

FEATURES: XI TRAVELS TO CENTRAL ASIA P.30 | FEATURES: FRAMES OF CHINA'S EVOLUTION P.44

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## BRIDGING ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY

Green strategies spur growth and  
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Cover Photo: A road winds its way through a valley in Yichang, Hubei Province. The road was constructed over the water to protect the surrounding vegetation by avoiding tunneling (XINHUA)

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### North America Bureau (New York City)

**Chief:** Yu Shujun  
**Executive Assistant:** Zhao Wei  
**Tel/Fax:** 1-201-792-0334  
**E-mail:** yushujun@cicgamericas.com

### Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)

**Chief:** Miao Ye  
**Tel:** 52-55-55127271  
**Fax:** 52-55-55332027  
**E-mail:** chinahoymx@gmail.com  
**Peru Office (Lima)**  
**Chief:** Meng Kexin  
**Tel:** 0051-959212702  
**E-mail:** revistachinaperu@gmail.com

### General Editorial Office

**Tel:** 86-10-68996252  
**Fax:** 86-10-68326628

### Editorial Desk

**Tel:** 86-10-68996250

### Partnerships

**Tel:** 86-10-68995807  
**E-mail:** yecong@cicgamericas.com

### Distribution

**Tel:** 86-10-68310644  
**E-mail:** circulation@cicgamericas.com

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**E-mail:** fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn  
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## An Eco-Friendly Economy

In February 2019, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that the Earth had become considerably greener, with China and India being the primary contributors to this vegetation growth.

This greening was mainly attributed to tree-planting programs in China and intensive agricultural activities in both countries. According to NASA satellite data, China alone was responsible for 25 percent of the global net increase in leaf area from 2000 to 2017.

In late 2020, less than two years after NASA's announcement, China announced it had eradicated absolute poverty. This feat demonstrated that ecological restoration and economic development can be achieved in tandem. Ecological conservation, promoted as part of the country's targeted poverty alleviation campaign, played a big part in this success by helping farmers increase their incomes through sustainable practices.

Economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. Instead, protecting the environment is an important path to economic development, and new technologies and resources generated by economic development can further enhance environmental governance.

President Xi Jinping reportedly first

came up with the "green is gold" concept in 2005, when he was secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, to illustrate the idea that ecological health is as valuable as economic wealth. During a study tour to a village in Zhejiang, he learned that the area had shut down mines that damaged the environment and switched to tourism as a new growth driver.

But tourism is only part of the story. Integration of the environment with the economy has created huge profitable industries, like the new-energy sector. This is evidenced by the emergence of China's "new three"—electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products, outshining the "old three" categories of clothing, furniture and household appliances. In 2023, exports of the "new three" amounted to 1.06 trillion yuan (\$147 billion), recording a year-on-year increase of 29.9 percent.

As its eco-friendly products go global, China is keen to share its concept of mutually supportive environmental and economic development internationally. It's doing so not only as a form of assistance to countries grappling with similar issues, but also to use the concept itself as a platform to strengthen cooperation, build ties and create a synergy to make the world a better place to live in. **BR**



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地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037

编委会：李雅芳 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 于淑均 曾文卉

主任：李雅芳

总编室电话：(010) 68996252 发行部电话：(010) 68310644

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# SEALING SUCCESS

Emergency workers seal a dike breach at Dongting Lake, China's second-largest freshwater lake, in Yueyang, Hunan Province, on July 8. They successfully sealed the 226-meter breach in the dike at 10:31 p.m. that same day, local authorities confirmed.

The breach, caused by floodwaters from recent torrential rains, had led to the evacuation of at least 7,000 residents since it occurred on the afternoon of July 5.

The sealing will facilitate the drainage of floodwaters and accelerate post-disaster reconstruction efforts. It also reduces pressure on a secondary defense line, a 14.3-km embankment located approximately 2 km behind the original dike.



## A Journey Through Time

Teenagers from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region visit the Imperial Examination Museum of China in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, on July 10. That same day, nearly 100 teenagers from Hong Kong also visited the bank of the Qinhuai River, beginning their study tour in Nanjing with a focus on history and culture.

## Gateway Exchanges

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) on July 10 issued licenses to the nation's three major telecom operators to set up international communications gateway exchanges in four cities.

China Telecom, China Mobile and China Unicom have been approved to set up the gateway exchanges in the cities of Nanning in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Qingdao in Shandong Province, Kunming in Yunnan Province and Haikou in Hainan Province, according to a statement from the ministry.

The gateway exchanges that connect to the global network are an important information infrastructure for China's international communications, the MIIT said.

According to the country's

telecommunication regulations, the provision of an international communications service within the territory of the People's Republic of China shall only be done through such gateway exchanges established with the approval of information industry authorities.

Minister of Industry and Information Technology Jin Zhuanglong said that the establishment of these exchanges will support the further opening up of China's telecom services, cross-border data flows and the development of international digital trade.

## Preventing Birth Defects

China has consistently worked to safeguard the health of newborns, leading to a significant

decrease in infant and child mortality attributed to birth defects.

Given the varied disease types and complex pathogenesis associated with birth defects, early prevention and treatment are vital to mitigating risks from the outset.

China has seen expanded coverage of medical screening for birth defects, with incidences of pre-pregnancy checks and pregnancy screenings reaching 96.9 percent and 91.3 percent, respectively, nationwide, the National Health Commission (NHC) stated in the run-up to World Population Day on July 11.

Earlier data from the NHC showed that the infant mortality rate and the death rate for children aged under 5 caused by birth defects have both declined by more than 30 percent over

the past five years.

In 2023, the general mortality rate among the two groups came down to 4.5 per 1,000 and 6.2 per 1,000, respectively, indicating improvement in newborn health, according to the NHC.

Efforts have also been made to ensure early detection and treatment for newborns with birth defects, including the promotion of screening services for phenylketonuria, an inherited metabolic disease that can lead to growth retardation. The services are now available for all newborns nationwide.

## Extraterritorial Law

The Supreme People's Court (SPC), China's top court, on July 10 released five typical cases to specify rules for ascertaining and applying extraterritorial laws in handling foreign-related civil and commercial cases, with the aim of further optimizing the country's legal and business environment.

These typical cases were released after the SPC issued a series of judicial interpretations at the end of 2023, which outlined provisions on the ascertainment of foreign laws. These cases served to ensure a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the interpretations.

The cases involve common types of civil and commercial cases with foreign elements and encompass the laws of countries and regions such as the United States, the UK, Mexico and Tajikistan.

Through these cases, it has been made clear that people's courts are responsible for ascertaining extraterritorial laws if and when necessary.

For instance, in a contract dispute case, the parties disagreed about the content, interpretation and application of extraterritorial laws. The court did not simply conclude that the foreign laws

could not be ascertained based on this alone. Instead, it conducted a comprehensive analysis and careful comparison to make a cautious ascertainment of the extraterritorial laws.

In the typical cases released, diverse and comprehensive approaches were utilized to ascertain foreign laws, ensuring the parties' right to fully express their opinions and improving the efficiency and accuracy of ascertaining foreign laws, according to the SPC.

## Environmental Report

According to a report released on July 10, China's Huangyan Dao area in the South China Sea enjoys excellent environmental quality and a healthy coral reef ecosystem.

The Investigation and Assessment Report on Marine Ecology and Environment Status of Huangyan Dao was jointly released by multiple institutions under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Guangxi University.

The findings the report present are based on an on-site investigation conducted in May and June on different aspects of the marine ecology and environ-

ment in the Huangyan Dao area, including seawater quality, coral communities and reef dwelling fish, as well as the comprehensive analysis and assessment utilizing previous scientific expeditions, research outcomes and satellite remote sensing survey results of the area.

## Genome Editing Guidelines

China's Ministry of Science and Technology has published ethical guidelines to regulate human genome editing research and promote its healthy development, Xinhua News Agency reported on July 9.

Human genome editing research should follow the principles of promoting human wellbeing, respecting individuals, maintaining prudence and responsibility, ensuring fairness and justice, and being open and transparent, according to the guidelines.

"The use of human genome editing technology in research must be carefully assessed, taking into full consideration its scientific and social value, as well as potential risks," said the guidelines, formulated by the medical ethics subcommittee of the national science and technol-



## Chilling Indoors

Visitors have fun at an indoor ice and snow theme park in Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, on July 6. The facility features nine themed areas showcasing lifelike ice sculptures illuminated by colorful lighting. The park complements Harbin Ice-Snow World, a landmark outdoor ice and snow theme park covering 810,000 square meters, transforming the city into an all-season resort destination.

ogy ethics committee.

In clinical research, particularly, it is necessary to fully evaluate and address the severity of the disease and potential risks to strike a balance between action and precaution, according to the guidelines.

Regarding human genome editing research on germ cells, fertilized eggs or embryos, it is strictly prohibited to use edited germ cells, fertilized eggs, or embryos for pregnancy and reproduction, the guidelines stated.

The guidelines have also

outlined general requirements for human genome editing research, which include having reasonable objectives, protecting research participants, possessing the relevant qualifications and conditions, and obtaining informed consent.

Special requirements have been outlined for managing left-over samples and the conditions for using somatic cell genome editing strategies at different stages of research, namely, basic research, preclinical research, and clinical research.



## Dunes of Excitement

Runners compete in the sixth National Desert Fitness Games at the Shapotou scenic spot in Zhongwei, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on July 7. The games were held from July 6 to 8, attracting more than 1,000 participants.

## IP Protection

China has seen an increase in patents and trademarks granted to applicants from overseas, according to the latest data released by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA).

The number of effective invention patents owned by foreign applicants in China exceeded 900,000 last year, an increase of nearly 5 percent year on year. The trademark sector has also witnessed growth, with the number of valid trademark registrations by foreign applicants in China surpassing 2.1 million, marking a year-on-year increase of 3.4 percent.

This growth indicates the confidence of foreign enterprises in China's intellectual property (IP) protection, Shen Changyu, head of the CNIPA, said during a symposium in early July. Representatives of 11 foreign-funded enterprises, including AstraZeneca, Ford

Motor, LEGO and Tesla, attended the symposium.

Noting that strict IP protection is a major point of concern for many foreign companies, Shen said China remains committed to providing equal IP protection for both domestic and foreign enterprises.

## Passenger Car Exports

China's exports of passenger vehicles hit 378,000 units in June, marking a 28-percent year-on-year increase and staying flat compared to the previous month, the latest data showed.

With the South American automotive market recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, exports of Chinese-brand cars hit 325,000 units in June, up 31 percent year on year, while the exports of luxury vehicles and cars made by Chinese and foreign-invested joint ventures reached 54,000 units, up 12 percent year on year, according

to data released by the China Passenger Car Association on July 8.

That same month, exports of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) from China stood at 80,000 units, up 12.3 percent year on year. In the first half of this year, NEV exports reached 586,000 units, up 21.2 percent year on year, the data showed.

The term NEVs refers to vehicles partially or fully powered by electricity, such as battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

Data from the association, covering all domestic passenger car manufacturers, also showed that in the first half of this year, retail sales of passenger cars surpassed 9.84 million units, up 3.3 percent year on year.

The association projects that passenger car consumption will continue to rise due to the increasing popularity of privately owned vehicles and the rapid growth of the electric

vehicle model.

The enthusiasm among car owners for NEVs, coupled with government incentives encouraging consumers to replace outdated vehicles with new ones, will continue to accelerate demand for cars, according to the association.

## New Airbus Aircraft

European aircraft manufacturer Airbus on July 8 delivered its 700th A320 family aircraft assembled at its A320 Family Final Assembly Line Asia (FALA) in Tianjin Municipality.

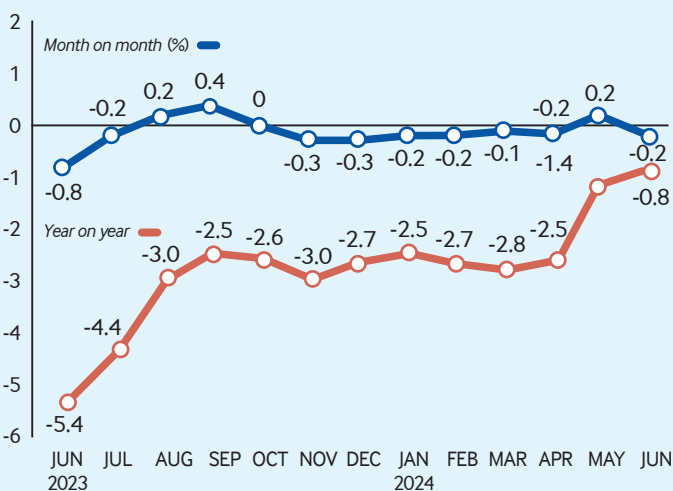
"This figure highlights the long-standing and in-depth cooperation between Airbus and the Chinese aviation industry," said George Xu, Executive Vice President of Airbus and CEO of Airbus China.

"Airbus remains dedicated to strengthening strategic collaboration with China and fulfilling our long-term commitment to this thriving market," Xu added.

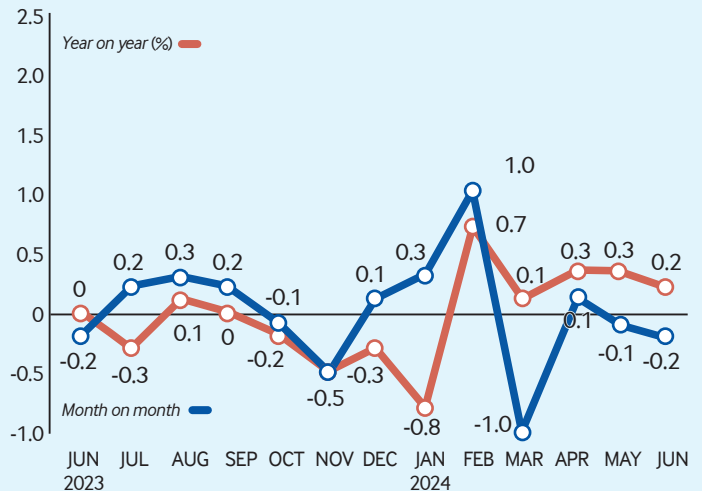
The aircraft, an A320neo, featuring 180 comfortable economy

## NUMBERS

China's Producer Price Index (PPI) Growth



China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth





class seats, was handed over to Chengdu Airlines.

Inaugurated in 2008, the FALA in Tianjin is the first Airbus production line established outside Europe.

## Tesla's Latest Move

Several state-owned enterprises in Shanghai's pilot free trade zone have recently added a batch of Tesla Model Y vehicles to their fleets for corporate use. This move marks Tesla's entry into China's government procurement arena, local authorities said.

According to the administration of Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, the move also demonstrates Lin-gang's commitment to treating domestic and foreign enterprises equally in government procurement activities.

It further highlights Lin-gang's ongoing efforts to enhance the area's business environment and expand openness, an official with the administration said.

In June, announcements on

the government procurement website of neighboring Jiangsu Province, a major economic powerhouse, confirmed Tesla's entry into the province's NEV procurement catalog.

According to an official report on automotive data security compliance released in April, Tesla was the sole foreign automaker among six companies that had met the specified criteria.

"Tesla's inclusion in multiple government procurement catalogs shows China's equal treatment of domestic and foreign enterprises. An open Chinese market will create more opportunities for international businesses," said Sun Yuanxin, an expert with the Collaborative Innovation Center of China Pilot Free Trade Zone at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

## Forex Reserves

China's foreign exchange (forex) reserves stood at \$3.22 trillion at the end of June, official data

showed on July 7.

The amount shrank by 0.3 percent compared with the previous month, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said, attributing the decrease to the combined impact of currency translation and asset price changes.

Affected by factors such as the monetary policies of major economies, market expectations and macroeconomic data, the U.S. dollar index and global financial asset prices climbed in June, the SAFE explained.

The Chinese economy has sustained recovery momentum and continued high-quality development. This is conducive to maintaining the stable scale of the country's forex reserves, the regulator said.

According to data released on July 7 by the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, China's gold reserves remained unchanged in June at 72.8 million ounces, equivalent to about \$169.7 billion.

## Service Trade

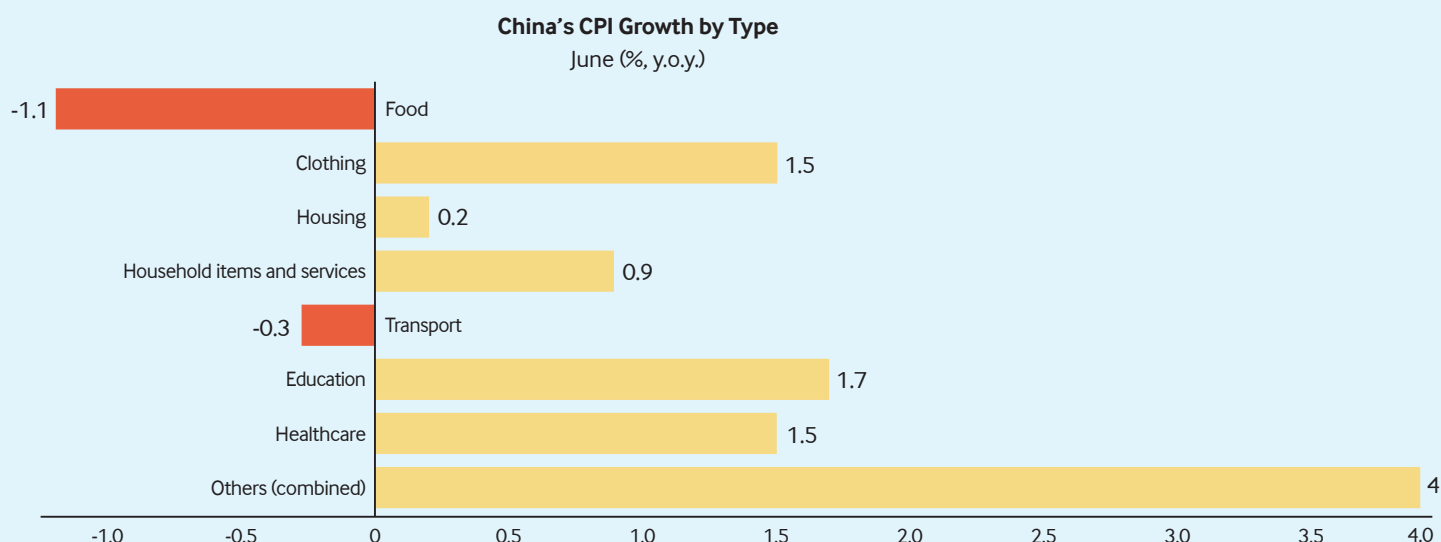
China's service trade continued to experience rapid growth in the first five months of 2024, with value up 16 percent year on year and stellar growth in travel services, the Ministry of Commerce said on July 4.

The total value of service imports and exports reached 3.02 trillion yuan (\$415.1 billion).

Exports amounted to about 1.22 trillion yuan (\$167.7 billion), up 11 percent, while imports stood at 1.8 trillion yuan (\$247.4 billion), with a robust growth of 19.6 percent. This resulted in a service trade deficit of about 580 billion yuan (\$79.7 billion).

Maintaining a high growth rate, travel services imports and exports totaled 819.72 billion yuan (\$112.7 billion), a 48.4-percent increase, making it the largest sector in service trade.

Knowledge-intensive service trade continued to expand, with 1.19 trillion yuan (\$163.6 billion) in imports and exports, a 6-percent increase.



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

# THIS WEEK **WORLD**



## UNITED STATES

Workers clear debris from a highway in Houston, Texas, after Hurricane Beryl tore through the area on July 9. The hurricane resulted in eight fatalities in the states of Texas and Louisiana



## BRAZIL

Firefighters attempt to contain a blaze along the Paraguay River in the Pantanal, Corumbá, Mato Grosso do Sul, on July 7



## INDONESIA

Rescue workers search for survivors after landslides hit Tulabolo Village in Bone Bolango Regency, Gorontalo Province, on July 10. As of July 11, the disaster had claimed the lives of 23 people





## FRANCE

Rodolphe Delord (right), General Director of the Beauval Zoo, and renowned French seafarer Maud Fontenoy pose for photos with twin giant pandas Huan Lili and Yuan Dudu in the background during the Paris 2024 Olympic torch relay at the Beauval Zoo in Saint-Aignan on July 8



## UNITED KINGDOM

Keir Starmer delivers his first speech as prime minister in front of 10 Downing Street in London on July 5, after leading the Labor Party to a landslide victory in the country's general election



## ZIMBABWE

Students from China's Tsinghua University hold up their calligraphy works at the first Harare Forum for Africa and Academic Week in Harare on July 8



# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## NEW AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA

**Wang Wenbin**, the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia, arrived in Phnom Penh on July 5 to assume office.

Before becoming China's ambassador-designate to Cambodia in June, Wang served as the 32nd spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry from July 2020 to May this year.

In his message to reporters upon his arrival in Cambodia, Wang expressed his delight at becoming China's 18th ambassador to Cambodia, reflecting on the historical ties between the two nations. He expressed optimism about further strengthening the relationship between the two countries during his tenure.



The 53-year-old has worked in the diplomatic service for some 30 years, mainly engaged in policy planning and affairs of African countries. He served as the Chinese ambassador to Tunisia from 2018 to 2020.

## Safeguarding Meal Subsidies

**China Youth Daily**  
July 3

Between 2021 and 2023, 66 counties in China misappropriated 1.95 billion yuan (\$268 million) of school meal subsidies for rural children for other purposes, an audit report from the State Council, China's highest state administrative organ, released on June 25 found. The report also shows that some school canteens in the regions surveyed have colluded with suppliers, many of which were hired through bid rigging and other fraudulent practices, to provide substandard meals.

China first launched the meal subsidy

program in 2011 to boost nutritional standards for rural students, many of whom are minors whose parents have migrated to big cities for work and therefore cannot take care of their daily meals.

To ensure that the program is followed through, China issued a plan in 2022 on improving the nutritional status of students in rural areas. This plan stipulates the monitoring of the money flow within the program.

However, it is very hard to detect if there has been an actual misuse of the meal subsidies. To stamp out this type of abuse, authorities should formulate more detailed penalties for counties and individuals misappropriating these funds and thinking they can get away with it.



## Participatory Progress

**Lifeweek**  
July 8

Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, foreign-invested firms, which account for less than 3 percent of enterprises in China, have contributed one 10th of urban employment, one fifth of tax revenue, one fourth of industrial output and nearly a half of total imports and exports.

Upon first entry into China, foreign capital mostly concentrated in

“The combination of musical styles from China and the U.S. strongly communicates our bond. I feel that many people would be greatly inspired by this, since music speaks to the soul.”

**Romain Olivier Gray**, a cellist at the Curtis Institute of Music in the U.S., as he and his schoolmates and alumni performed at the Bond with Kuliang: 2024 China-U.S. Youth Festival evening gala in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, in late June

“Artificial intelligence (AI)'s threat to humanity still comes from humans themselves. AI is not designed to mimic humans, nor to replace them. It has its own future, which is diverse and open.”

**Gao Shiming**, President of the China Academy of Art, at The Two AIs: Artificial Intelligence and Artistic Intelligence forum hosted by the academy on July 6

the eastern coastal regions. As the market expanded, it gradually spread into China's vast inland, participating in nearly every aspect of the country's economic development. These multinational corporations have not only fostered the rapid evolution of China's consumer scene but also brought high technology and advanced management strategies into the country.

The introduction of these technologies and expertise has stimulated the growth of China's domestic industries and facilitated the rise of a host of Chinese brands. A classic example is that of Starbucks, which opened its first coffee store on the Chinese mainland in 1999. The following two decades saw the coffee giant build up a supply chain stretching from coffee bean cultivation to roasting and retail. Its continued investment in training and infrastructure has also nurtured the rise of a bevy of domestic brands, the most famous of which is Luckin Coffee, China's largest coffee chain.

With China's continuous economic rise, foreign investment and domestic enterprises have forged a mutually beneficial connection that is reshaping the world in profound ways.

## The Business of Love

Gmw.cn

July 8

As more single young Chinese turn to social media to find love, a new profession called "dating analyst" is surging in popularity on Chinese livestream platforms. These self-styled dating gurus offer livestreamed tutorials and consultations in which they try to help netizens work out what their matches are trying to hide.

These videos often follow a similar format: A dating expert sits in front of a whiteboard and breaks down dating profiles as if they are math problems. If a match didn't mention his or her weight, it

means that the person is probably obese. A match's stated height minus five is usually his or her real height.

The rise of this new profession is part of a much longer tradition in China, where there is a massive and ever-expanding matchmaking market. Besides livestreamed shows that help subscribers screen dating profiles, the industry also offers online classes that teach dating skills as well as all kinds of dating tours and singles' parties.

While matchmaking is a highly efficient way of building relationships in a fast-paced world, people should refrain from overly relying on dating analysts and treating a romantic relationship as something that can be quantified and measured.

## ↓ SCIENTIST RECEIVES TOP PHYSICS AWARD

Chinese radio astronomer **Li Di** on July 9 was awarded the Marcel Grossmann Award, one of the most prestigious international awards in physics, for his research in the field of fast radio bursts (FRBs), pulses of radio waves through space that are yet to be fully understood.

Li is the chief scientist of the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope in Guizhou Province, and the first Chinese scientist to receive this prize for achievements accomplished in China.

Li was awarded for his groundbreaking contributions to the scientific capabilities of the world's most sensitive radio telescope, including precise measurements of interstellar magnetic fields and advancing the study of FRBs to a high statistical significance.

The Marcel Grossmann Award, named after a Swiss mathematician, was established in 1985 and is presented every three years.



“Learning the Chinese language is significant because of the impact it has on trade and commerce. China is a global player. You have to deal with China in trade, commerce, education, medicine and technology.”

**Malizgani Nyirongo**, a distinguished language expert and historian in Zambia, commenting on the fact that more institutes in the Southern African country are offering Chinese courses in a recent interview with newspaper

*China Daily*

“In ancient Egypt, the cat goddess Bastet was regarded as a symbol of protection and spirituality, and the worship of Bastet by Egyptians went beyond the boundaries of time and space, which coincides with the Chinese people's love for cats today.”

**Chu Xiaobo**, Curator of the Shanghai Museum, as the museum announced it will allow visitors to bring pet cats to an Egyptian antiquities exhibition, scheduled to begin on July 18



A wetland park in the center of Hanzhong City, Shaanxi Province, on June 24

**COVER STORY**

# GREEN INNOVATIONS, GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Advancing technology and agricultural transformation in Shaanxi Province

By Zhang Yage