

OPINION: TWISTING THE NARRATIVE P.20 | FEATURES: CHINA ON ALERT AS DELTA SPREADS P.30

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HUMAN CONNECTION

Young people's dialogue helps build global rapport

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Cover Design: Wang Yajuan

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Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau
Chief: Yu Shujun
Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334
E-mail: yushujun@bjreview.com
Africa Bureau
Chief Correspondent: Ni Yanshuo
Tel: 27-71-6132053
E-mail: casa201208@hotmail.com

General Editorial Office
Tel: 86-10-68996252
Fax: 86-10-68326628
English Edition
Tel: 86-10-68996250
Advertising Department
Tel: 86-10-68995807
E-mail: ad@bjreview.com
Distribution Department
Tel: 86-10-68310644
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The Basis of Friendship Between Countries

The Global Young Leaders Dialogue 2021 Annual Forum took place in Beijing on July 29-30, attended by some 140 China-based representatives and scholars from different countries. Themed on different responsibilities of younger generations, the participants discussed an array of global issues, including sustainable development, public health, scientific and technological innovation.

The experience of working and living in China makes foreign young professionals better understand China's real-time circumstances and its great contributions to the international community in terms of poverty eradication, the fight against COVID-19 and the Belt and Road Initiative. They hope that the international community can eliminate misunderstanding and prejudice, foster solidarity and forge bonds of mutual trust to make the world a more inclusive, open, peaceful and harmonious place.

China has established high-level bilateral people-to-people exchanges with numerous countries worldwide, and people-to-people exchanges have become one of the three pillars of the country's diplomatic relations, along with economic and trade cooperation and political mutual trust. The amity between people should start from and with the younger generations. The common interests and ideals they hold for life unite

them in true friendship.

At present, certain countries are pursuing unilateralism, imposing an antagonistic impact onto international people-to-people exchanges and the creation of a consensus among people around the globe. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic, too, has increased the qualms posed to globalization.

Young people are an important force in sustaining global dialogue and multilateral cooperation, and they are the most dynamic and innovative power driving solutions to global issues. Therefore, in the current international context, they must take up and shoulder their responsibilities to promote a globalization featuring fairness, prosperity and diversity.

No nation can rely solely on its own strength in development. A country will achieve progress only through open exchange and preserving regular economic and cultural ties with the rest of the world. Young people everywhere should establish a global perspective and enhance awareness of cooperation in order to jointly create a better future for humanity. We hope that the younger generations from all countries will share their outlook on the world with a mutual sense of appreciation and an eagerness to learn more. **BR**



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编委会：李雅芳 李建国 闫颖 杨琪 曾文卉
社长：李雅芳
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GIDDY UP!

A local resident demonstrates traditional horse racing during a celebration marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, on August 4.

Established in December 1951, Yushu is the first ethnic minority autonomous prefecture in Qinghai and the second nationwide. It is tucked away in the interior of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and is home to Sanjiangyuan, which is the source of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers. Hoh Xil, another drawing card of Yushu, was inscribed as the first World Natural Heritage Site on the plateau in 2017.



Pepper Harvest

Farmers package chili peppers in a township in Ordos, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on August 3. The city has been planting chili peppers on a large scale in recent years to increase farmers' income and promote rural vitalization.

Teacher Training

About 10,000 normal college students will receive targeted training annually from 2021 onward in a bid to improve the performance of primary and middle school teachers in underdeveloped areas in central and western regions, according to a recent plan, Xinhua News Agency reported on August 3.

Normal colleges and universities in China mainly train teachers for educational institutions.

The special training will be delivered by normal universities under the Ministry of Education (MOE) and local-level normal colleges for schools in counties that have in recent years

eliminated poverty and those located along the land borders, says the plan released by nine departments, including the MOE and the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Six normal universities directly under the MOE will enroll students from central and western regions for the national-level training program. These students should pledge to return to serve in primary and middle schools in designated counties for a period of at least six years, the plan says.

Students enrolled in the plan will be exempt from tuition and accommodation fees and will receive living subsidies.

Fan Culture

China has made progress in creating a wholesome fan culture after special actions targeting illegal and improper acts in the world of entertainment fandom, Xinhua reported on August 2.

The country's cyberspace watchdog has removed over 150,000 pieces of harmful information from online platforms and chat groups amid efforts to create a clean online environment for star-struck web users, said the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission.

The commission urged websites and online platforms to disable functions that would induce fans to boost a star's popularity in dishonest manner

and to restrict underage fans from irrationally adoring their idols.

The National Radio and Television Administration also carried out a one-month operation against online variety shows in a bid to curb irrational worship of idols.

Glacier Melting Study

Chinese researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Lanzhou University in Gansu Province have found that albedo reduction was an important driver of glacier melting on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and its surrounding areas, Xinhua reported on August 2. Albedo commonly refers to the "whiteness" of a surface.

The plateau, also known as "the water tower of Asia," houses abundant glaciers vital to the regional water cycle and water resources in downstream areas.

The researchers summarized the current status of the glaciers around the plateau and its surrounding region.

Based on glacier surface snow albedo data, they investigated the potential impact of albedo changes on glaciers melting between 2001 and 2018. The results showed that glacier shrinkage was more pronounced across the Himalayas and south-east of the plateau.

The researchers concluded that albedo reduction, together with rising temperatures and changing precipitation, was a significant driver of glacier melting on the plateau.

Their research article was recently published in *Earth-Science Reviews* journal.

Flood Response Investigation

The State Council announced on August 2 that it has decided to

set up an investigation team to assess responses to the devastating flood in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province.

The team will be headed by the Ministry of Emergency Management and includes officials and experts from relevant departments, the State Council said in a statement.

The investigation aims to summarize the experiences and lessons to be drawn and propose measures to improve future disaster prevention and relief, the statement further read.

Those who are found to have been in breach of their duties in the Zhengzhou flood will be held responsible according to the law and regulations, it added.

As of noon of August 2, 292 people were confirmed dead and 47 missing in Zhengzhou due to the serious flood in mid-July, according to the provincial government.

Better Protection

A new law on protecting military personnel's status, rights and interests came into effect on August 1, China's Army Day.

The law, adopted on June 10, stipulates the basic treatment enjoyed by military personnel regarding salaries, housing, healthcare services,

insurance, vacations, education, and others.

It also specifies how families of victims should receive preferential treatment for matters including employment and their children's education.

In addition, starting from August 1, military personnel harmed in the time of duty will be given an average of 10-percent increase in their pension in accordance with the government's new arrangements.

Cultural Festival

Prehistoric painted pottery has recently gained increasing attention from archaeological experts both from home and abroad as the fifth Majiayao Cultural Festival boosts international research engagement and cooperation, Xinhua reported on August 3.

The one-month event kicked off on July 20 in Dingxi, Gansu Province, featuring symposiums, exhibitions, and field trips to local archaeological sites.

The festival was named after one of the renowned discoveries in the province unveiling the Majiayao culture, which mainly developed in the upper reaches of the Yellow River and its tributaries. With more than 5,000 years of history, the Majiayao also witnessed the glories of



Sponge City

A woman walks with her child on a trail paved with permeable surface at a residential compound in Qian'an, Hebei Province, on August 1. Since 2015, the city has been included in a national pilot program for "sponge city construction." Several years of efforts not only have put an end to urban flooding, but also enabled a tremendous improvement in water supply and the ecological system at large.

ancient China's painted pottery.

"Scholars have found close similarities in prehistoric painted pottery between the Black Sea area and the upper reaches of the Yellow River," said Li Xinwei, a researcher with the Institute of Archaeology under the Chinese

Academy of Social Sciences.

Some archaeologists have even suggested the idea of "the painted pottery road," referring to a possible corridor of early cultural communication between China and the West, pre-dating the Silk Road.



Critical Project

Staff members work inside the Deqing Tunnel of the Guiyang-Nanning high-speed railway in Hechi, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on August 2. The 6.61-km-long tunnel was drilled through that day. It is a critical control project in the construction of the railway, connecting Guiyang in Guizhou Province and Nanning in Guangxi. The railway is expected to go into operation by the end of 2023.

Call for Cooperation

Chinese and U.S. regulators should enhance communication on the supervision of China concept stocks and work out proper solutions, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said on August 1.

These efforts, in the spirit of mutual respect and win-win cooperation, should help create positive expectations for policies and foster a sound institutional environment for the market, according to the CSRC.

A CSRC spokesperson made the remarks when commenting on the recent statement of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission requiring Chinese companies seeking U.S. listings to disclose more information.

The purpose of the ongoing regulation of certain industries by Chinese authorities is to ensure both development and security and promote the sustained development of

market entities, the spokesperson stressed.

The CSRC will keep in close touch with the relevant authorities when drafting regulations and step up coordination between investors, enterprises and regulators to further improve the transparency and predictability of policy measures, the spokesperson said, adding that China has always been open to enterprises' choice of listing places and supported firms in choosing both domestic and international markets in accordance with laws and regulations.

Top Firms

A total of 143 Chinese companies made it onto the *Fortune* Global 500 list this year, surpassing runner-up United States for the second consecutive year.

China had 133 firms on the list in 2020.

The State Grid Corp. of China (SGCC) moved up to the second

this year, ranking only behind U.S. retail giant Walmart.

China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), the country's largest oil and gas producer, and China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. (Sinopec Corp.), the country's largest oil refiner, grabbed the fourth and fifth place, respectively.

This year, the Chinese newcomers include more private companies, as well as those operating in the Internet, medicine and manufacturing industries. Their arrival demonstrates how the optimization of China's economic structure is in a virtuous cycle, and the country's high-quality development has taken solid steps forward, Pan Helin, an expert in economics at the Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, said.

Throughput Growth

Cargo and container throughput at China's ports registered robust

expansion in the first half (H1) of the year as the country strives to increase its shipping space and container supply, according to the Ministry of Transport.

The ports handled 7.64 billion tons of cargo, up 13.2 percent year on year, and an increase of 13.9 percent from the same period in 2019, Sun Wenjian, a spokesperson for the ministry, said.

The container throughput rose 15 percent year on year to 140 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the period, an expansion of 8.8 percent from the H1 in 2019, Sun said.

The Chinese Government has coordinated with container manufacturers to increase output. Currently, monthly production capacity has reached a record high of more than 500,000 TEUs.

In June, the shortage of empty containers in China's major ports stood at 1.4 percent, down 12.2 percentage points from the

NUMBERS

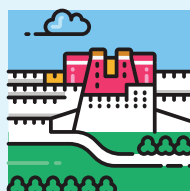
(\$1=6.5 yuan)

Tibet Autonomous Region's Economy in H1

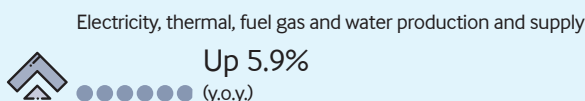
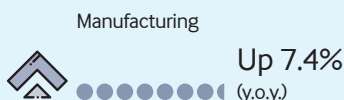
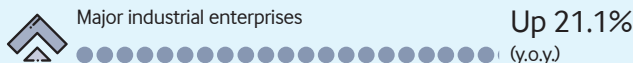
GDP



Average annual GDP growth for the past two years



Value-added output



beginning of the year, Sun said.

Sodium-Ion Battery

Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. (CATL), China's leading automotive lithium-ion battery maker, unveiled its first-generation sodium-ion battery on July 29.

The energy density of the battery can go up to 160 Wh/kg, and it can charge to 80 percent in 15 minutes at room temperature, Robin Zeng, Chairman of CATL, said at an online event.

The battery has the advantages of high-energy density, fast-charging, excellent thermal stability, great low-temperature performance and high-integration efficiency, Zeng said.

Huang Qisen, deputy head of CATL's research institute, said the battery performs well in energy storage and various transportation electrification scenarios, especially in regions

with extremely low temperatures.

Export Tariffs

Starting August 1, China raised export tariffs on ferrochrome and high-purity pig iron to 40 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Previous rates stood at 20 percent and 15 percent since May 1.

The decision is aimed at pushing forward industrial upgrading and high-quality development of the steel sector, according to a circular issued by the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council.

Export tax rebates on 23 types of steel products were also scrapped on August 1.

The specific execution time will depend on the export dates indicated in the declaration form for export goods, according to an online statement by the Ministry of Finance.

The moves come as China is intensifying efforts to transform its energy-consuming steel industry into one of greener and higher-quality growth. The country plans to cut the crude steel output to ensure it declines year on year in 2021.

In 2020, crude steel output rose by 5.2 percent year on year to exceed 1.05 billion tons, according to the China Iron and Steel Association.

ChiNext Milestone

The number of listed companies on the ChiNext stock market, China's Nasdaq-style board for growth enterprises, exceeded 1,000 on August 4.

The figure represents 22.55 percent of the total number of listed companies on China's A-share market.

The market value of listed companies on the ChiNext board has reached 13.55 trillion yuan (\$2.1 trillion), accounting

for 15.86 percent of the total of the A-share market, and second only to the Nasdaq.

The Shenzhen-based ChiNext was established in 2009 with 28 listed companies. Over the past decade, ChiNext has seen a rapid expansion of listings, especially in the scientific and technological sectors.

Auto Exports

Shanghai exported 206,000 motor vehicles in the first half of 2021, up 165 percent from the same period last year, Shanghai Customs said on August 3.

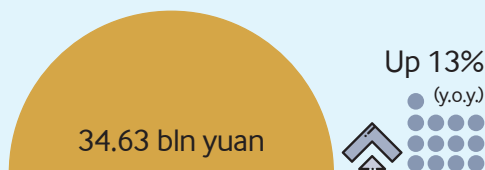
Total value reached 20.64 billion yuan (\$3.19 billion), an increase of 190 percent. Both the volume and value of the exported vehicles reached a record high.

Electric vehicle exports stood at 60,000 units, improving 750 percent year on year and accounting for 34.3 percent of the country's total.

Fixed assets investment

Down 1.6%
(y.o.y.)

Retail sales of consumer goods



Revenue of the catering industry

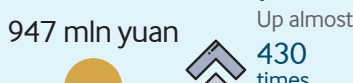


Foreign trade

1.98 bln yuan



Value of trade with Germany

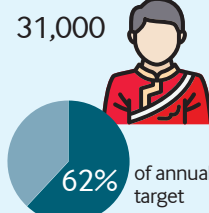


Up 140% (y.o.y.)

Per-capita disposable income



New urban jobs



(Source: Tibet Autonomous Regional Statistics Bureau)



POLAND

People commemorate the 1944 Warsaw Uprising in Warsaw on August 1. On that day 77 years ago, the Polish underground resistance began a major military operation to liberate Warsaw from Nazi occupation



CZECH REPUBLIC

Rescue personnel work at the collision site of two trains near the western village of Milavce on August 4. The crash killed at least three



IRAQ

Boxes containing the antiquities returned by the U.S. are seen at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baghdad on August 3. Iraq has reclaimed 17,000 looted artifacts, marking its largest ever repatriation



TANZANIA

A medical worker receives a COVID-19 vaccine in Dar es Salaam, as Tanzania rolled out a mass vaccination campaign on August 3



UNITED STATES

Mask-wearers on a street in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 3. Louisiana has reinstated a statewide indoor mask mandate as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continued to surge



EGYPT

People attend a ceremony hosted by Egypt's Suez Canal Authority in Ismailia Province on August 4 to celebrate the arrival of a cutter suction dredger

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ FIRST CHINESE IN OLYMPIC WOMEN'S 800M FINAL

Wang Chunyu became the first Chinese athlete to leap into the Olympic Women's 800m Final. She finished fifth and improved her personal best by more than 2 seconds with 1:57:00 at the Olympic Summer Games Tokyo 2020 on August 3.

Born in Anhui Province, the 26-year-old started her running career when she was 12. In 2017, she won the women's 800m at the 13th National Games in Tianjin. At the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2018, she won the Women's 800m Final and set the best score of that season.



"I did it, representing China's middle- and long-distance running, and even representing Asia in the women's 800m. I proved that the 'yellow race' is capable," Wang said.

Parental Leave

www.thepaper.cn
August 1

A company located in Shanghai announced that employees who have served the business over six months and have children under the age of 6 are entitled to three to five days of parental leave depending on their years of service. It also said the measure can be adjusted after municipal or national regulations on parental leave are issued.

Applauded by staff, it is seen as a means of pioneering support of the birth policy. Also, helping employees tackle

practical problems such as childcare can enhance company cohesion and create more profits.

The Chinese Government announced the three-child policy on May 31 to offset the effects of an aging society. It is also expected to be followed up by a comprehensive support system to build a fertility-friendly environment.

The new policy is not a method that only bolsters the fertility rate, but aims to meet people's needs and solve their problems in terms of childcare, education and other issues. That is the key to intensifying the people's desire for more children.



Facing Floods

Lifeweek
August 2

A heavy rainstorm slashed Zhengzhou in Henan Province on July 20. The city with a population of 12 million was badly hit.

In the past decade, tremendous development has taken place in Zhengzhou, the heart of China's railway network, including the

"Last year, China's digital economy made up for roughly 40 percent of its GDP, playing a leading role in the world economic recovery. In the next step, e-commerce negotiations in the WTO are very important."

Zhu Guangyao, former Vice Finance Minister of China, in an interview with CGTN on August 4

"Hong Kong has unrivaled connectivity with the mainland's financial markets and offers direct two-way access through stock and bond connect programs, as well as the future wealth management connect program."

Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, at an online forum on August 4, adding that Hong Kong's financial system has proven its resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic

upgrade of flood control construction. However, as is the case for many other cities, its flood control mechanism has not been elevated along with its urban progress.

The rare rainstorm in Zhengzhou forces governments at all levels and urban planners alike to evaluate the local disaster tolerance capability. It cannot create economic value, but can become a hazard to all when natural disaster strikes.

According to the meteorological department, Zhengzhou received a total of 617.1 mm of rainfall in the three days from July 17 to 20. However, the average annual rainfall of the city is 640.8 mm. Official data show that the torrential rains have affected nearly 12 million people in Henan, with almost 300 people perished in the disaster caused by the rainstorm.

In the face of torrential rain, it is not a water conservancy issue, but an urban management challenge.

"A city should have its own disaster recovery capability, which means a comprehensive mechanism including various plans and standards for different areas," Wan Yanfang, a professor with the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in central China, said.

Rebirth of Erke

Economic Daily
July 28

On July 21, Chinese sportswear company Erke announced it was donating 50 million yuan (\$7.71 million) worth of flood relief supplies and other aid to areas affected by the floods in Henan Province. The gesture impressed Chinese netizens as the brand has been keeping a low profile in recent years. As a result, its live-streaming channel the following day attracted over 2 million consumers—when it usually has less than 10,000 people.

The company, founded in 2000 and headquartered in Xiamen, Fujian Province,

has over 7,000 sales outlets across the world. However, it has experienced a decline in recent years, compared to other Chinese brands with legions of supporters.

While praising Erke's strong sense of social responsibility, netizens also called on the company to do more marketing to increase its sales. Some consumers say that shoes they bought decades ago still wear well now, reminding the company to maintain its quality despite having too many orders to handle now.

↓ POP STAR DETAINED ON SUSPICION OF RAPE

Popstar and actor **Kris Wu**, or Wu Yifan, one of China's most high-profile celebrities, has been detained on suspicion of rape.

According to a statement released by the police on July 31, the 30-year-old Chinese Canadian had been placed under detention after accusations of him drugging young women for sex.

Wu, born in Guangdong Province, immigrated to Canada with his mother at the age of 10. He moved to Seoul in 2008 to become a trainee of an entertainment company of the Republic of Korea. He first shot to fame as a member of the K-pop boy band EXO in 2012. After filing a lawsuit to terminate his contract to leave EXO in 2014, he launched a successful solo career in China as a singer, model and actor.

Further investigation is underway.



"China hopes that all parties will uphold a scientific, fair and objective position, oppose the attempts to politicize the virus origin-tracing and work together to prevent future risks as well as maintain global public health security."

Wang Yi, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister, at the foreign ministers' meeting of ASEAN-China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on August 3

"No good outcome can arise from conflict. It's vital for the U.S. and China to strive to engage each other to head off a clash, which would be disastrous for both sides and the world."

Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, at the 2021 Aspen Security Forum via video link on August 3



Two members of a GYLD delegation pose in front of the Forest of Stone Steles Museum in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, in June