21:30, January 22nd, 2018

**Place:** Library Lecture Hall of the University of International Business and Economics  
(No 10 Huixindongjie, Chaoyang District, Beijing)

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University of International Business and Economics

“ We often took gender as a priority while talking about and dealing with indecency, which was unreasonable.”

Pan Suiming, director of the Institute of Sexuality and Gender, Renmin University of China

# Long March 11 puts satellites in orbit

### Launch marks first time that China has provided lift services for Canadian client

By ZHAO LEI  
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China launched a Long March 11 carrier rocket on Friday to send six satellites into space, according to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

The mission marked the first time that a Chinese solid-propellant rocket has been used with a foreign client, the academy, which developed and built the rocket, said in a news release.

The Long March 11 blasted off at Jiuquan Satellite Launch

Center in northwestern China at 12:12 pm and later placed six small satellites — two Earth-observation satellites made by a State-owned firm, three experimental satellites from Chinese private companies as well as a Canadian miniaturized satellite made by Kepler Communications, a satellite startup in Toronto — into orbit.

This is the third mission of the Long March 11 and the 264th of the Long March family, according to the academy. China Great Wall Industry Corp, a State-owned enterprise

that signed the launch contract with Kepler Communications, said in a statement that this is the first time that a Canadian satellite was lifted by a Chinese rocket.

The Long March 11 has a length of 20.8 meters, a diameter of 2 m and a liftoff weight of 58 metric tons. It is capable of sending 700 kilograms of payload into a low-Earth orbit or 400 kg into a Sun-synchronous orbit 700 kilometers above the ground, statistics from the academy show.

Its first flight was in September 2015 at the Jiuquan center when it lifted four satellites to a Sun-synchronous orbit. The second flight took place in November 2016 at the same center, sending an X-ray pulsar

navigation satellite and four small experimental satellites into orbit.

Peng Kunya, chief designer of the Long March 11, said the type is suitable for emergency-response launches, which will be needed to replace damaged satellites or to send new ones to monitor disasters. He added that the rocket is also competitive in the commercial launch market for small satellites.

Yang Yiqiang, the rocket's project manager, said that it takes only 90 days to produce a Long March 11 rocket and get it ready for flight after a client places an order.

Yang said the Long March 11 mainly targets domestic makers of small, low-orbit satellites, noting the rocket has received

orders worth a total value of 1 billion yuan (\$156 million).

According to Meng Xiang, chief of international cooperation at China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, engineers have made a plan for Long March 11's sea-based launch and are conducting tests to verify the plan.

He said if everything goes well, a Long March 11 will be launched from a ship this year.

Experts explained that compared with launches at conventional land-based platforms, a sea-based mission will have a lower risk of affecting populated area and airlines, and features better economy when it comes to satellites orbiting above regions near the equator.



A Long March 11 rocket soars into the sky on Friday in a mission to send six satellites into space. YANG XIAOBO / XINHUA

### Briefly

#### BEIJING PBOC official named vice-mayor

Yin Yong, vice-governor of the People's Bank of China, was appointed vice-mayor



of Beijing on Friday at a session of the Standing Committee of the Beijing People's Congress. Yin has worked at the State Administration of Foreign Exchange and China Investment Corp since receiving his master's degree from Harvard University and doctoral degree from Tsinghua University. The city's municipal government now consists of acting Mayor Chen Jining and nine vice-mayors.

#### Center launched on new era thought

A research center on Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era was launched in Beijing on Friday. The center, headed by Du Feijin, Beijing's chief official of publicity, will feature 10 to 20 retired specialists from colleges and research facilities in the capital. It is one of the first group of 10 research centers on the subject nationwide.

#### FUJIAN Freight train links Budapest

A new freight train service linking the port city of Xiamen with Budapest, capital of Hungary, started on Friday, making it the newest China-Europe freight train route. At about 10:45 am, a train with 35 containers left Haicang in Xiamen, carrying about \$3.5 million in goods, including electric products, clothes, shoes and construction materials. The 11,595-kilometer journey will take 18 days. It will operate every Friday and create easier access for products from Xiamen and Southeast Asia to travel to Europe.

#### HENAN Scalpers detained ahead of holidays

Railway police in Zhengzhou have detained five suspects for allegedly making and selling fake train tickets. Officers seized 16,000 fake train tickets from the suspects who were selling them to passengers at Zhengzhou Railway Station. The suspects allegedly collected ID information from passengers and produced fake tickets using their own computer system and printers, police said. The Lunar New Year falls on Feb 16 this year. It is China's peak travel period as millions of people return to their hometowns to celebrate with their families.

CHINA DAILY—XINHUA

# Traffic improves in more than half of major cities

By XIN WEN  
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More than half of the 100 major cities in China experienced an improvement in traffic congestion last year, according to an annual report released on Thursday.

The 2017 analysis of major city traffic, drafted by domestic navigation company Amap, the Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Transport, and Aliyun, said that 51 cities had improved traffic congestion last year, while 22 cities saw their traffic worsen.

The other 27 cities remained the same over the previous year.

The report is based on a ratio of the time spent traveling during rush hour compared to time spent with a free flow of traffic. A higher number shows more serious congestion.

In the 22 cities where traffic got worse, the index shows that it took more than 1.8 times as long to travel during rush hours — from 7 to 9 am and 5 to 7 pm — as during off-peak hours.

Overall, the index for traffic congestion in the 100 major cities in 2017 dropped by 2.45 percent compared to 2016, returning to the level of 2015.

Jinan, capital of Shandong province, was the most congested city again this year, the report said. It was followed by Beijing and Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province.

Among the 10 most congested cities, Hohhot of Inner Mongolia, Hefei of Anhui, and Changchun of Jilin made it onto the list for the first time.

Meanwhile, Chengdu of Sichuan, Shijiazhuang of

### Cities with the most severe traffic jams in 2017

Rankings are based on a ratio of time spent driving a certain distance during peak hours compared to free-flow conditions:

- 1. Jinan 2.067
- 2. Beijing 2.033
- 3. Harbin 2.028
- 4. Chongqing 1.954
- 5. Hohhot 1.95
- 6. Guangzhou 1.894
- 7. Hefei 1.881
- 8. Shanghai 1.879
- 9. Dalian 1.875
- 10. Changchun 1.861

Hebei, Shenzhen of Guangdong, Wuhan of Hubei, and Hangzhou of Zhejiang saw improvements in traffic and were no longer on the list of the 10 most congested cities.

The report said the improvement in some cities is due to rotating bans on cars according to the last digit of the plate number.

Researchers warned that 42 percent of cities in China will face worse traffic this year, and 58 percent of cities are expected to improve or remain the same.

Wei Chao, a native of Jinan, said he now rides an electric vehicle during peak hours.

“I don't expect the traffic in Jinan will improve. The previous measure to build an overpass and ease traffic has actually failed. More cars go directly to the overpass while there are fewer cars on the normal road, which increased the congestion,” the 29-year-old said.

### Taste of charity



Ren Runzhu (right), 102, tastes Laba congee sent by volunteers to her home in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, on Friday. With the approach of the Laba Festival, which falls on the eighth day of the 12th lunar month, volunteers send the dishes to centenarians and the elderly without children by their side to create a festive mood. HANG XINGWEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

# Taipei ‘obstructing’ New Year’s plans

By ZHANG YI  
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Mainland civil aviation authorities on Friday strongly condemned Taipei's disregard for the well-being of the people across the Taiwan Straits by obstructing plans for additional Spring Festival flights.

Adding more flights during the Chinese New Year has been a common practice between the two sides for years to facilitate Taiwan people returning home for family reunions. This year, mainland airlines have applied to add 614 flights from mainland cities to Taiwan from Feb 2 to March 2. This year's Spring Festival falls on Feb 16.

However, Taiwan authorities have created obstacles in approving 176 flights by China Eastern Airlines and Xiamen

## 614

Number of additional cross-Straits flights for the Lunar New Year applied for by mainland airlines

Airlines because the two companies are using the new flight route M503 and its connecting routes, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said on Friday.

The island's civil aviation department has required airlines operating in Taiwan to stop using the northbound flight route M503, which was launched on Jan 4 by the CAAC, as it causes potential flight safety concerns, island

media has reported.

The CAAC said the northbound route, along with three new connecting routes, is to relieve air traffic pressure along the southeast coastal area, and it has undergone full technical appraisal and been approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization so “there's no so-called safety issues”.

The new route has allowed an average of 27 flights per day. “After a half-month safety operation of the new route, Taipei still takes it as an excuse to take ‘revenge’ on the mainland. It will ultimately damage the interests of air companies and people of both sides,” the CAAC said.

“Taiwan authorities must bear all the subsequent consequences of such a practice,” it said.

Both China Eastern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines issued statements on Friday, calling on Taiwan authorities to comply with public opinion and approve the applications as soon as possible.

China Eastern Airlines has applied to open 106 additional flights and about 20,000 people have booked the flights, its statement said, adding that the company had expected the number to reach 40,000.

Xiamen Airlines, which has applied for 70 additional flights, said more than 10,000 people have already booked tickets for the flights, and that number is expected to surpass 20,000.

Hu Meidong contributed to this story.

# Man found guilty of sexual assault on another male

By CAO YIN  
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Judicial and sexuality specialists approved of the penalty handed down in a Beijing court to a man who sexually assaulted another man, as it reflected progress in the rule of law and met the needs of social development.

Women are the victims in most of the publicized sex-related cases, “but in reality, sexual harm also happens between people of the same

gender,” Ruan Chuansheng, a criminal law professor at Shanghai Administration Institute, said on Friday.

On Jan 10, the Shunyi District People's Court sentenced a man surnamed Dong to one year in prison with a one-year reprieve for the crime of indecency after he sexually assaulted another man, surnamed Li.

According to the court, Dong, 45, assaulted Li in an apartment after drinking alcohol on April 14. Dong surrendered to authorities after the offense.

Dong also said he has been infected by HIV/AIDS since 2015, it added.

“Dong committed the crime of indecency. He must be penalized under the Chinese Criminal Law,” the court said. “But considering that he surrendered and has reconciled with the victim, we gave him lenient punishment.”

In August last year, a court in Shaanxi province handed down a two-year sentence to a man after he sexually harmed another man.

Ruan applauded the law, which was revised in 2015, as it extended the target of indecency to men.

“Indecency is not only a harm to women, but also to men. When speaking out and fighting for women, men's protection should be also increased,” he said.

The sentences in recent years have reflected the equal protection of the revised law, he added.

Pan Suiming, director of the Institute of Sexuality and Gen-

der at Renmin University of China, agreed.

“We often took gender as a priority while talking about and dealing with indecency, which was unreasonable,” he told Beijing Legal Evening News.

With the improvement in people's legal awareness, human rights are getting more attention and are being upheld in society, “which propelled the amendment to the law and improved the rule of law,” the newspaper quoted him as adding.



Cars slowly move forward on a viaduct in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, during the peak hours on Monday.

YANG BO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

## COMMENT

## OPINION

中国日报  
ChinaDaily  
chinadaily.com.cn/opinion

Martin Jacques

## Let's celebrate reform's 40th anniversary

As momentous historic events go, China's reform period was relatively unheralded. Little did anyone realize at the time — probably no one, in fact — that 1978 would enter the history books as one of the most important years in modern history.

We should not be surprised. At the time, the Chinese economy was a mere 5 percent of the size of the US economy, with a per capita GDP roughly on a par with that of Zambia, lower than half of the Asian average and lower than two-thirds of the African average. China's impact on the world was very limited.

Although its growth rate had averaged a little more than 5 percent from 1960 to 1978, it compared rather unfavorably with economies such as Japan and the Republic of Korea. For the majority of the world's population, China was largely forgotten or ignored, usually both. Even in China, there was little anticipation that the country stood on the eve of a remarkable transformation. When Chairman Mao Zedong died in 1976, China was relatively isolated. The "cultural revolution" (1966-76) continued to cast a long shadow, the leadership was divided, and Deng Xiaoping had only begun to emerge as China's key leader. Notwithstanding the unquestioned achievements made since 1949, the future did not look particularly promising.

How wrong almost everyone was. Think of what have hitherto been regarded as some of the defining moments of the late 19th and 20th centuries: the rise of the United States between 1870 and 1914; the October Revolution; colonial liberation after World War II; and the fall of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The reform period that began in 1978, and continues to this day, is at least as historically significant as all of these, if not more so. China's economic transformation since 1978 has been on a far greater scale than that of the US between 1870 and 1914. The October Revolution, historically pro-



Martin Jacques

found as it was, ultimately failed. The reform period, in contrast, has succeeded in transforming not only China but the whole world.

If China's economic performance between 1960 and 1978 was overshadowed by the early "Asian tigers", since 1978 the roles have been reversed, with China growing much faster than any of its neighbors between 1978 and the present. China experienced an average GDP growth of close to 10 percent annually until 2014, raising per capita GDP almost 49-fold, from \$155 at today's prices in 1978 to \$7,590 in 2014, thereby lifting more than 700 million people out of poverty. Between 1990 and 2005, China was responsible for three-quarters of the world's poverty reduction. Since 1978, China's GDP has overtaken that of countless countries, including Britain, France, Germany and Japan, such that today it is second only to the US and closing rapidly.

But numbers alone cannot explain the historical magnitude and novelty of what China has achieved. Since the late 18th century and the beginning of Britain's Industrial Revolution, the global economy has been dominated by the advanced Western economies together with Japan, which, unlike all other non-Western countries, began its industrialization in the 19th century. China is the first developing country (which, like a majority of the world's countries, had been colonized or partly colonized by the Western powers and Japan) to crash the party of the historically privileged and become recognized as one of the two most powerful countries in the world. China has not only transformed itself and the world, it has overturned more than 200 years of history in the process.

Without question, the reform period — which never would have been possible without 1949 and the victory of the Communist Party of China under Mao Zedong —

China has not only transformed itself and the world, it has overturned more than 200 years of history in the process.

is one of the most important historical events of the past two centuries. It has been responsible for the most remarkable economic transformation in modern history, arguably, indeed, in all of history.

Yet the 40th anniversary of the reform period's birth will be marked, if at all, in a relatively perfunctory way in Western countries. Part of the reason for this is that economic periods such as this generally receive less attention than their political or military equivalents: they are more protracted and less dramatic than the latter. But it is also because the West feels challenged by China's transformation.

The West has generally veered toward a negative interpretation of China's economic rise, for long predicting its unsustainability and ultimate demise. This is hardly surprising; as we can now all see, China's rise, in reconfiguring the world, is at the same time diminishing the West's place in that world. The causes of this can hardly be expected to be a reason for celebration in the West.

There is a further reason that the significance of the reform period has been underestimated, and this belongs rather closer to home: its relationship to the socialist tradition. The sheer novelty of Deng Xiaoping's thinking and approach has never been given the recognition it deserves. While the West for long belittled the reform period for political reasons, many on the left tended to believe that it represented a turn to the right in an era when neo-liberalism was increasingly ascend-

ant; they regarded it, in some degree or another, as a retreat from socialist principles. But this was a crude and simplistic response. Deng was, indeed, prepared to question some of the previously largely unquestioned assumptions of socialist thought, but he did this because he believed they no longer had a sufficient purchase on reality.

Prior to Deng, the communist movement, together with wider sections of the left, was for the most part committed to two key propositions. First, that socialism meant central planning and the public ownership of most of the economy. Second, the idea of socialism in one country, which first took root in the Soviet Union in the 1920s, came to enjoy widespread influence: it was based on the view that the world was bifurcated between socialist countries and capitalist countries, and never the twain shall meet.

Deng challenged both propositions. He embraced the idea of the market as a necessary part of a socialist economy. And he believed that it was essential for China, rather than being part of an autarchic socialist bloc, to seek to become part of and interdependent with the whole world, including the major capitalist countries.

The idea of socialism in one country emerged in the Soviet Union after the failure of the long-awaited revolutions in the major capitalist countries in the 1920s: as such, it represented a retreat into a defensive bunker. Deng's embrace of interdependence was based on the recognition that the capitalist world in the post-1945 period had proved rather more dynamic than the socialist world, and that China should not be afraid to extend its horizons and compete with them on a wider global stage.

Deng's approach was extraordinarily brave and bold. He recognized that the old ways of thinking were no longer working: in Mao's time-honored phrase, it was necessary to "seek truth from facts". Rather than choosing to remain a prisoner of one's own ideological dogma, he reached beyond in

order to find a new way.

The consequences could not have been more profound or far-reaching. The turn to pragmatism, or seeking truth from facts, was intellectually enormously stimulating and liberating. Much of the Marxist tradition had become bogged down in the idea that it was invariably right, that history was on its side, that it was simply a matter of time before it triumphed. A mindset based on the "guarantees of history" led to ossified and mechanical thinking, a hardening of the intellectual arteries, and an inability to move with the times.

The dynamism that Deng's intellectual revolution unleashed has become a continuing and fundamental feature of China over the past 40 years. Or, to put it in another way, while the Soviet Union was trapped in its own dogmatic mindset and increasingly turned inward, exactly the opposite happened in China, which reached outward both within China itself and at the same time toward the rest of the world.

While the Soviet Union became ever more timid and defensive, China displayed growing confidence in its attitude toward the world.

There is much that the left around the world can learn from China: its expansive view, its pragmatism, its intellectual courage and ambition, its willingness to learn from anywhere and anyone, and its emphasis on doing and achieving rather than dogma and assertion.

The 40th anniversary of the beginning of the reform period is a cause for celebration and reflection, not only in China but around the world. It has so much to offer us all.

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Tony Kwok

## Hollow mouthpiece for Hong Kong opposition

When I read Lord Paddy Ashdown's report on Hong Kong, "Hong Kong 20 Years On: Freedom, Human Rights and Autonomy Under Fire", based on a visit in November last year, my first thought was "who paid for his trip and for the report?"

Ashdown said he visited Hong Kong for a week in November, "to gather information about human rights, the rule of law and democracy". A business class airfare from London to Hong Kong costs about 5,200 pounds (\$7,165), while hotel accommodation and daily expenses for a week in the city could come to at least HK\$100,000 (\$15,577). Was he doing this freely or was he engaged as a consultant to produce the report? If it is the latter, the minimum daily rate of honorarium for an international consultant is 1,000 pounds. Therefore, Ashdown's mission could cost more than HK\$240,000 — a very attractive sum compared with the daily allowance of 300 pounds he would receive for attending one House of Lords' meeting.

I believe he has an obligation to declare his sponsor or employer — to see whether or not there is any conflict of interest. If it is someone associated with the opposition camp in Hong Kong or a United States organization, people will then understand why the report is so biased. I would not even be surprised if it was drafted by a member of the opposition camp — as it merely repeats all the publicly known accusations leveled by opposition politicians and activists toward Beijing and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government in recent years.

I have visited many countries in my capacity as international anti-corruption consultant to assess corruption problems. In each case, I ensured I had the opportunity to speak to all stakeholders before coming up with my recommendations. This would include anti-corruption officials, senior government officials, public prosecutors and judges, political parties, NGOs, chambers of commerce members and academics. Ashdown claimed he had spoken to "fellow legislators, legal experts and political activists". But he did not identify them; one cannot help wondering whether he only spoke to those from the opposition camp, considering the obvious bias of his report.

For instance, he said the rule of law in Hong Kong has been eroded because "elected lawmakers were thrown out of the Leg-



ZHAI HAIJUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

islative Council". But he did not check the much-reported facts that these lawmakers were subsequently disqualified upon a court ruling after failing to take their oaths of office "solemnly, sincerely and in its entirety in accordance with the law". These lawmakers only have themselves to blame. Would Ashdown expect a member of the British parliament to be allowed in the House of Commons if he or she refused to swear allegiance to the Queen, or mocked the Queen during their oath taking?

He complained that "student protest leaders were imprisoned" but did he bother to read the judgment of the Court of Appeal? It clearly said they were not imprisoned because of their public protests but because they had incited people to use violence which caused injuries to a number of security guards. It is also pertinent to ask: What was Ashdown's reaction to the well-publicized protests in 2010? At the

time students in the United Kingdom demonstrated against the government's planned increases in tuition fees for universities, which resulted in riots in many cities in Britain and injuries to hundreds of police officers, students and citizens. Does he think the students involved in those riots should not have been punished?

Ashdown alleged that "Hong Kong's democracy has been further damaged by recent changes to the rules of the Legislative Council in Hong Kong". I wonder if this is not a case of the pot calling the kettle black. He ought to know about the disgraceful and often violent behavior of opposition lawmakers within the LegCo chamber. I am also interested to know what Ashdown, who claims to be a champion of the press, thinks of opposition legislator Eddie Chu Hoi-dick's motion evicting the media from the LegCo chamber as a filibustering technique to delay voting.

When I watched the House of Commons debates live, I often saw only a handful of MPs present late at night. They are never interrupted by frivolous quorum calls. So how can Ashdown criticize the change of rule in Hong Kong which aims to minimize such interruptions so that legislators can carry on with their duties? Does he know that in just one year alone, the opposition legislators called quorum counts on 95 occasions. It led to delays in legislation which held back commencement of much-needed infrastructure projects, and resulted in losses worth billions of dollars due to rises in costs. Incidentally, the rule change enjoys overwhelming support according to a public opinion survey.

He criticized Beijing for imposing its "decision to implement mainland law at the new West Kowloon high-speed rail terminus", implying jurisdictional trespassing. How is it we never hear of such complaints in joint customs border checkpoints in other parts of the world?

He alleged that Hong Kong has deteriorated as an economy since the 1997 hand-over under the "one country, two systems" principle. On the contrary, the city has continued to thrive in economic terms, overtaking many leading cities around the world, including London — which is expecting an exodus of expatriates as Brexit looms.

In Hong Kong, our expatriate community is voting with their feet in support of us. The SAR has seen a near doubling of US and a tripling of French nationals since 1997. Businesspeople and worldly professionals are hard-nosed individuals. They are not blind to the facts — for instance, Hong Kong's latest annual GDP growth rate is 3.6 percent compared with the UK's 1.7 percent. The unemployment rate for Hong Kong is now 3 percent, compared with 4.3 percent in the UK.

Corruption is generally regarded as the best benchmark for the rule of law. For the past 20 years, Hong Kong has remained one of the least corrupt places in the world. The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2016 ranked Hong Kong as 15th most corruption-free place in the world with an assessment mark of 77, the highest mark in the past four years.

In another authoritative assessment, the Trace International Trace Bribery Risk Matrix 2017, which measures corruption risk, under the "Anti-bribery Laws and

Enforcement", Hong Kong's risk score is 5, better than UK's score of 7. That means the UK has a higher risk of bribery occurring than Hong Kong. The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators project put Hong Kong at the 94.7 percentile for rule of law in 2015, compared with UK's 93.8.

I find it ironic that with the UK losing out to Hong Kong in most of the international rankings, we have a prominent British public figure lecturing us on our shortcomings. So I cannot help suspecting that it is the UK's underhand way of interfering with our internal affairs.

And at a time when the UK is confronted with the Brexit crisis and other serious problems, we can tell this fleeting visitor from the UK: "Mind your own business!"

*The author is adjunct professor of Hong Kong University's School of Professional and Continuing Education, council member of the China Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies, a former deputy commissioner of International Commission Against Corruption, and an international anti-corruption consultant.*

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## Airbus banking on China future

By ZHU WENQIAN  
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European aircraft manufacturer Airbus SE said on Friday that it was yet to start formal discussions with the Chinese authorities for setting up the final assembly line of its superjumbo A380 aircraft in the country, but remained confident of potential future cooperation opportunities.

George Xu, newly appointed CEO of Airbus Commercial Aircraft China, said he remained bullish about growth prospects for the world's largest passenger airliner in China, and Airbus is constantly strengthening its communications with Chinese carriers on A380 orders.

"When Airbus started producing A380s, it identified China as one of its most important markets. China has a lot of big air hubs, and the country has huge demand for large-scale aircraft," he said at a news briefing in Beijing.

Meanwhile, United Arab Emirates-based Emirates said it would order another 36 A380 aircraft for \$16 billion, after Airbus hinted that it would stop A380 production if it was unable to realize new orders.

Airbus and China had signed an agreement earlier this month, during French President Emmanuel

Macron's state visit, to increase the capacity of its single-aisle A320 Tianjin assembly and delivery center, a major industrial base for Airbus in Asia.

Currently, Airbus assembles four A320 aircraft every month in Tianjin. By early 2019, the assembly line will produce five aircraft a month, and by early 2020, it will produce six A320s a month, according to the agreement.

"This will help create more work for our suppliers, and we hope to further strengthen industrial cooperation with Chinese suppliers," Xu said.

By the end of 2017, the total output from the cooperation between Airbus and Chinese industrial players reached \$592 million from \$120 million in 2010, according to Airbus.

Currently, Airbus takes about half of the market share in China, compared with 9 percent in 1996. Its industrial cooperation with China has greatly helped in lifting its market share against archrival Boeing Co of the United States.

Boeing has a B737 MAX completion and delivery center in Zhoushan, Zhejiang province, that is expected to go into operation in May. By the end of the year, Boeing will deliver the first single-aisle B737 MAX plane directly from Zhoushan to a domestic airline.



An employee works on the fuselage of an A320 plane at Airbus A320 Family final assembly line in Tianjin. REUTERS

## Ping An shares rise on unit listing plan

By CHAI HUA in Shenzhen  
grace@chinadailyhk.com

Ping An Insurance (Group) Co of China Ltd shares listed in Hong Kong zoomed to a historical high of HK\$93.40 (\$11.94) on Friday after the insurer released an announcement about the financing channels of its technology subsidiaries.

In Hong Kong, the company's shares closed at HK\$93.30 after logging an intraday gain of 0.9 percent, while its Shanghai listed shares fell 0.03 percent to 77.59 yuan (\$12.08).

The Shenzhen-based firm said on Thursday that it will take the necessary measures for the strategic transformation of its technology business, "including but not limited to seeking all kinds of external financing for certain units" when appropriate in the future.

The notification came after media reports said that Lufax, the internet financial arm of Ping An, is expected to list as soon as March and its online medical platform PA Good Doctor may follow subsequently.

Lufax, founded in 2011, has accumulated 30 million registered users and its retail transaction volume reached 1.54 trillion yuan in 2016.

In addition, another subsidiary OneConnect, one of the world's largest financial cloud platforms, which has partnered with 400 banks, may also enter the stock market in the second half of this year, as well as a healthcare management service unit under the group.

The total valuation of these four firms is reportedly more than 630 billion yuan.

On the heels of the news, its shares hit records at both the Shanghai and Hong Kong stock markets on Jan 18.

However, the current share price is yet to reflect the full value of the company, Li Yuan Siong, deputy chief executive and chief insurance business officer of Ping An, said in November.

He said that the company is taking an asset-light approach and will adopt a "finance plus technology" strategy.

In the last 10 years, the company has invested about 50 billion yuan in research and development on internet finance technology, medical platforms, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing and blockchain.

The potential IPO of Ping An's internet units will boost its group profit and valuation, said Ding Wenjie, an analyst at CMB International.



A representative prepares a Huawei Mate 10 Pro smartphone for display at the company's booth during CES 2018 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Nevada. AFP

## Huawei bets on technology to bolster revenue growth

Company to face tough times amid telecom sector slowdown in 2018

By MA SI  
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Huawei Technologies Co Ltd aims to post \$102.2 billion in revenue in 2018, up about 9 percent year-on-year, as the Chinese tech giant steps up its push to grow its smartphone and enterprise business amid a slowing telecom equipment industry.

The target, announced at a conference on Thursday, will be the first time that the Shenzhen-based company is looking to top the \$100 billion mark. Still, it remains a relatively slower growth rate compared with its performance in 2017.

Last year, its revenue grew about 15 percent to about 600

billion yuan (\$93.7 billion)

Specifically, Huawei's consumer business group, which includes smartphones, aims to post \$44 billion in revenue in 2018, representing about 20 percent year-on-year growth.

Huawei is already the world's third-largest smartphone vendor, just behind Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Apple Inc. Last year, its consumer business group recorded 236 billion yuan in revenue, up about 30 percent compared with its performance in 2016.

Founded in 1987, Huawei started as a telecom equipmentmaker, whose phenomenal success enabled the company to expand into areas such as smartphones, cloud computing, and smart city projects.

Xiang Ligang, CEO of telecoms industry website Cctime, said: "As global telecom carriers finish building 4G base stations and the plan on 5G

“... telecom equipment-makers including Huawei are all facing intense pressure.”

Xiang Ligang, CEO of telecoms industry website Cctime

telecom infrastructure is yet to begin, telecom equipment-makers including Huawei are all facing intense pressure.

"Huawei is indeed growing slower, but as long as it maintains relatively steady momentum, and its smartphone businesses make progress in overseas countries, it can survive the downward industry cycle," Xiang said.

Last year, Huawei once

again secured its position as the top player in China, the world's largest mobile phone market. It sold 102 million smartphones, with a market share of about 23 percent, data from research company GFK showed.

The robust growth in 2017 gives Huawei a bigger advantage than it did in 2016, with its sales outperforming immediate followers Oppo and Vivo by about 20 million handsets.

But the company recently suffered a blow in the United States, a market it must conquer if it wants to beat Apple and Samsung. Earlier this month, AT&T, the No 2 US wireless carrier, cut a deal to sell the company's smartphones at the last minute. The cancellation means that Huawei is unable to access the majority of local consumers as carrier retail channels account for about 90 percent of smartphones sales in the US.

## Shanghai first Chinese city to top 3 trillion yuan GDP

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai  
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Shanghai became the first city in China, the world's second-largest economy, to top GDP of 3 trillion yuan (\$469 billion) and achieved higher-than-expected growth last year, official data revealed on Friday.

The municipality achieved 3.01 trillion yuan in GDP in 2017, for year-on-year GDP growth of 6.9 percent, which corresponded with that of the previous year and last year's national average, according to the Shanghai Municipal Statistics Bureau.

"As an early bird of the nation's economic restruc-

turing, such figures embody the standard and quality of Shanghai's steady economic growth, as well as its role in leading, radiating and driving the development of the Yangtze River Delta and its surrounding areas," said Tang Huihao, the bureau director.

"Reaching 3 trillion yuan marked a significant milestone and a new starting point, from which we will pursue high-quality development and elevate the core competitiveness of economic growth to achieve stable, healthy and sustainable development," he said.

The growth seen last year was partly driven by the coordinated development of the

7.5 percent growth rate of the service industry in Shanghai in 2017

manufacturing and service industries, for which growth came in at 5.8 percent and 7.5 percent, respectively.

"Industrial production recorded its fastest growth since 2011 and the industries of high-tech manufacturing and strategic emerging manufacturing manifested eye-catching growth," Tang said.

Both production and sales of new energy vehicles soared, with gross industrial output

increasing by 42.6 percent over the previous year. Tang attributed the upswing mainly to the government's green car subsidies, favorable license policies and a small original market size.

Manufacturing of medical equipment increased 11.2 percent year-on-year, which was also remarkable, Tang said. "A large number of innovative pieces of medical equipment emerged last year, breaking the monopoly of imports from foreign countries."

Sun Lijian, an economics professor at Shanghai-based Fudan University, said such strong figures showed the city's powerful economic development momentum, under both the influence of

### Briefly

#### New economy boosts Beijing

Beijing achieved GDP of 2,800 billion yuan (\$437.3 billion) in 2017, up 6.7 percent year-on-year, according to Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics and Survey Office of the National Bureau of Statistics in Beijing. The added value of the new economy sector has achieved 908.56 billion yuan, up 9.8 percent year-on-year and accounting for 32.4 percent of the city's economy.

#### Trade with Myanmar climbs

Trade volume between Southwest China's Yunnan province with five countries along the Lancang-Mekong River grew by 13.4 percent year-on-year to reach 81 billion yuan (\$13 billion) in 2017, customs in the provincial capital Kunming said. Trade between Yunnan and Myanmar is about 42 billion yuan, 52 percent of the total, it said. The Lancang-Mekong River runs through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, and serves as a natural bond linking the six countries.

#### Patent deal with Tencent confirmed

Alphabet Inc's Google said it had agreed to a patent cross-licensing deal with Chinese social media and gaming firm Tencent Holdings Ltd, the US company said on Friday. The agreement covers a broad range of products and paves the way for collaboration on technology in the future, it said. Google has similar patent agreements with a handful of other firms, but the latest agreement represents the first such deal with a large Chinese tech firm.

CHINA DAILY-AGENCIES

## Domestic carriers allow in-flight mobile device use

By ZHU WENQIAN

mode switched on during the whole flight.

Later, China Southern, Xiamen Air, Shandong Airlines, Spring Airlines, Lucky Air, Sichuan Airlines and Shenzhen Airlines, announced this week that the use of electronic devices is permitted on their flights.

Air China has also said it is taking the necessary actions and will allow the use of electronic devices sometime in the near future.

Currently, a small number of flights in China are equipped with Wi-Fi services. Some passengers said the current Wi-Fi

7 million yuan cost for modifying a plane to enable it to provide in-air Wi-Fi services

services are slow and ineffective, with it taking about five to 10 minutes to send a picture.

National Business Daily reported it costs airlines about 7 million yuan (\$1.09 million) to modify a plane to enable it to provide in-air Wi-Fi services. Industry analysts said because

of the limitations of costs, technologies and the number of satellites, they cannot provide a large number of Wi-Fi-enabled flights in the short term.

As of this week, China Eastern has 74 aircraft that are equipped with Wi-Fi, covering its entire international long-haul fleet and more than 160 key domestic routes, with most of them charging fees.

All of Hainan Airlines' Boeing B787-9 aircraft are equipped with Wi-Fi services. Xiamen Airlines has limited slots for Wi-Fi connection, with economy class passen-

gers needing to apply for access beforehand.

"If airlines equipped Wi-Fi and online payment services, it would help them to sell value-added products, such as duty-free products and paid-for films," said Lin Zhijie, an aviation industry analyst and columnist at Carnoc, one of China's largest civil aviation web portals.

"Meanwhile, if more flights could install Wi-Fi, it would improve the overall competitiveness of the civil aviation sector, and close the gap between the travel experiences on planes and high-speed trains."



# Summit emphasizes unity over division

## Macron blunt about not allowing London any special privileges

By **CONAL URQUHART**  
in London  
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French President Emmanuel Macron is an expert at creating excitement about his foreign trips with gifts.

He brought Vesuvius, an eight-year old horse to China as a gift for President Xi Jinping and he had offered to loan the 1,000-year old Bayeux Tapestry to the United Kingdom before he started his first

trip to London as president.

The 70-meter long tapestry depicts the invasion and conquest of England by William, the Duke of Normandy and the killing of Harold, the King of England. William became King of England and his descendants include Queen Elizabeth II and millions of other Britons.

At least Vesuvius made it to China. Experts believe that the Bayeux Tapestry might be too fragile to transport so the

gift might not materialize.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson told Macron that there should be a bridge between Britain and France, in addition to the rail tunnel that already exists.

Brexit provided the backdrop to Macron's visit. Britain needs France to be as supportive as possible but Macron was blunt about allowing the UK any special privileges. "If you want access to the single market, including financial services, be my guest. But...you need to contribute to the budget and acknowledge European jurisdiction," he said.

Macron came to UK as the

most powerful European leader by virtue of being the only leader among the big three — Germany, Britain and France with a parliamentary majority.

As The Times noted: "He strides Europe, despite Germany's economic dominance, because Angela Merkel, the chancellor, is a weakening force."

France and Britain dominate Europe militarily. They are the biggest spenders and the most active abroad. Britain agreed to support France in its operations against extremists in the west of Africa with logistical air support.

French officials said it was vital that Britain continued to cooperate with the rest of Europe on military matters regardless of Brexit.

The Entente Cordiale, the 1904 alliance agreed to between Britain and France that ended centuries of rivalry and war, seems very much in place despite the rancor of Brexit.

For international observers, such as China, there is much to suggest that Britain's future relationship with France and Europe will be more about continuity than change, although no one is clear on how that will be achieved amid the confusion of Brexit.

Many British commentators saw Macron's offer of the Bayeux Tapestry in terms of Anglo-French conflict but William's conquest of England led to the creation of Britain and France out of the remains of the Roman Empire.

William's descendants ruled England and much of France for five hundred years and French became a major part of the modern English language.

Macron's message with the Bayeux Tapestry could be a reminder that just as Britain and France's history is entwined, so is their future.

## DPRK accuses US of plotting new war

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has accused the United States of plotting to provoke another Korean War by convening a foreign ministers' meeting in Vancouver, Canada.

"The United States, in collusion with Canada, created the scene of a war simulation by summoning the foreign ministers of the countries participated in the Korean War to a meeting," said a spokesman of the Institute for American Studies of the DPRK Foreign Ministry in a statement on Thursday, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

About 20 countries, mostly those which joined the US in its war against the DPRK in the 1950s, participated in the meeting on Jan 15-16. Japan was also involved.

The spokesman said US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson "openly trumpeted" at the meeting that the US and its allies would intensify their pressure campaign against the DPRK by limiting exports of oil and industrial products, strengthening naval control and expelling DPRK workers abroad until it stops its nuclear program.

"The meeting speaks to the fact that the US is willing to spark a new war in the Korean Peninsula at any cost although it talks about dialogue," he said.

The spokesman said while the ongoing inter-Korean peace efforts have won broad support at home and abroad, countries which attended the unlawful and ambiguous meeting should consider the potential consequences of further sanctions.

Pyongyang had earlier

warned that Washington was preparing to ignite another crisis during the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics by deploying another nuclear carrier, the USS *Stennis*, in the West Pacific.

US President Donald Trump has pledged to solve the nuclear issue on the peninsula and has alternated between applying "maximum pressure" on Pyongyang and threatening military actions.

The DPRK and the Republic of Korea have agreed to cooperate during the Olympics and take measures to ease regional tensions since the beginning of the new year.

### IOC meeting

Meanwhile, DPRK Olympic officials have arrived in Switzerland ahead of weekend talks at the International Olympic Committee to finalize Pyongyang's participation in the Winter Games.

Guk Kim-il, president of the DPRK Olympic committee, arrived at Geneva's Cointrin airport on a flight from Beijing, but made no comments to reporters.

DPRK IOC member Chang Ung met the delegation. Asked whether he expected Pyongyang and Seoul to settle outstanding issues at Saturday's talks, he appeared optimistic.

"Everything's fine," he said.

The IOC has said that Saturday's meeting would take a series of "essential decisions" on the DPRK's participation at the Games that open in Pyeongchang on Feb 9.

These would include the number and names of athletes from the DPRK as well as questions of protocol, including flags, ceremonies and uniform.

XINHUA—REUTERS



German surfer Sebastian Steudtner rides a wave during a surfing session in Nazare, Portugal, on Thursday. Cyclone Friederike hit many parts of Europe, causing rain and snowfall and traffic chaos. ARMANDO FRANCA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

## 11 dead as huge storms batter Europe

BERLIN — Eleven people including two firefighters were killed on Thursday as violent gales battered northern Europe, snapping air and train links.

Germany halted all long-distance rail traffic for at least a day, while numerous domestic flights were scrapped as hurricane-force winds lashed the country.

The storm claimed eight lives in Germany, including two firefighters deployed in emergency operations and two truck drivers whose vehicles were blown over.

Another driver died when he lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a truck.

A 59-year-old camper was killed instantly when a tree fell on him in North Rhine-Westphalia state, police said, as wind speeds reached a high of 203 kilometers per hour at

Brocken — the highest peak of northern Germany.

The storm, named Friederike, also ripped the roof off a school in the eastern state of Thuringia while children were still in the building. Authorities said no one was hurt.

It is the worst storm to strike Germany since 2007. Insurers estimated on Friday that ferocious gales caused \$614 million in damages.

In the Netherlands, which bore the brunt of the storms earlier on Thursday, two people were crushed by falling trees as winds barreled off the North Sea to hit the low-lying country with full force.

As the National Weather Service raised its warning to the highest level, red, a 62-year-old man was killed in Olst by a falling branch when he got out of his truck to remove debris blocking the road.

A second Dutchman, also 62, was killed in eastern Enschede when a tree toppled onto his car.

In neighboring Belgium, a woman reportedly died when her car was crushed by a tree as she was traveling through a wood in the Grez-Doiceau area, about 35 kilometers south of Brussels.

Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, one of the continent's busiest travel hubs, was forced to briefly cancel all flights as winds gusted up to 140 km/h in some areas.

Flights later resumed but all passengers were being advised to check their flight status, the airport said in a tweet, adding "up until now, 320 flights have been canceled."

The airport also had to close the entrances to two of its three departure halls when some roof tiles were whipped

off the terminal building.

The traffic chaos also plagued the roads, with the Dutch national traffic office reporting 66 trucks had been blown over by the high winds causing huge traffic jams on the motorways, the highest recorded number since 1990.

The Dutch NS national train service warned of further disruption on Friday.

The hashtag #StormPoolen (or storm carpool) began trending with people searching for rides between cities, and some drivers offering spare seats in their cars.

"My boyfriend is trying to get from Leiden Central to Delft. He's very nice and there's a bottle of wine in it for whoever can return him unharmed. #StormPoolen," wrote one Twitter user.

AFP—AP



A crane lifts a Boeing 737-800 of Turkey's Pegasus Airlines, from a slope in Trabzon, Turkey, on Thursday. TURKAY ALBAYAK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Stricken plane that came off the runway is lifted from slope

ISTANBUL — Turkish engineers used two cranes to successfully lift a passenger plane that skidded onto a muddy embankment meters from the sea back onto the runway.

The Pegasus Airlines Boeing 737-800 plane had landed normally at Trabzon airport late on Jan 14 on a flight from Ankara but then went off the runway just meters from the waters of the Black Sea with its wheels stuck in mud.

Since then, it has remained on the steep slope that descends from the airport apron into the sea for four days, its nose pointing down

and managing to defy gravity by being stuck in thick mud.

The aviation authorities closed Trabzon airport from 01:00 GMT on Thursday to all air traffic so that the salvage operation could take place, with flights diverted to the nearby Ordu-Giresun airport, also on the Black Sea.

The operation lasted for 11 hours, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Crowds of locals enjoyed the spectacular and unusual event by watching outside the fence of the airport perimeter or even from boats in the sea, reports said.

All 162 passenger and six

crew were safely evacuated but witnesses said at the time it was a miracle there had been no casualties and the plane did not slip into the sea.

The pilot told prosecutors investigating the incident that the plane had undergone a sudden surge of power from one of the engines while it was taxiing on the runway.

The cause of the technical issue has yet to be made clear although images showed one of the engines had broken off and fallen into the sea.

AFP—AP

### Briefly

#### GERMANY Merkel to address Davos forum

The government said Chancellor Angela Merkel will appear at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday, a day when the event's focus is on Europe. Her spokesman said on Friday that the chancellor will give a speech to the annual gathering of global political and business leaders in the Swiss Alps and also hold some bilateral meetings. That means Merkel won't coincide with US President Donald Trump, who is due to make a keynote address on Friday.

#### NEW ZEALAND PM expects first child in June

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, 37, announced on Friday that she is expecting her first child in June. She took office in October. Speculation swirled around whether she would start a family soon when she took over the leadership of her then-opposition Labour Party last year. Ardern took to Twitter to announce that she and her partner Clarke Gayford were expecting a child, and that Gayford would become a stay-at-home dad.

#### UNITED STATES Helicopter crash kills 5 on board

Zimbabwean opposition leader Roy Bennett and his wife, an adventurous Texas investor and a pair of decorated pilots died in a fiery helicopter crash in a remote area in the US state of New Mexico. Bennett was called the "sharpest thorn" in former leader Robert Mugabe's side. Investigators will comb through the charred wreckage in search for clues as to why the helicopter carrying the group of prominent friends went down after dark on Wednesday.

#### INDIA 136 children ill over contaminated food

At least 136 school children were taken ill after consuming a contaminated meal in India's southern state of Kerala, officials said on Friday. The students at a lower primary school in the village of Thonnakkal were hospitalized on Thursday night after they complained of uneasiness and showed symptoms of food poisoning. Parents of the children told officials their children were served eggs and curry for the school meal.

#### RUSSIA Student injures six in an axe attack

A teenager attacked a group of younger students with an axe, injuring six people, before setting his school on fire, investigators said on Friday. Russia's Investigative Committee said the attacker, a ninth-grader, attacked a group of seventh-grade students with an axe at a school just outside the Siberian city of Ulan-Ude, then set the room ablaze. Five students and one teacher were injured in the attack, the committee said. The attacker was detained.

#### AUSTRALIA lifesaving drone makes first rescue

A pair of swimmers caught in rough seas on Thursday became the first people to be rescued in the ocean by a drone when the aerial lifesaver dropped a safety device to the distressed teens. Australia is leading the use of drone technology in surf lifesaving, with dozens of drones being tested on beaches around the country.

REUTERS—AP—XINHUA—AFP



## Japan slams US for Okinawa flights

TOKYO — Japan criticized the US military on Friday for breaking a pledge to avoid flying helicopters over a school next to its base in Okinawa, a rare flash of discord with Tokyo's main ally.

The school next to the Futenma base on Okinawa has become a focal point for discontent over the US presence on the island since a window fell from a US Marines helicopter onto its playground last month.

The Marines blamed the incident on ground personnel failing to secure the window properly and promised to try to fly around the school in future.

A string of recent aircraft incidents, including the falling window and emergency landings by two helicopters this month, have spurred renewed calls in Okinawa for the Americans to close some or all of their bases.

"It is unacceptable. We would like the United States to deal with this," Japanese Minister of Defense Itsunori Onodera said.

His ministry had clear evidence of Thursday's overflight, including radar data and video, which it had given to the Marines and released to the media, Onodera said.

### Drills conducted

The Marines insisted their helicopters had avoided the school.

"Pilots from yesterday's flights were aware of the school's location and avoided it, and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma confirmed using radar tracking data and pilot interviews that no Marine Corps aircraft flew over the school yesterday," they said in a statement.

Teachers and students at the elementary school conducted drills yesterday to evacuate the playground in case of falling aircraft parts.

Located strategically at the edge of the East China Sea, Okinawa hosts about 30,000 military personnel living and working on bases that cover a fifth of the island. Okinawa was under US occupation until 1972.

REUTERS

## Presidential plunge



РЕЛИЗ ПОДГОТОВИЛА ГРУППА  
VK.COM/WSNWS

Russian President Vladimir Putin, 65, lowers himself into the icy waters of Lake Seliger in Russia's Tver region early on Friday, during the celebration of the Epiphany, a major holiday in Orthodox Christianity. It was the first time Putin has publicly joined the celebration, a Kremlin spokesman said. ALEXEY DRUZHININ / SPUTNIK VIA AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

# No solution in sight for S. Korea's 'birth strike'

## Workaholic culture cited as major reason for women staying single

SEOUL — The woman appointed to try to reverse the world's lowest birthrate knows better than most why billion-dollar campaigns to encourage South Korea's female populace to procreate have failed — she is among the millions who have chosen to remain childless in the face of traditional social expectations.

A history professor at a university in Seoul before joining the government, Family Minister Chung Hyun-back said she remained single for her professional ambitions.

Entrenched gender roles at home and a workaholic culture are pushing the next generation of South Korean women to follow suit, the 64-year-old warned. "It was extremely difficult — if not impossible — to juggle an academic career while getting married and raising children," she said, pointing out that many female professors in their 50s and 60s are single.

Rapid economic growth over several decades has seen the country's GDP boom, but

birthrates have gone in the opposite direction. South Korea's fertility rate — the average number of babies women are expected to have in their lifetime — stood at 1.17 in 2016, the lowest in the world.

The global average is 2.4. That trend, coupled with the rapid aging of the country's 50 million residents, casts a pall over the future. Its population is projected to start shrinking by 2050.

Experts blame sky-high housing prices, the costs of raising children and fears over unemployment.

South Korea has the second-highest average working hours in the OECD but wom-

en are still expected to be children's primary caregiver.

Many firms prefer to drive pregnant staff to resign rather than pay for maternity leave, and those who return to work are seen as having damaged their career prospects.

The phenomenon has been dubbed a "birth strike".

"Under such unfair circumstances, young women usually choose their career, not marriage and childbirth," Chung said. "Unless we tackle these problems head-on, South Korea's future will remain murky with the young generation staying away from marriage and childbirth."

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

## Finland welcomes China's panda pair

By WANG MINGJIE  
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Finland welcomed its first pair of giant pandas this week, making it the eighth country in Europe to forge a tie with China in the realm of panda conservation and research.

HuaBao and Jin BaoBao, who will be known in Finnish as 'Lumi' (Snow) and 'Pyrri' (Flurry), arrived in Helsinki from Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Thursday morning.

The arrangement was confirmed when President Xi Jinping visited the country in April.

Ahtari Zoo, which is 300 kilometers north of Helsinki, will be home to the pandas for 15 years.

Their journey began at Dujiangyan Panda Center in southwest China on Wednesday. The logistics company DHL transported them from Chengdu Airport to Helsinki, 6,500 km away.

"These two pandas are a great symbol of friendship between two countries," said Kari Väinö, the zoo's acting chief executive. "We at Ahtari Zoo are proud to offer the pandas a good home, which has the finest snow panda house outside China."

At Helsinki Airport, the pandas were greeted by a reception attended by guests from China and Finland.

Anna Palmroth, the zoo's panda keeper, traveled with the animals.

"Upon arrival, they went to their own indoor enclosures, where they have fresh bamboo to make their adaptation easier," she said. "During the first few days, we will monitor the pandas' behavior and appetite intensively."

A Chinese veterinarian and panda keeper from Chengdu will stay at the zoo for a month to train staff.

The Finnish climate is similar to the climate in the Qionglai Mountains in China, the natural habitat of the giant panda, and experts hope the animals will breed in Finland.

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Jari Leppä praised the efforts of China to protect the giant panda.

"Thanks to these serious efforts, the giant panda population is now growing," Leppä said. "The fact that Finland is now concretely involved in the conservation effort is truly special."

The public will be able to see Lumi and Pyrri in their enclosure for the first time on Feb 17. The zoo has already started to sell tickets on its website.

## First responders



Firefighters transport a victim after a car drove into a crowd on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Thursday. A nine-month-old girl was killed and 17 people injured. There was no indication it was a terrorist attack. SILVIA IZQUIERDO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

# New test for detecting common cancers shows promise

MIAMI — A new blood test for cancer has shown promise in detecting eight kinds of tumors before they have spread elsewhere in the body, offering hope of early detection, researchers said on Thursday.

Further study is needed before the test — called CancerSEEK — can be made widely available for its expected cost of about \$500, said the

report in the journal Science.

The study, led by researchers at Johns Hopkins University, involved 1,005 patients whose cancer — already diagnosed based on their symptoms — was detected with an accuracy rate of about 70 percent overall.

Cancers were detected in the ovaries, liver, stomach, pancreas, esophagus, colorectal area, lungs and breasts.

For five of these cancer types — ovary, liver, stomach, pancreas and esophagus — there are no screening tests available for people of average risk.

The test was able to detect these five with a sensitivity range of 69 to 98 percent.

In 83 percent of cases, the test was able to narrow down where the cancer was located anatomically.

The test is noninvasive and based on combined analysis of DNA mutations in 16 cancer genes as well as the levels of 10 circulating protein biomarkers.

"The ultimate goal of CancerSEEK is to detect cancer even earlier — before the disease is symptomatic," said the report.

Outside experts said more research is needed to uncover

the true accuracy of the test and whether it would be able to detect cancers before they cause symptoms.

"This looks promising, but with several caveats, and a significant amount of further research is needed before we can even contemplate how this might play out in screening settings," said Mangesh Thorat, deputy director of the Barts Clinical Trials Unit at

Queen Mary University of London.

"The sensitivity of the test in stage I cancer is quite low, about 40 percent, and even with stage I and II combined it appears to be around 60 percent. So the test will still miss a large proportion of cancers at the stage where we want to diagnose them."

AFP-XINHUA

CHINADAILY 中国日报  
Public Interest AD: 010  
LUO JIE AND MA XUEJING / CHINA DAILY



DEVELOPING  
VISION  
OF A CLEANER  
FUTURE





The Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival is underway in the capital of Heilongjiang province in Northeast China. WANG JIANWEI / XINHUA

## ICY THRILLS TO SEE OFF THOSE WINTER CHILLS

From snow slides to ice sculptures, here're a few of the best frozen frolics for this January

**D**espite the frigid temperatures engulfing parts of the United States, winter does have unique charms, whether it's getting cozy by a fireplace with a mug of hot chocolate in a mountain inn or heading outdoors to a magical landscape of forests and mountains sparkling with snow.

Here are a few ideas for shaking off the January blues with a trip in those dead of winter to enjoy festivals, parks, natural phenomena and all kinds of recreations.

### Festivals

The Quebec Winter Carnival in Quebec City, Canada, runs from Jan 26 to Feb 11, with snow slides, snow sculptures, night parades, an ice palace and snow baths, where brave visitors play in the snow wearing swimsuits.

For something a bit more far flung, the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival in Northeast China's Heilongjiang province is known for massive, elaborate and colorfully lit ice sculptures along with art exhibitions and sporting events.

The Harbin festival runs through late February, with heavy crowds expected for the week of Chinese New Year celebrations, Feb 15-23.

Japan's Sapporo Snow Festival, during Feb 5-12, is also known for ice and snow sculptures.

In Minnesota, a celebration called The Great Northern encompasses the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, from

Jan 25 to Feb 10, with ice carvings and parades; the US Pond Hockey Championships, Jan 25-28, on Lake Nokomis; and the City of Lakes Lopet Ski Festival on Lake Calhoun, Jan 27-28 and Feb 3-4.

### Recreation

Not a skier? Not a problem. There are many ways to enjoy wintry landscapes.

Snowshoeing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are available in many snowy destinations and can be easier for beginners than downhill skiing. Or try one of the more offbeat snow sports.

In some places, you can go snow biking. Others, like Ouray Ice Park in Colorado, offer ice climbing.

There's also skijoring — skiing while pulled by dogs or a horse — and snow-kiting, which is like kite-surfing on skis, with the wind pulling the skier across the ice.

Dogsledding is popular in many wintry places, including Ely, Minnesota.

For a truly remote experience, consider a sled dog safari with Tinja Myllykangas in Finland's Lapland wilderness.

How about Nordic skating? Also called tour skating, it's ice skating on a frozen trail rather than around a small rink, and it requires a different type of skate — typically a long blade attached to ski boots. It's popular in Sweden, Finland and elsewhere in northern Europe, but you can also do it in North America on the Rideau

Canal in Ottawa, Canada, and the Lake Morey Ice Skating Trail in Fairlee, Vermont.

Roller coaster fans can also now enjoy winter thrills with mountain coasters — which are gravity-driven roller coasters with dips, waves and loops — at three Colorado resorts: Aspen Snowmass, Steamboat and Copper Mountain. Colorado's Purgatory Resort also plans to open a mountain coaster this year.

### Natural phenomena

Seeing the northern lights seems to be on everybody's bucket list these days. There's no guarantee that nature will cooperate, but spend a few nights in a place like Chena Hot Springs, north of Fairbanks, Alaska, or take a northern lights tour in Iceland, and you may be able to check that one off.

Wisconsin is known for magnificent natural ice formations inside caves on the Apostle Islands, but it takes just the right weather conditions for a thick enough layer of ice to form on Lake Superior near the caves so that visitors can walk across the frozen water to get there.

### Yellowstone and more

Travelers who have experienced Yellowstone National Park in winter say it's utterly magical: wildlife watching in the snow, geysers steaming in the cold air, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snow coaches, snowmobiles and more.

Rick Hoeninghausen, director of

sales and marketing for Yellowstone National Park Lodges in Wyoming, says the weeks after Christmas are typically slow, though February is busier than January, with Presidents Day weekend often selling out.

Except for that Feb 19 holiday weekend, he says "most folks should be able to find lodging in the park" this winter at either Old Faithful Snow Lodge or Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

Winter vacation packages like Winter Wolf Discovery or Winter in Wonderland combine lodging, meals and activities.

Or look into vacation rentals and resorts nearby. Big Sky Resort in Montana is 50 miles (80.46 kilometers) from Yellowstone's West Entrance, and Montana Backcountry Adventures offers an excursion to a yurt for an evening of dinner, music, sledding and stargazing.

But you don't have to go to a major national park to enjoy winter fun. Many smaller, local parks around the US host special winter activities as well.

Toboggan Run in Pokagon State Park near Angola, Indiana, is a 30-second thrill ride that can hit 40 miles per hour (64.37 kph) with a 90-foot (27-meter) drop over a quarter-mile (about 400 meters).

Starved Rock State Park in Illinois, 90 minutes from Chicago, has gorgeous frozen waterfalls, various trails and even an overnight lodge.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Roundup

#### APPOINTMENT

Cai Fei has been appointed director of catering and banquets at Marco Polo Wuhan in Hubei province.



#### OPENING



Fairfield by Marriott Shanghai Jing'an opened in Shanghai on Dec 29, marking the continuous expansion and growth of the brand in China. Located in Jing'an district, the hotel is less than 15 kilometers from Shanghai Hongqiao Airport and only a 15-minute drive to downtown, providing easy access in and out of the city. One of Marriott International's fastest-growing brands with more than 900 hotels worldwide, Fairfield by Marriott has also been expanding its footprint in China's fast growing second and third-tier cities, according to its executives. 021-5688-5999

#### ARTIST PLAYGROUND



Pullman Nanjing Lukou Airport has opened the *Traveling Art Exhibition* in its lobby as part of the Pullman Artist Playground initiative. The exhibition is open to visitors from Jan 10 to March, before it moves to Pullman Shanghai South. With a focus on suitcases, the exhibition utilizes diverse forms and media including painting and sculpture. The Pullman Artist Playground initiative was launched at Pullman Park Lane Hong Kong in September 2016 with the aim of becoming a "concept throughout Pullman hotels in China as part of the guest experience to showcase the brand's dynamic culture".

#### CULINARY DELIGHTS



Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macao Center is preparing a Chinese New Year buffet for lunch and dinner from Feb 5 to 9. The buffet will include roast duck, sweet and sour pork, steak, prawns and a wide selection of

holiday desserts. Booking via the hotel's official WeChat Mall can save 30 yuan (\$5). 010-6553-2288 Ext 2127



Wanda Reign Wuhan in Hubei province has launched its Chinese New Year Hamper, comprising of 10 items including *niangao*, or a festive glutinous rice cake; Cantonese-style cured meat; high-quality mushroom, jasmine tea and imported wine. To celebrate the upcoming Spring Festival, the hotel's culinary team has also prepared a variety of set dinner menus. 027-5959-9999



Chef Claudio Melis teams up with Barolo chef de cuisine Amedeo Ferri to craft a special menu at the Ritz-Carlton Beijing from Jan 26 to 28. Claudio from the island of Sardinia in Italy traveled the world and served in several Michelin-starred restaurants. His experience makes him adept in different culinary cultures and cooking styles. 010-5908-8151

#### FESTIVE BREAK



An extension of its celebration of Raffles' 130th anniversary in the hospitality industry in 2017, Raffles Hainan in Sanya has launched a five-night stay package priced at 1.3 million yuan (\$203,300) for up to eight guests at the largest residential villa in Hainan province. Designed for a unique festive break from Feb 15 to March 2, the package will include a signature Chinese New Year family dinner, a five-hour private luxury yacht party with a sumptuous champagne and seafood lunch and specially-tailored Natsuko apparel with a Chinese New Year theme. Bookings are available until Feb 10. 0898-8338-9888

The St. Regis Macao offers a Get Carried Away package for stays from Feb 9 to 15, including helicopter transfer between Hong Kong and Macao, a chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce service upon arrival and departure and a romantic spa of more than three hours for two people. 8008-688-688

# YOUR LIFE RESTS ON YOUR CHOICE





# Hunan strives for new models to develop its rich water resources

Province's natural wealth key to Yangtze River Economic Belt

By ZHAO SHIJUN  
zhaoshijun@chinadaily.com.cn

Central China's Hunan province is exploring a new mode of development, with a focus on improving its ecology and water navigation conditions.

Hunan, which literally means "south of the lake" as it is located in the south of its namesake Dongting Lake, is an important part of the Yangtze River Economic Belt — a regional development strategy approved by the central government in 2014.

Dongting is one of the largest lakes in the Yangtze River basin, and throughout its history it has played a crucial role in the entire ecological system of the river.

Almost all the surface run-offs in Hunan and some coming from beyond run into the Dongting Lake through the waterways of the province's four largest rivers — Xiangjiang, Zishui, Yuanjiang and Lishui. The water in Dongting eventually runs into the Yangtze in the north of the province.

The sufficient and stable water supply from Hunan has played an important role in making the Yangtze one of the best waterway systems in the world, not only for navigation but also for the water supply for living as well as agricultural and industrial uses.

Dongting has also played a crucial role in regulating the water volumes of the Yangtze. In rainy seasons, it absorbs a large amount of flood water from the upper reaches of the Yangtze, preventing the region from suffering huge disasters.

In an era of industrialization, where water pollution is a major concern, the authorities of Hunan realized that the protection of the water ecology is of great significance for the entire Yangtze River basin.

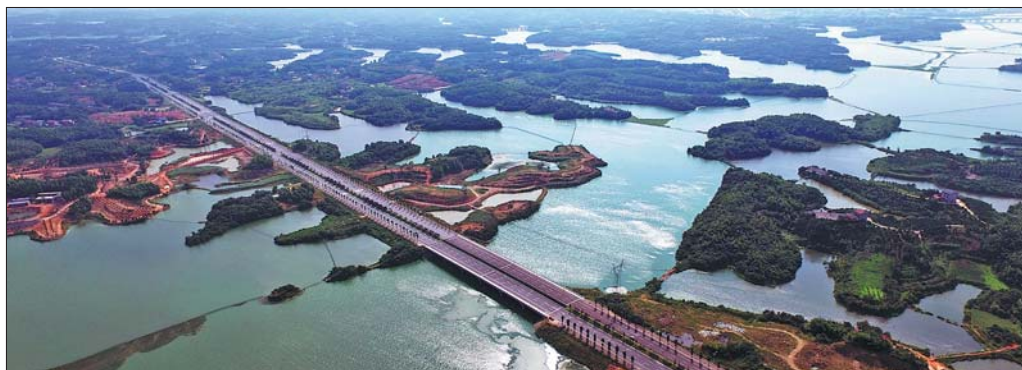
Du Jiahao, Party chief of Hunan province, said the protection and improvement of the water ecology of Hunan's "one lake and four rivers" is a long-term program.

"We cannot expect immediate success in our campaign for water ecology improvement," Du said. "We should ensure progress step by step."

In August 2013, Hunan began to implement a three-year action plan for protecting and improving the ecology of Xiangjiang, the largest river by water volume in Hunan.

Ecological improvement of the river is a pressing task because it passes Hunan's major industrial cities and non-ferrous mining sites.

In the years between 2013 and 2016, the region has seen a steady decrease in five major pollutants. In 2016 the water quality of its mainstream reached an excellent level



Clockwise from top: Du Jiahao (right), Party chief of Hunan, makes a study tour of the province's waterways. Migrant birds flock to Dongting Lake as a result of the improving ecology. Water quality of Dongting Lake and Hunan's major rivers has improved substantially in recent years. Rare bird species have been observed at the Western Dongting Lake Nature Reserve after Euramerican poplars were chopped for ecological restoration. PHOTOS provided to CHINA DAILY

according to national standards.

The Xiangjiang action plan is only part of the province's long-term efforts that are also eyeing the province's other three rivers and Dongting Lake, covered by a second three-year action plan which began in 2016.

Dongting has been called the "kidney of the Yangtze" because of its role in regulating the ecology of the third-largest river of the world, by both length and volume.

In recent decades, the problems that Dongting had to face included a shrinking water area due to reclaimed wetland for farming as well as a worsening ecology due to over-growth in husbandry, aquaculture and sand mining.

Returning farmlands to the lake began in the late 1990s after the Yangtze basin was hit by a serious flood in 1998.

Since 2016, Hunan has begun a new round of campaigns for improving the ecology of Dongting by shutting down animal and aquaculture farms, polluting enterprises and sand mines.

Along with ecological improvements, Hunan has also carried out projects to dredge navigation channels for Dongting Lake and major rivers.

The Dongting and the four major rivers in Hunan have long been major parts of the Yangtze water transport system, with the Xiangjiang River dubbed the "Rhine of China"

because of its excellent conditions for navigation.

As a result, the upgrading of the waterways and river ports has offered great facilitation for Hunan's domestic and foreign trade business.

Yueyang in the north of Hunan and Changsha, the provincial capital in the center of Hunan, are the two major port cities in the province.

Yueyang's Chenglingji, by the Yangtze, is the largest port in Hunan province.

To capitalize on the improvements in the waterways, Chenglingji Port Corp forged an alliance with Shanghai Port Group.

The pair agreed to share resources, with Chenglingji Port utilizing the marketing

channels and management expertise of Shanghai Port and Shanghai Port gaining access to the hinterland of Hunan.

Changsha New Port Corp, the operator of the port business in the provincial capital, has joined the alliance by swapping equity with Chenglingji Port in recent years.

"We are planning to build an inter-regional port company in Changsha and Yueyang, which will further integrate Hunan into the Yangtze River Economic Belt," said Tang Zhongliang, chairman of Changsha New Port Corp.

Hunan also has plans to integrate its river ports with the highway, railway and airport networks to build a comprehensive transport system.



Yueyang boasts 163 kilometers of coastline along the Yangtze River and Dongting Lake that is suitable for developing river harbors.

## Historic port city to integrate with national strategies

By ZHAO SHIJUN

Looking out from Yueyang Tower, renowned Song Dynasty (960-1279) writer Fan Zhongyan described the strategic position and spectacular view of Dongting Lake as "connecting the remote mountains and swallowing the Yangtze".

This is why the lake and riverside city of Yueyang has long been regarded as the most important port for Hunan's trade with the rest of the country and the world.

This role is today further consolidated with Hunan planning to use the port city to integrate with the Yangtze River Economic Belt and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Yueyang boasts 163 kilometers of coast along the Yangtze that is suitable for developing river harbors.

Relying on Chenglingji Port, the largest port in Hunan, Yueyang announced the establishment of the Yueyang Port Economic New Area in December 2009, for developing the logistics and manufacturing industries.

In July 2015, the Hunan provincial government approved Yueyang's plan to build Chenglingji New Port to pilot Hunan's integration with the Yangtze River Economic Belt, a regional development program endorsed by the central government in 2014.

"We have put the development of Yueyang's port industry in the framework of national development strategies and global initiatives, like the Yangtze River Economic Belt and Belt and Road Initiative, which have offered us unprecedented opportunities," said Huang Junjun, Party chief of Chenglingji New Port.

At present, the port area includes a comprehensive bonded zone, an automobile terminal, a grain terminal and

**“We have put the development of Yueyang's port industry in the framework of national development strategies and global initiatives.”**

Huang Junjun, Party chief of Chenglingji New Port

a number of other functional areas.

To further integrate the port with the Yangtze River Economic Belt, Yueyang Port Group, Changsha Port Group and Shanghai Port Group formed the Chenglingji International Port Group in May 2015. The Yueyang-based joint venture came into operation in January 2016.

Chenglingji Port has received 12 billion yuan (\$1.87 billion) in investment in the past two years for building road networks to connect it to Yueyang city and the rest of Hunan.

In 2017, the port's container throughput surpassed 400,000 twenty-foot-equivalent units, a historic high. It also ranked No 1 among all Yangtze River ports in terms of year-on-year growth.

Huang said he is optimistic about the future of the port, predicting that its container throughput will reach 500,000 TEUs in 2020 and foreign trade volume via the port will hit \$5 billion in the same year.



Container throughput at Chenglingji Port surpasses 400,000 twenty-foot-equivalent units in 2017.

## Poplars axed to rejuvenate wetland ecosystem of Dongting Lake



All 3,300 hectares of Euramerican poplars in the Western Dongting Lake Nature Reserve have been removed as on Nov 16.

By ZHAO SHIJUN

More than 3,000 hectares of Euramerican poplar trees were cut down on Zhongwei Island in the western area of Dongting Lake this winter.

However, this was by no means illegal logging.

On the contrary, the trees were removed to aid a campaign of ecological recovery for the Dongting Lake region in the north of Hunan province.

The Euramerican poplar is an alien species introduced to the region in the 1970s as a resource for its papermaking industry, and played an important role in helping boost the earnings of locals for four decades.

By the end of 2010, the planting area of the trees surpassed

10,000 hectares in the Western Dongting Lake Reserve, according to the forestry bureau of Hanshou county, where the reserve is located.

However, the trees have caused a disaster in the local wetland ecology because of its rampant-growing roots which make it impossible for other plant species to grow, according to Peng Pingbo, an official at the Western Dongting Lake Reserve.

"Before the introduction of this alien species, the western Dongting Lake Reserve, and roughly 30 percent of them are seedlings and young trees that cannot be sold to pulp factories."

"However, the local wetland system was gradually transformed into a landscape of forest after the trees came," said

the official, who added that the change had destroyed the habitat of fish and birds and led to a drastic decrease of their numbers.

The provincial government of Hunan realized the harm these trees were doing and ordered their plantations removed in 2016.

According to Peng, Hanshou county has faced a lot of pressure over this campaign.

It has more than 3,300 hectares of Euramerican poplar trees in the core of the Western Dongting Lake Reserve, and roughly 30 percent of them are seedlings and young trees that cannot be sold to pulp factories.

For the smooth implementation of the campaign, the

county government of Hanshou set aside more than 70 million yuan (\$10.9 million) to compensate local plantation owners for logging the trees.

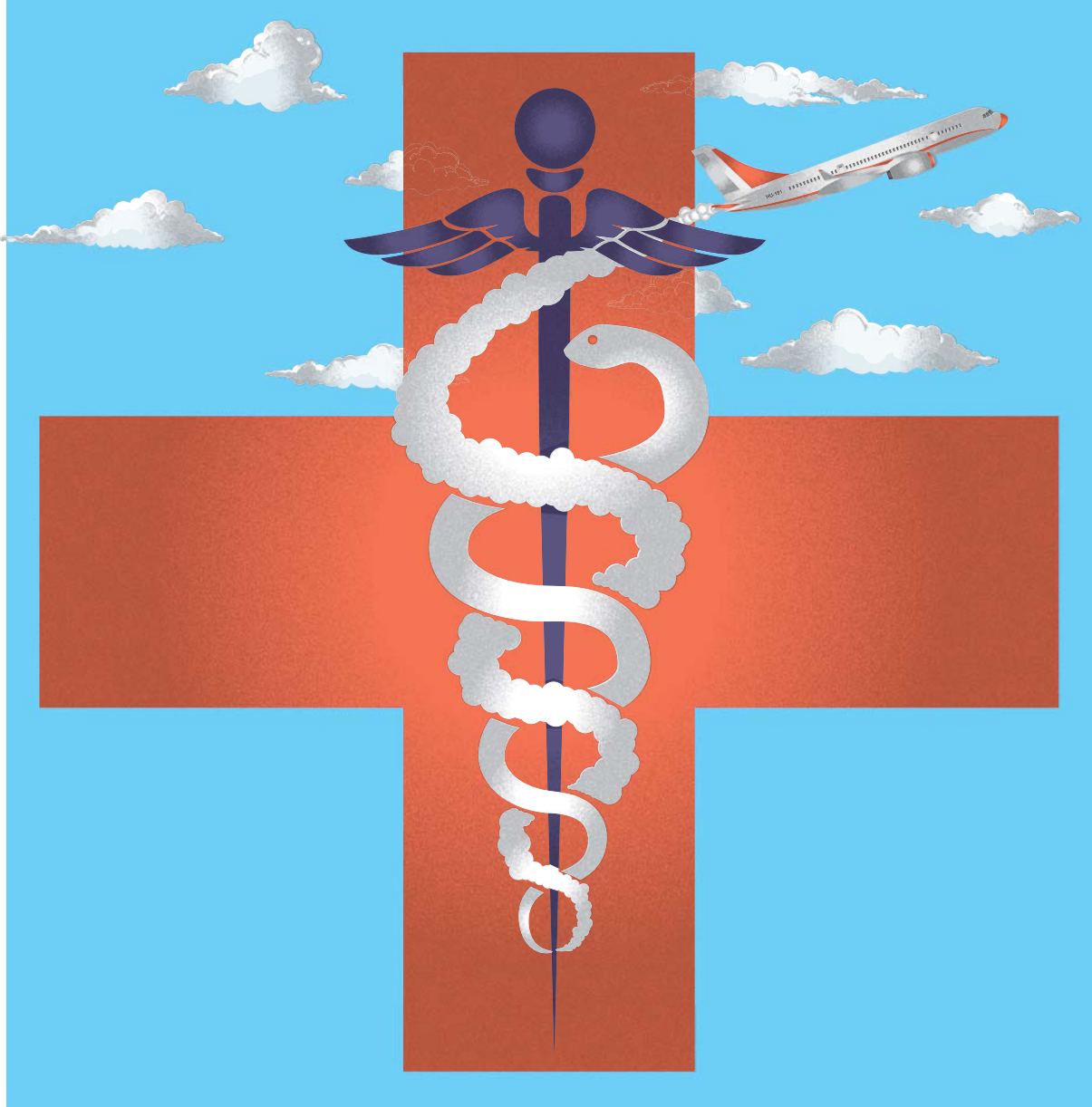
Yu Qingshan was the owner of the largest Euramerican poplar plantation in the county.

After getting his compensation, he immediately hired more than 5,000 workers to cut down all the 1,650 hectares of the trees in 10 days.

By Nov 16 all the 3,300 hectares of Euramerican poplars in the reserve were cut down.

"We can see the obvious improvement of wetland ecology one month after the logging," Peng said. "More migrant birds are coming back because they can easily identify suitable habitats."

## COVER STORY



ISMAEL SANDIEGO / CHINA DAILY

# THE HOLIDAY TREATMENT

Flush with cash and conscious of their wellbeing, Chinese are turning their vacations into trips of healing

By **YANG FEIYUE**  
yangfeiyue@chinadaily.com.cn

**F**or Huang and his wife, it was to be either a holiday like no other, one that would change the course of their lives, or one for which they would have little to show as they returned home but photos and a few souvenirs.

"One of my friends suggested we give it a go, and we figured that if things didn't work out, we would just treat it as a vacation," says Huang, who did not want his surname used for this article.

He and his wife, who are from Changsha, Hunan province, had tried to conceive a baby through vitro fertilization several times but failed, and this trip to Thailand was going to be yet one more attempt.

Huang sought a third-party to arrange the trip and within weeks the pair were boarding a flight bound for Bangkok.

"The IVF clinic in Bangkok was well furnished and done up like a hotel, doctors were patient and nice, and we had an interpreter

with us all along the way," he says.

Huang's wife is now pregnant and their child will be born in May.

Moreover, the trip turned out to be an enjoyable holiday too.

"Apart from the time at the hospital, we traveled around the city enjoying local gourmet food, shopping and spending time at a spa," Huang says.

They reckon that the 150,000 yuan (\$23,303) they spent on the holiday was money well spent, particularly because after they returned they learned that Huang's wife will be having a baby in May.

This couple's story mirrors those of other Chinese mainlanders who, with a lot of money to spend and highly conscious of the need to stay healthy, are heading overseas as they combine relaxation with medical care.

China's biggest online travel agency, Ctrip, reckons that 500,000 Chinese made such trips in 2016, five times more than in 2015.

They are generally healthy but keen on having advanced medical examinations in addition to undertaking the usual kinds of tourist

“**Many were satisfied with the medical services and the fact that local doctors looked at the medical results in a very serious, professional way.**”

**Lin Hua**  
sales consultant at Shenzhen Comfort Travel Agency

activities while they are away.

Hong Kong, Thailand and Japan are among the most popular destinations for these travelers, says a Ctrip spokesman, Peng Liang. Each tourist spends between 5,000 yuan and 50,000 yuan on their trip, he says.

Most of the health tours feature medical checkup, oral care, anti-aging, detoxing, blood purification, cosmetic medicine and severe illness consultation and treatment services.

Chinese have been warming up to medical services in countries that have developed their own medical and health tourism products with their own core competitiveness.

For these tourists, Japan's proximity and advanced healthcare have made it a popular destination. The country began offering medical visas in 2010, and local travel agencies began developing routes integrating hospital visits with attractions and shopping three years later.

The number of Chinese who visit the country for medical checks

annually is expected to surpass 310,000 by 2020, and the market value may reach \$4.6 billion, a report by the Development Bank of Japan says.

Japanese hospitals are less prone than Chinese ones to be overcrowded, and many are located in or near shopping streets, so tourists can enjoy leisure time nearby while waiting for test results.

The country's hot springs and tours that take in Mount Fuji are also sold through advertising that vaunts the sites' therapeutic benefits.

Shenzhen Comfort Travel Agency says it took about 50 people to Japan for medical checks last year.

"Most were middle class and aged between 40 and 60," says Lin Hua, sales consultant with the agency.

Most said they were unaware of having health problems but wanted checkups because of concerns about stress and pollution, Lin says.

Many were also keen to have early cancer and cardiovascular disease detection tests.

See *Health Tourism*, page 15

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**National loo upgrade:** Experts say that pleasant toilets don't just mean better living standards for the population; it is also a boon for tourism.



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**Ever Yves:** What makes Saint Laurent's collection of work distinct is that none of his predecessors and peers, despite their luminous names, kept their original clothes in the same way.



### Image » 20

**Tradition:** Sui Yiyang from Chengde, Hebei province, started out wanting to learn to play the *guqin*, but he now crafts the instruments with his own hands.



The Wangjiangyi No 001 toilet located in Lujiazui area stands out as a tourist attraction. It has a leisure space where people can enjoy the scenery of the nearby riverside region. GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

# National loo upgrade to woo tourists

Experts say that pleasant toilets don't just mean better living standards for the population — it is also a boon for tourism

By SHI JING in Shanghai  
shijing@chinadaily.com.cn

In order to achieve its goal of becoming an internationally recognized travel destination, Shanghai has embarked on a number of tourism projects such as Disneyland.

But its efforts do not just include high-profile venues — the city has also preened itself in other areas that are closely related to daily life.

Toilets, for instance, are an integral part of the city's strategy to draw tourists.

For the past three years, Shanghai's authorities have been going to great lengths to improve the state of its public toilets. According to the Shanghai Working Committee on Children and Women, there were 8,700 public toilets in operation in the city as of the end of last year, among which 2,600 were rated as environmentally friendly.

In a public commentary by Wan Zhe, chief economist at the International Cooperation Center which is affiliated to the National Development and Reform Commission, toilets are said to have a significant impact on the tourism economy.

The move to create better spaces for people to relieve themselves is in line with the central government's call for a "toilet revolution" in the country. During a meeting with the country's tourism administrators and companies in late November, President Xi Jinping applauded their efforts in improving the state of public toilets all over the country, stressing that poorly maintained restrooms can impair the standard of living.

In Shanghai, some of the public restrooms have even been turned into tourist attractions. For example, the panda-themed toilet in Shanghai Zoo was last year widely recognized as one of the best public toilets in the city. The move to include information about pandas on the walls of the restroom was



A resident cleans a chamber pot outside her home on Tingxi Road in downtown Shanghai's Huangpu district. GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

applauded by children and their parents.

Meanwhile, the Duolun Road public toilet, which is located at the east entrance of Luxun Park in northeastern Shanghai, has been rated as the most beautiful toilet in the city for three consecutive years since 2014. The 38-square-meter space features a special ceiling that helps to ventilate the area naturally and it even provides commonly available medication, reading glasses and umbrellas for users.

There are even public toilets in Shanghai that are equipped with electronic screens that show how long a person has been inside a cubicle. Besides informing other users whether a cubicle is currently being used, this system allows toilet staff to check on those who have been in the cubicle for unusually long periods of time.

But administrators are still not quite satisfied with the current state of Shanghai's toilets. Zhang Feng, director of Shanghai's environmental quality monitoring center, said that one of the major goals in the next three years would be to significantly increase the number of unisex toilets. There are currently only

about 250 of them.

He noted that such toilets would be able to cut down waiting time at the women's toilets and be beneficial to families with senior citizens and underage children who require assistance to relieve themselves.

Wu Jianguo, inspector at Shanghai Municipal Tourism Administration, said during a government meeting at the beginning of December that the city should look to increase the number of public toilets and improve user experiences over the next three years. Improving the standard of public restrooms, enhancing management and services, adopting technology and educating users were also cited as priorities.

Shanghai is not the first to place emphasis on the upgrading of public toilets. Over in Germany, Hans Wall, the founder of Berlin-based outdoor advertiser Wall AG, has been infusing color into toilets in the country since the early 1990s, turning many of them into landmarks. Some of these restrooms have become so renowned internationally that major companies such as Apple, Samsung and Chanel have featured them in their commercials.



A man leaves after using an old-style public restroom located in Ruikangli on 828 East Beijing Road. GAO ERQIANG / CHINA DAILY

It is estimated that such toilets in five European cities, including Berlin and Frankfurt, generate at least 30 million euros (\$35 million) in profit every year.

The Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China has also echoed the fact that well-designed toilets represent a worthwhile investment.

In a 2014 report, the bureau pointed out that the profit gained from renovating a public toilet in the country, especially those in the rural areas, was five times of the cost. Toilets generally earn through entrance fees and leasing of advertising space.

In light of this, the General Office of the State Council released a guideline to increase tourist investment and consumption last August. One of the main objectives was the establishment of more public toilets in tourist destinations around the country.

By the end of this August, about 29,500 tourist-friendly toilets in such locations were built or renovated.

Companies such as China Everbright Real Estate, Jiangsu Hua-

hong New Energy Company and Beijing Landwasher Technology Development have since jumped at this opportunity.

For instance, Landwasher Technology is currently involved in a toilet renovation project in Tibet which started in 2016. The company's flush-free technology is said to be ideal for such regions where the plumbing system is poor.

Wu Hao, general manager of Landwasher, said that the launch of the "toilet revolution" has resulted in a 50 percent increase in the company's sales. He added that the national initiative has been a boon for small companies like his.

"Presently, small privately-owned technology companies are the major contributors to innovation in environmental protection technology and toilet renovation in China. They have helped to optimize the industrial structure," he said.

"The value chain related to public toilets is larger than most of us can see. First of all, it can help to boost the revenue at tourist attractions by more than 10 billion yuan. Furthermore, the living standards in the rural areas in China can be improved," he added.

## Shanghai's notable public lavatories

### MOST BEAUTIFUL

**Duolun Road toilet**  
Address: 280 Tian'ai Road

Completed at the beginning of 2013, this toilet has been rated as the most beautiful one in Shanghai for three consecutive years since 2014. It is frequently used by tourists visiting Duolun Road, shop assistants working nearby and senior residents living in the neighborhood. The restroom has even been identified by some Japanese visitors as one of Shanghai's must-go locations.

The well-designed toilet is devoid of any smell, thanks to the unique ceiling which facilitates natural ventilation of the area. Measuring about 38 square meters, this unisex toilet provides umbrellas on rainy days as well as simple amenities such as medicine kits and disposable trousers. Seats are also available at the entrance so that pregnant women and elderly people can sit while waiting for their turn.

### THE OLDEST

**Haining Road public toilet**  
Address: 514 Haining Road

According to Shanghai's environmental quality monitoring center, this toilet dates back at least 70 years and is the oldest of its kind in China. It was even featured in a Shanghai road map that was published in 1947.

However, some experts pointed out that public toilets with flushing systems first emerged in Shanghai in the 1920s. Since the Haining Road toilet has this function, it is possible that it was built during that time, which means that it might be around 90 years old.

Today, the toilet is used by about 25 residents every hour. Despite its age, the restroom is well-maintained and does not smell, thanks to its ceiling which is similar to the one in Duolun Road toilet.

### MOST ECO-FRIENDLY

**Bei'an Road toilet**  
Address: Bei'an Road,  
Yuepu town, Baoshan district

Since it was opened to the public last December, the toilet has not been charged a single cent for electricity consumption — it operates using power generated from the 30 solar panels on its roof. Apart from supporting the facility's energy needs, the electricity generated by these panels can also be used by nearby amenities.

In addition, the central roof of the toilet is built using tempered glass, removing the need for lights to be used during the day.

Designers of the toilet also installed an underground reservoir to store water that people have used to wash their hands. The water is then reused for flushing purposes. The designers said that this recycling method would help to reduce water consumption by half.

### MOST RELAXING

**Wangjiangyi No 001 toilet**  
Address: Junction of Baibu Street  
and Binjiang Avenue

Besides being a space where people can answer the call of nature, this toilet in Shanghai's Lujiazui financial district also comes with a leisure area where people can enjoy the scenery of the nearby riverside region. Professionals working nearby can often be found relaxing in this recreational zone during their lunch break. It is expected that more of such toilets will be introduced to the district in the near future.

## Portable toilets from the past: what life was like in Shanghai before the advent of flushing systems

Before flush toilets became the norm in society, every household in Shanghai had a chamber pot — or *Matong* in Chinese — that residents used to store human waste.

It is estimated that there were about 3 million chamber pots in Shanghai during the peak from the 1950s to 60s.

During this period, most people in the city resided in tiny 10-square-meter units within shikumen (stone-framed gatehouses) style buildings, making it almost impossible to store these chamber pots away from sight. As such, residents resorted to hiding them in special boxes.

Every morning before sunrise, the city's sanitation workers would make their rounds in the neighborhoods, ringing a bell and yelling for residents to take their chamber pots out. The contents of the pots would be emptied into the workers' carts before being whisked away to refuse

sites. This practice of using chamber pots almost disappeared in the early 1980s when flush toilets and public restrooms became commonplace. During this time, people paid just 0.02 yuan to use public toilets. Today, most residents stay in

apartments with modern sanitation systems. Even those still living in shikumen-style buildings have access to flush systems, thanks to the government's continuous efforts over the years to improve the standard of living in such households.

- SHI JING



Sunrise Pottery Park in Qinglonghu town in southwestern Beijing has evolved into a pastoral getaway where you can blow off steam and bring your body and mind back into balance.

PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## You shape the pottery, and it helps you get into shape

Marriage of two industries is meant to make everyone feel good

By YANG FEIYUE  
yangfeiyue@chinadaily.com.cn

Pottery of various shapes and sizes jump into your eyes when you step into Sunrise Pottery Park.

Dogs play with one another on stone slabs set in pebbles, and chickens and ducks peck away at their food among the lush grass and trees that surround the park.

Quan Guirui founded the park, in Qinglonghu town, in southwestern Beijing, seven years ago.

"In those days it was little more than wasteland," Quan says.

The park has evolved into a pastoral getaway where you can blow off steam and bring your body and mind back into balance.

It covers about 6,700 square hectares and is tucked away in a vast forest.

In the park, visitors can go hiking, pick fruit, savor tea, read and make pottery.

Green vegetables have also been planted, offering healthy eating.

"We're trying to provide a healthy lifestyle that helps people stay in touch with nature and get a break from the fatigue of work," Quan says.

The park attracts about 5,000 visitors a year, most of whom go there through word-of-mouth recommendation, Quan says.

Her customers range from government officials to corporate

employees and Chinese and foreign students.

Quan is one of many business people who have caught the wave of the increasing popularity of health tourism in the mainland, spurred on by the rude health of the national economy.

Last year five national government organs, including the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the National Tourism Administration and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, issued guidelines on how health tourism should be promoted.

The guidelines call for health tourism facilities with distinctive elements to be developed by 2020. The aim is for the government to support medical, health management and leisure facilities to develop health products. Policies in favor of health tourism information, insurance and infrastructure investment development would be in place.

Health tourism is not just about offering cures but includes elements related to maintaining good health, says Yang Honghao, deputy director of the China Tourism Academy's tourism industry operation and enterprise development research organ.

"The industry is huge worldwide, and it is growing rapidly."

The value of the health tourism industry has grown 9 percent a year on average since 2014 and is expect-



In this park, visitors can go hiking, pick fruit, savor tea, read and make pottery. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ed to be worth \$740 billion in 2017, Yang says.

The booming domestic travel market and the demand for healthier lifestyles give the domestic health tourism development a shot in the arm, he says.

In the first six months of last year, the mainland received 2.5 billion visits by travelers, up 13.5 percent year-on-year, the National Tourism Administration says.

By 2020, China's tourism industry is forecast to be worth 7 trillion yuan (\$1.08 trillion) a year, and health services worth 8 trillion yuan, says Zhang Jilin, head of the National Tourism Administration's planning and finance division.

"There's great potential in the integrated development of health and tourism," Zhang said at the first Beijing International Health Tourism Expo last month.

It focused on creating a healthy tourism market that brings together academic research, research and

development of products, the advertising and promotion of products and industrial partnerships.

It attracted more than 200 domestic and foreign exhibitors, including tourism and medical facilities, traditional Chinese medicine health tourism demonstration zones and health preservation and cosmetic medicine companies.

Guokaiyuan Wuhu mountain villa in the Changping district in Beijing's north has become popular with those seeking leisure and traditional Chinese medicine treatment.

Yanshan and Wuhu mountains and Shisanling Reservoir are near the villa, which can now take 200-300 people a day in the peak period, said Zhang Zihao, an information official for the villa, who was at the expo.

"Most of the people who visit the villa are in poor shape and they generally choose our traditional Chinese medicine massage, and special healthy cooking."

The villa also offers TCM diagno-

sis and treatment, guests usually staying for two or three days, at a cost of about 1,000 yuan.

Thirteen health tourism demonstration facilities now operate nationwide, including in Beidaihe in Hebei, Jiuhuashan in Anhui, Sanya in Hainan and Guilin in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

Some regions began combining health and tourism several years ago. Nanjing, in Jiangsu, established an international TCM health and tourism program in 2015, the activities including TCM lectures and treatment and TCM tea drinking at the Nanjing National Medical Hall.

Guiping in Guangxi opened the Xishanquan International Health Tourism and Cultural Complex, aimed at promoting health tourism, in November, 2014. It covers about 50 hectares and has as its backdrop tranquil mountain and river landscape scenery. There are also wetland and hot springs and the

activities include meditation sessions.

Zhuoda Daping International Tourism Resort in Zhangjiajie, Hunan province was settled on in 2014, with a planned area of 120 square kilometers. It would take advantage of the Tianmenshan National Forest Park to offer high-end retirement service, mountain sports and modern agricultural sightseeing experiences.

Quan, the Sunrise Pottery Park founder, says the health industry's bright prospects, have convinced her that she made the right choice in opening the park. One of her plans is to give visitors the opportunity to enjoy doing farm work.

"We'd encourage them to plow, plant food, pull out weeds and apply fertilizer with us."

She looks forward to working with the local government to popularize pottery, she says.

"I would like to continue to bring health tourism and Chinese culture together," she says.

## Holiday treatment: China's health tourists take to the skies

From page 13

"Many were satisfied with the medical services and the fact that local doctors looked at the medical results in a very serious, professional way."

In addition, the travel agency arranges a five-star hotel, Michelin-rated dining and shopping, and visits to well-known tourist attractions are arranged in a five-day trip, the total cost being about 45,000 yuan.

Iwate prefecture, about 250 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, offers nine of the 11 kinds of hot springs in Japan.

In October the prefecture joined the Japanese preventive medicine association to develop precision health checks for Chinese visitors.

"A few Chinese have been through our program," says Cheng Shi, who works at Iwate Hotel and Resort.

The total cost is about 13,500 yuan-15,000 yuan, lower than the price of a similar procedure that some domestic high-end clinics offer, Cheng says.

Undergoing cosmetic surgery in South Korea, having anti-aging treatment in Switzerland, or having genetic tests in the US have also become popular among China's nouveaux riches.

In 2016, about 100,000 Chinese went on medical trips to South

Korea, where plastic surgery was the most common treatment sought, Ctrip says.

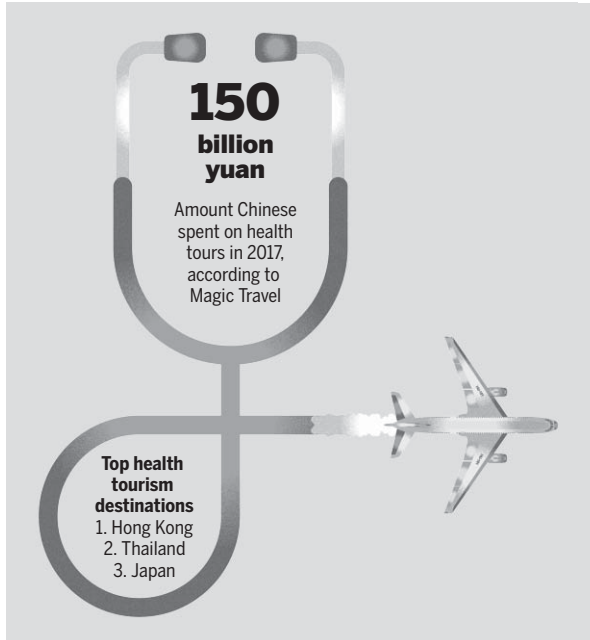
For those flush with cash, an anti-aging trip to Switzerland that can cost as much as 500,000 yuan is available. The Beijing Harker Leisure Information Consulting Co has formed a partnership with Clinique La Prairie in Switzerland, a luxury medical retreat in Montreux, on the shores of Lake Geneva, that offers innovative science of cell therapy and holistic wellness.

Dozens of people have already booked the trip, which lasts seven days, says Peng Bo, chief executive of the Beijing company.

"We're now talking with people who are very interested in taking the trip," Peng says.

It aims to lift visitors out of under-healthy status through medical treatment as well as tours that take in golf, wine, museum visits and parents and children doing things together, Peng says.

Some developing countries such as India have also become popular holiday destinations thanks to relatively cheap medical services. The country's annual net takings from foreign patients was \$3 billion in 2015, a report by Grant Thornton, an international consulting firm says. The figure is expected to reach \$8 billion by 2020, it says.



Right now medical tourists could enjoy a rehabilitative yoga-themed vacation or a trip to the Taj Mahal.

The expanding wealthy class in

China is behind the growing demand for medical tours, tourism industry experts say.

The number of Chinese with assets worth more than 10 million

yuan was forecast to reach 1.58 million last year, based on a private asset report issued jointly by China Merchants Bank's private banking team and Bain & Company.

In a survey in 2016 by Hurun Research Institute, 60 percent of those high net worth individuals said they had taken medical tours and prefer overseas hospitals.

Experts forecast that medical tours that cost less than 100,000 yuan will become highly popular among rich Chinese.

The potential market has prompted conventional travel agencies to get into the market. Chinese spent more than 90 billion yuan on health tours in 2014, and the figure was 150 billion last year, says Su Ze, a manager with Magic Travel.

In 2014, Beijing Utour International Travel Service launched Magic Travel, which offers opulent health-conscious Chinese high-end medical services. The trips usually last three to 10 days.

"Most of our customers are the kinds of people who look ahead, and their annual family income is usually more than 1 million yuan," says Su.

The company says its revenue grew 50 percent last year compared with the year before.

Magic Travel has linked up with what it says are the finest medical

institutes in the US, Germany, France, Switzerland and Southeast Asia, and it expects to link up with more.

"Of course we need to ensure that the services these institutes are offering is nothing but the best," Su says.

Magic Travel offers a stem-cell-injection treatment package, complete with five-star hotels and a helicopter sightseeing experience in Switzerland, reproduction treatment in the US, and health checks in Japan.

In November 2016, Ctrip announced that it was investing in IVF USA (a Shanghai-based expatriate facility offering IVF in the US) to engage in outbound medical tourism.

With more options available, more Chinese tourists are likely to take on health-related tours abroad.

After the undoubted success of Huang and his wife with their first medical holiday, another one is on the cards for them, and as the birth of a child nears, family matters are clearly on his mind.

"I might take my parents to get medical checkup abroad, just in case. It's good to know that if anything unexpected or complicated ever crops up, we have options for dealing with it."

## 16 FASHION

## In Milan, fall and winter seen as 'Time for Change'

Youthful designers focus on streetwear to capture zeitgeist of millennial consumers

**M**ILAN — With social and political crises unsettling the globe, Milan Fashion Week was all about slogans this season. "Time for Change" has been a particularly dominant catchphrase, one the fashion world can expect to see branded across sweatshirts, waistbands and accessories next fall and winter.

The ubiquity of the expression does not necessarily denote consensus around the message it's designed to convey. For some, it means back to roots. Others intend it as a call for respect. But the overall implication seems to be a rejection of the status quo, which really isn't surprising in fashion.

The second day of Milan Fashion Week of mostly menswear previews for Fall/Winter 2018-19 opened with youthful designers focused on urban streetwear that tries to capture the zeitgeist of millennial consumers.

Here are some highlights from shows including Dirk Bikkembergs, MSGM and DSquared2:



Milan Fashion Week is all about slogans this season — "Time For Change". PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES AND AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



#### MSGM GOES TO SCHOOL ON ELEGANCE

Elegance has taken to the street at MSGM, the strongly streetwear label founded by Massimo Giorgetti.

Milan university students served as both models and inspiration for the collection. Taking their cue, Giorgetti found himself making an unexpected turn toward the dapper with hints of classic Milanese styling.

"I studied the attitude of these guys, and it is less streetwear than usual without losing modernity," Giorgetti said. "Some are very, very elegant. The concept of elegant Milan, Italy, needs to be restudied also by a brand like mine. There's an evolution going on."

The silhouette veered toward the everyday, neither too slim nor oversized. Looks included snazzy suits with zip-up jackets in pink or red worn with ties, as well as plaid trousers paired with cardigans and jumpsuits. Giorgetti collaborated with Eastpak on a series of graphic printed backpacks and travel bags.

The designer emblazoned the

collection with phrases of graffiti he collected from the desks, tables and restrooms of Milan's universities. They included *Tempo per cambiare*, Italian for "Time for Change", along with the Italian phonetic rendering of "I love you" as "hailoveiu."

Here, "Time for Change" clearly meant honoring roots and not looking abroad for validation.

"They are very serious, very clever and very positive," the designer said of the Milan students he worked with. "And they love their country."

#### DUTCH MUSINGS AT DIRK BIKKEMBERGS

Dutch style, painting and design were all reflected in Lee Wood's latest collection for Belgian label Dirk Bikkembergs.

And in keeping with the down-to-earth Dutch nature, the collection was full of necessary items. A rain-resistant technical down coat was worn with tailored pants for an urban look merging sportswear with sartorial tradition.

"A man needs to be authentic,"

Woods said backstage. "We have a thousand things to do and life goes on. They are not heavy garments. They are basics, things we need."

The dark palette of navy blue, black and gray was inspired by paintings in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and included contrasts of deep cerulean blue, vermilion red and saffron yellow. The mixing of materials, such as in a nylon parka with a wool back panel and knit waistband, drew from a Rotterdam architectural institute. Straps on pockets echoed the ones on leather footwear.

Wood said he was drawn to the Netherlands by coincidence. The models he was selecting came from there and the music a DJ played at casting sessions was Dutch.

"I said I think I have to go, and visit this world," he said.

#### WESTERN DOINGS AT DSQUARED2

Model Bella Hadid bookended the runway show for DSquared2, the label of Canadian twins Dean

and Dan Caten, opening as a cowgirl in plaid over denim and closing as a chic hippie in a tiered handkerchief gown worn with a big fur coat.

DSquared2 adhered to the recent Milan trend of combining the men's and women's shows, scheduling theirs during the less hectic January round focusing on menswear.

Red plaid emerged as the prevailing print in the Western-themed collection. The mood ranged from a little bit country to a little bit rockabilly to a little bit hippie chic. Oversized knitwear served as tableaus for western scenes.

Any classic cowboy would feel at ease in the suede coat with sheepskin linings, while leather vests layered over flowing white peasant shirts for men or dresses for women gave an edge to the usual boho styling.

The accessories of the season: big Double-D belt buckles and sequin neck scarves for men, or shiny sequin cuffs for him or her.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Armani Beauty opens new Tmall store in e-commerce push

L'Oreal-owned cosmetics giant shifts focus to Alibaba e-commerce platform to try and broaden its consumer base and reach young, tech-savvy shoppers

By ZHANG LEI  
zhanglei@chinadaily.com.cn

Giorgio Armani Beauty launched its flagship store on Alibaba's Tmall shopping platform on Dec 25 last year, as part of the brand's ongoing efforts to tap into China's fast-growing demand for high-end beauty products.

The beauty brand owned by cosmetics giant L'Oreal held a three-week warm-up event on Tmall ahead of its official release on Jan 16, where it offered their limited edition product lines. Chinese customers can find the full range of products online, including Lip Maestro, one of Armani Beauty's most popular lipstick lines.

This is the fifth Tmall store with Giorgio Armani DNA after Armani Jeans, Armani Exchange and Emporio Armani and its watch outlet set up their online stores.

In order to keep their brand fresh, many luxury brands started to realize the importance of a strong e-commerce presence in China as early as 2010. Emporio Armani launched its e-commerce website, the first of its kind by a major luxury international group in China at that year. Likewise, Giorgio Armani Beauty is shifting its focus to the

country's largest e-commerce platform. On the first day of its Tmall launch, it registered a total sales of 17 million yuan (\$2.64 million).

Tmall has 500 million active users, and young consumers account for about 60 percent of this total. For luxury brands like Armani, this is exactly the kind of customer base they want to develop.

The luxury cosmetics brand also introduced its 2018 spring-summer collection at a launch event in Beijing on Jan 12. Yann Andrea, brand general manager from Giorgio Armani Beauty attended the event and explained their recent move.

"The brand today has been growing extremely fast in China in recent years and certain sectors are outperforming the market, especially makeup — but also skin care and fragrances. It's really the moment to accelerate things even more through e-commerce. The brand is solid enough to make the jump and really succeed in e-commerce. That's our strategy," he says.

Speaking of its brand philosophy, Andrea says Armani Beauty is about being universal and adaptable. "When we create a beauty product, we don't do it for a specific woman. It should be universal. With different colors, the mission of the brand is to offer women easy to use prod-



The brand has to adapt to the way women live today and connect with them through WeChat, Instagram and other social networks."

Yann Andrea, brand general manager from Giorgio Armani Beauty

228.5 billion yuan

Amount of retail sales of cosmetics in China in the first 11 months of 2017, up 13.5 percent from a year earlier

ucts that makes their life easier.

"Armani is about perfection and attention to detail. The brand has to adapt to the way women live today and connect with them through WeChat, Instagram and other social networks. We take that into our consideration when we develop new products," he says.

For example, when the company launched a new foundation called Power Fabric in China early last year, Armani tailored the product to fit with the needs of young women who enjoy taking selfies. The foundation quickly took off and was nicknamed "Instagram foundation" by many of its users, in another example of how Armani tries to build connections with younger generations.

Technology also plays a major role in attracting customers to the Giorgio Armani Beauty online store. Using their mobile phone, shoppers can use an AR-driven interactive feature — Unlock Armani code — to scan for any of the six letters contained in the word "Armani." Those who collect all six letters will have a chance of winning sample kits.

With China's rapid economic development, the beauty product industry has witnessed a boom in recent years. According to the National Bureau of Statistics of Chi-



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na, retail sales of cosmetics in the first 11 months in 2017 increased 13.5 percent from a year earlier to reach 228.5 billion yuan.

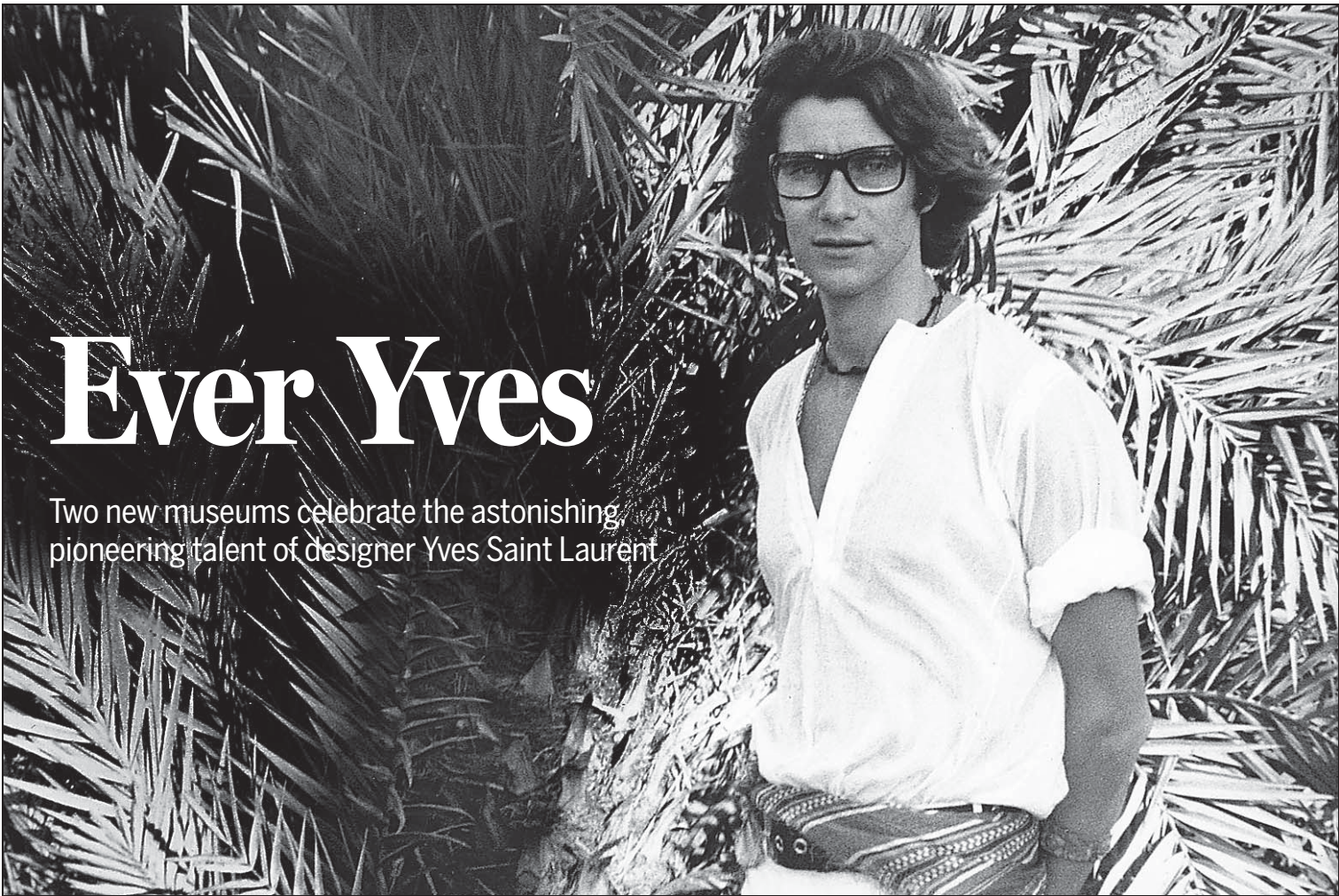
Andrea says the main difference between the Chinese cosmetics market and those overseas is that a lot of Chinese women are using makeup for the first time — unlike many other countries, especially in Europe. "It's a huge opportunity to be creative, to dare to use different colors. It's just about finding the color that matches your face and personality. I like Chi-

nese women's dynamic energy when they choose makeup. They're always reinventing," he says.

An Armani Box pop-up store recently opened in Beijing's trendy Sanlitun area, and a range of pop-up store events are planned for 2018, says Andrea.

"Our mission is to always bring something new to our customers in terms of products, service, and brand development. This is why accelerating e-commerce is important for us," he says.





# Ever Yves

Two new museums celebrate the astonishing, pioneering talent of designer Yves Saint Laurent

PIERRE BERGE

CHINA DAILY Lifestyle Premium

By SONIA ALTSHULER

I want to give haute couture a kind of wink, a sense of humor — to introduce the whole sense of freedom one sees in the street into high fashion; to give couture the same provocative and arrogant look as punk — but of course with luxury and dignity and style." So said fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent in 1983 on the eve of his exhibition at the Costume Institute of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, its first-ever show devoted to a living designer.

Vogue editor Diana Vreeland, who also curated the show, wrote the following for the introduction: "For 26 years, Yves Saint Laurent has kept women's clothes on the same high level. He is followed across the oceans of the world by women who look young, live young and are young no matter what their age ... Half of the time he is inspired by the street, and half of the time the street gets its style from Yves Saint Laurent. His vehicle to the street is pret-a-porter — but behind it all, there are the superb designs of his couture workroom."

His influence on 20th-century fashion and beyond may be even greater than the peers he worked alongside — including Christian Dior, Hubert de Givenchy and Gabrielle Chanel — and his clothes and themes more referenced and appropriated by high and low culture alike. Although she died in 1971, Chanel, never one for modesty, had even pronounced him her spiritual heir.

What makes Saint Laurent's collection of work so distinct is that none of his predecessors and peers, despite their luminous names, kept their original clothes in the same way. While other houses buy their dresses back from clients to build their collections, in the case of Yves Saint Laurent, what went down the catwalk was what got kept. His long-time partner in business and romance, Pierre Berge, who died last year, told Vogue that one day, the designer said to him: "I adore that dress; we must keep it." And so they did.

Nearly 55 years since the launch of his eponymous brand in 1961, two new Yves Saint Laurent museums opened. One opened on Oct 19 in Marrakech (appropriately enough, on Rue Yves Saint Laurent) and the other in Paris at 5 Avenue Marceau. Both exhibit a selection from the Fondation Pierre Berge — Yves Saint Laurent of more than 5,000 pieces of haute couture and 15,000 haute couture accessories, along with an array of sketches, drawings, photographs and other ephemera.

As befits such a vast collection,



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ERIC FEFERBERG



CHRISTOPHE MARTIN ARCHITECTES



JEAN-PIERRE MULLER



FONDATION JARDIN MAJORELLE © NICOLAS MATHEUS

the museum in Marrakech occupies a 3,995 sq m space, with a 399.5 sq m permanent exhibition space designed by Christophe Martin. The building is a stone's throw away from the Jardin Majorelle, which was bought by Saint Laurent and Berge in 1980.

The Marrakech museum was designed by Studio KO, an architectural firm established by Olivier Marty and Karl Fournier, who have realized numerous projects in Morocco, Europe and the United States. While leafing through the couturier's archives, they were struck by curves running alongside straight lines, and by the succession of delicate and bold forms that characterized the designer's work. The facade of the building appears as an intersection of cubes with a lace-like covering of bricks, creating patterns that recall the weft and warp of fabric. As with the lining of

a couture jacket, the interior is radically different: velvety, smooth and radiant.

According to Studio KO: "The Musee Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech combines two worlds that we are very familiar with and that are dear to our hearts: fashion and Morocco. Since the founding of our architectural firm, we have worked in this country that so inspired Yves Saint Laurent. It is with great joy that we have worked on this ambitious project, and contributed to the history and prestige of the most influential fashion designer of the 20th century."

To see the museum is to witness a veritable greatest-hits collection — not just of the Yves Saint Laurent costume inventory, but of the fashion silhouette of the second half of the 20th century.

It's one that kept women, no matter their age, looking young. The

designer won the French Wool Board competition in 1954 with a black crepe cocktail dress he designed in the Hubert de Givenchy workshop. Three years later, at 21, he took the reins of Christian Dior after the designer's death in 1957, becoming the youngest couturier in the world to run a fashion house. His first collection was 1958's Trapeze, for which he won a Neiman Marcus Award for Fashion, and the year marked his first meeting with Berge, who would become both his lover and his manager.

At Yves Saint Laurent, the hits were unrelenting. The designer popularized the ready-to-wear label; his famous tuxedo suit for women, Le Smoking; the pea coat; the safari jacket; and perhaps most famously and most imitated of all, the Mondrian dress. As much a fashion designer, he was an artist and harnessed art for his purpose, using

Van Gogh's Sunflowers and Irises for another costume and often citing references to Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Jean Cocteau and Andy Warhol in his work.

He was groundbreaking, too, as the first to design an haute couture black leather jacket, and even had a nude photograph of himself published for the launch of his first perfume for men, Pour Homme. Saint Laurent invoked male dress codes and appropriated them for his womenswear, thus investing women with greater social power while preserving their femininity. Says Berge of that contribution: "If Chanel gave women their freedom, it was Saint Laurent who empowered them." And made them feel forever young.

Read more: [cdlifestylepremium.com](http://cdlifestylepremium.com)



## TIMELINE OF A LIFETIME

**1936:** Born in Oran, Algeria



**1954:** Hired by Christian Dior as his studio assistant



**1957:** Dior dies; replaces him and becomes, at age 21, the youngest couturier in the world



**1958:** Meets longtime romantic partner Pierre Berge



**1960:** Presents first haute couture leather jacket on the catwalk; drafted for military service and replaced at Dior by Marc Bohan



**1961:** Sets up own couture house with Berge



**1962:** First Yves Saint Laurent fashion show at 30 Bis Rue Spontini; first pea jacket



**1964:** First perfume: Y



**1965:** Tribute to Mondrian collection



**1966:** Pop Art collection; first tuxedo; first see-through garments (the "nude look"); discovers Marrakech, Morocco with Berge and buys Dar el Hanch (House of the Serpent) in the Medina; opens first Rive Gauche boutique at 21 Rue de Tournon



**1967:** African collection; publishes *La Vilaine Lulu* ("Naughty Lulu"); dresses Catherine Deneuve for Luis Bunuel's film *Belle de Jour*



**1968:** First safari suit; first jumpsuit



**1971:** Launches Rive Gauche perfume for women; poses nude for photographer Jeanloup Sieff to promote *Pour Homme*, his first eau de toilette for men



**1974:** The fashion house moves to 5 Avenue Marceau



**1977:** Chinese Girls collection



**1982:** Receives the International Award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America



**1983:** Yves Saint Laurent: 25 Years of Creation opens at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, curated by Diana Vreeland



**1985:** Retrospective at the National Art Gallery in Beijing



**1988:** Creates embroidered jackets based on Van Gogh's Sunflowers and Irises



**1993:** With Berge, sells the Yves Saint Laurent Group to Elf Sanofi, but the couple retain ownership of the couture house



**1998:** Stops designing ready-to-wear collections for Rive Gauche; Alber Elbaz named artistic director of ready-to-wear for women and Hedi Slimane for men



**1999:** Elf Sanofi sells the Yves Saint Laurent Group to the Pinault-Printemps-Redoute Group, but is still managed by Berge and Saint Laurent; Tom Ford replaces Elbaz and Slimane as artistic director of ready-to-wear



**2002:** Bids farewell to couture; the fashion house closes; the Fondation Pierre Berge — Yves Saint Laurent is recognized as a nonprofit organization



**2008:** Dies in his Paris home at the age of 71



Photos of Chinese folk singer-songwriter Wan Xiaoli taken by French photographer Anais Martane. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## MEMORIES OF HER YOUTH

An ongoing photograph exhibition by the French-born wife of a Chinese actor showcases the lives and times of pioneering group of Beijing-based folk singer-songwriters

By CHEN NAN  
chennan@chinadaily.com.cn

She is now known as the wife of Chinese actor Liu Ye, and a mother of two adorable kids, who have gained lots of fans after appearing in a popular TV show, *Where Are We Going, Dad?* But, beyond that, she is a photographer.

Anais Martane, born into a Jewish family in Nice, France, began learning Chinese at age 14 and continued to study the language at the French National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations.

In 2001, she arrived in China as a foreign student to study at Beijing Normal University and started taking photographs as a hobby.

The same year, she met some Beijing-based folk singer-songwriters and started photographing them on and off the stage.

The photos, taken from 2002 to 2004, are on display at her photo exhibition, titled *Warm-Up — Anais Martane's Photography Solo Exhibition*, at Beijing's Three Shadow +3 Gallery, since Oct 28.

The exhibition runs till Feb 27.

Speaking about the exhibition, Rong Rong, the exhibition's curator, who was touched by Martane's photos when she first saw them in early 2017, says: "This is a series of works brimming with warmth and authenticity. These scenes are now gone forever, but photography documents them with sincerity."

Separately, Martane also gave a concert at the gallery on Jan 12, performing along with some of those indie musicians, such as Guo Long,



Left: Chinese indie rock band Meihaoyaodian (literally translated as good pharmacy). Right: Zhang Weiwei, an accordion player. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Xiao He, and Wan Xiaoli, who are considered pioneers of the country's indie music scene.

At the concert, Martane performed about 15 songs, including *It's Not My Name*, written by Xiao He; *Lonely Bird*, written by Wan, and French songs, such as *Coo-coo Dove*, a Mexican folk song written by Tomas Mendez and French song, *Cafe Du Canal*, by Pierre Perret.

Speaking about the performance and the show before a rehearsal, Martane says: "The concert and the photo exhibition are closely connected, as I became friends with these musicians about 15 years ago. We've had some great times together, and now we are all grown up."

"It feels warm to get back together with them and sing.

“The concert and the photo exhibition are closely connected, as I became friends with these musicians about 15 years ago. We've had some great times together, and now we are all grown up.”

Anais Martane, right, performed in Beijing earlier this month



"Xiao He initiated the idea of the concert together. I used to sing a few songs at their shows in small bars in the 2000s, but I had never done a concert before."

Speaking about how she started performing with the musicians, she says it all started at the bar located in the capital's Sanlitun area in 2001.

The performers there were a band called Wild Children from Lanzhou in China's northwestern Gansu province.

The band — known for its fusion of local folk songs played on Western instruments — was founded in 1995 by Suo Wenjun — who died in 2004 aged 34 — and Zhang Quan.

"My friend talked with the band after the show and learned that they had a bar on the same street. 'Come!' they said and that how I

became a fan of their music," says Martane.

"I had never listened to such music before. They had found freedom in their passion and their hard work."

Separately, Martane also listened to Chinese songs, such as songs by rock musician Xu Wei, to learn Chinese.

Speaking about Martane, singer-songwriter Zhang Weiwei says: "We were about the same age, poor and far away from home. So, we soon became friends."

Martane called the series of photographs, *Them*, from the moment she started the project in 2002.

"Now we all have kids and our own lives. But when we meet, the emotion of our shared youth is still and always will be alive," she says.

Martane later went on to work as press photographer for several French and foreign publications like *Liberation*, *Le Monde*, *Telerama*, *Elle* and *Marie Claire*.

And in 2004 she started to work for *Time* magazine, which led to her first book *Chinese Portraits*, published in both French and English and distributed worldwide, in which she documented Chinese society and people from all walks of life.

In 2009, she married actor Liu Ye and in 2010 and 2014, she gave birth to her son and daughter, respectively.

Now, she works as movie producer and in theater.

"In France, it is rare to hear Chinese songs. So, I want to promote those songs. But I plan to translate them into French first," says Martane.

## From Hollywood to Asia, a life of making music for the movies

By CHEN NAN

Sitting down at the piano, turning Charlie Chaplin's movies on, and turning off the lights, he started accompanying the silent movie classics, while improvising and experimenting with themes. That's what Nathan Wang used to love doing as a youngster.

From a very young age, he practiced the art of scoring pictures and decades later, the classically-trained pianist-turned-composer, who was born and lives in Los Angeles, in the United States, does the same thing every day.

He is one of the most successful composers in Hollywood and Asian cinema, who has written music for Jackie Chan movies, Steven Spielberg documentaries and live-action and animated movies for Disney and DreamWorks.

His compositions have been performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera and the Chicago Symphony.

"Obviously, different kinds of movies and different kinds of television shows dictate different kinds of themes. And for me to truly understand the musical signature I must

compose, I watch the movie over and over. I think this part is so much fun, and is always a satisfying experience," says Wang, 61.

Lately, the two-time Emmy-award winner has expanded his range to TV shows produced on the Chinese mainland, including the popular 42-episode TV drama, *The First Half of My Life*, which aired in the summer of 2017 and was based on Hong Kong writer Isabel Nee Yeh-su's novel *The First Half of My Life*, and 41-episode TV drama, *Dear My Friends*, which started broadcasting on Dec 10.

"I'm very proud of my Chinese heritage, and I never thought that my music career would allow me to venture back to my motherland. By being associated with Chinese television and movies, I'm always trying to broaden my Chinese music repertoire. I think it's filled with such rich and vibrant instruments, and I love combining the two musical cultures together. The synthesis is always a rewarding tapestry of music," he says.

Wang's first movie job in China was *Sophie's Revenge* in 2009, which was directed by Eva Jin and starred Chinese actresses Zhang Ziyi and Fan BingBing.

Wang started playing piano at the

age of three, encouraged by his mother.

His father, who played violin and clarinet, then introduced him to jazz artists, and after studying composition with famed composer Morten Lauridsen at the University of Southern California at nine, he graduated from the University of Southern California at the age of 13.

He received a Fulbright scholarship to continue music graduate studies at Oxford University, England, in 1979.

When he returned to the US in 1981, Wang started playing jazz piano in a five-star restaurant, where he was noticed by a television producer and invited to play for an actress auditioning to sing on a television show.

Then he got the opportunity to work at Warner Brothers. As a young composer then, Wang's job was to write scores for a 40-piece orchestra to record.

"There is nothing more thrilling than to write music and then hear it on the big screen in front of an audience and see how they react. Sometimes I hear laughter, and sometimes a snuffle. I try to associate with that, and hope that my music has something to do with

that reaction," Wang says.

The Warner Brothers job let Wang work with renowned directors and producers and be associated with many movies which he is proud of.

Among the films are kung fu star Jackie Chan's movies.

Wang grew up watching Jackie Chan's movies.

So, when he got a telephone call from Hong Kong film director Stanley Tong asking him to write music for his Jackie Chan movie, *Rumble in the Bronx*, in 1995, Wang was thrilled.

And since that first collaboration, Wang has worked with Tong on other Jackie Chan movies such as *Who Am I?*, *The Myth*, *Chinese Zodiac* and most recently *Kung Fu Yoga*.

"It's always a fun time writing for Jackie's action packed movies because the work is hybrid of light-hearted, zany as well as fast paced and energetic music. Each movie to me must have its own theme and signature, and I always try to make sure that the music has its own style and brand," says Wang.

In 1999, Wang collaborated with German film score composer Hans Zimmer on the music for Steven Spielberg's *The Last Days*, which won an Academy Award for best documentary.



Nathan Wang, one of the most successful composers in Hollywood and Asian cinema, has written music for Jackie Chan movies and Steven Spielberg documentaries. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Besides movies and TV dramas, the prolific and versatile composer was also commissioned to write in 2000 for the Los Angeles Opera, spearheaded by artistic director Placido Domingo, and wrote Faye Wong's hit song, *I Trust You*.

Speaking about his plans, he says: "I think that I would be depriving myself of many challenges

if I shut myself from any genre. Music is music, whether it is classical, pop or any other style. I try to be as productive as I can every day, every hour. I love music, so I live music. Writing animation, then a dramatic movie, then a young, hip TV show, and then pop songs or rap songs, that's what writing is all about."





Top row: Making *guqin* takes patience and care.  
Above: Experienced *guqin* makers like Sui Yiyang should know the sweet spot for the tuning.



Clockwise from top: Sui likes collecting antique radios. He loves things that records history; Sui rides a shared bike in the street; the main body of an unfinished *guqin* usually needs to be dried in the sun for several days.

## Keeping a tradition alive

Sui Yiyang started out wanting to learn to play the *guqin*, but he now crafts the instruments with his own hands

Photos by WANG JING | China Daily

**T**he Wenqu Academy of Classical Learning located in Guangqumen, in Beijing's Dongcheng district, is an oasis of calm in a noisy neighborhood. It is also the place, where Sui Yiyang, a young *guqin* maker, produces the traditional Chinese music instrument.

Sui, who hails from Chengde, Hebei came to Beijing in 2007 to study how to play the instrument. But by the end of 2008, he began to be interested in making it. At first, Sui, who had his own business, regarded his interest in the instrument as a hobby. But as he fell more deeply in love with it, he decided to become a full-time *guqin* maker. As he began to study the subject more deeply, he discovered the traditional way of making the *guqin* and how it is done today. For Sui, who follows the traditional route, it takes around 20 months to transform a batch of wood into an instrument. All materials are carefully

sourced, and the production process is in accordance with the highest standards of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Sui has produced only four instruments in the past two and a half years. But this is because he relies only on his hands to produce the instruments. Sui, who is in his early 30s, has delivered two "*guqin* appreciation" lectures at the Poly Museum and the National Museum, respectively, and won acclaim for his presentations. His instruments are keenly sought by collectors at home and abroad.

- ZHANG LEI