

OPINION: REMEMBERING KISSINGER P.18

FEATURES: TRADITIONAL TULOU TOURISM P.40

# BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.66 NO.49 DECEMBER 7, 2023

北方周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



## ROOTING FOR FENGQIAO

Communities embrace local mediation

RMB6.00  
 USD1.70  
 AUD3.00  
 GBP1.20  
 CAD2.60  
 CHF2.60  
 JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914239

邮发代号2-922·国内统一连续号: CN11-1576/G2

Follow

# CICG Americas

And get in on the conversation



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



@BeijingReview



China Hoy



China Hoje



# CONTENTS

**EDITOR'S DESK**  
02 Model for Mediation

**THIS WEEK**

**COVER STORY**  
12 **Tried and True**  
The mission to mediate civil disputes

**OPINION**  
18 **The Legend, the Legacy**  
Paying tribute to an “old friend,” Dr. Henry Kissinger

**Cover Photo:** Residents shake hands after their dispute was resolved at a mediation center in Zaozhuang, Shandong Province, on November 23 (VCG)

©2023 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.

**20 Position Paper of the People's Republic of China on Resolving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict**

**21 Every Leaf on Every Branch**  
China's vision for human rights

**22 Building Friendship**  
Bahamian ambassador on the future with China

**23 Waiver to Wave?**  
China expands visa-free travel policy

**24 A More Open Clearing Market**  
Mastercard approved for clearing business in China

## FEATURES

**26 Developing a Dialogue**  
Top diplomats meet to revive regional cooperation

**28 Tightening the Bond**  
Partnership building with Mexico

**30 Linking Up**  
Inaugural supply chain expo fosters global collaboration

**34 The New Dawn of Black Friday**  
The evolution of an annual shopping spree

**36 The Vertical Revolution**  
The growing popularity of micro-series

**38 Calling All Curious Minds**  
Pineapple Award honors “weird science”

**40 Circles of Life**  
The *tulou*, from fort-like housing to tourist attraction

**42 Fiery Flavors**  
Sichuan cuisine gets healthy and goes global

## CULTURE

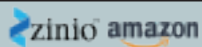
**46 How Life Went on 7,000 Years Ago**  
A cradle of civilization on show in Beijing

## EXPAT'S EYE

**48 Hidden Talents**  
Reviewing restaurants in Shenyang



www.bjreview.com



Follow us on



YouTube

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader







## BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine  
Published Since 1958

**President:** Li Yafang  
**Editor in Chief:** Li Jianguo  
**Associate Editor in Chief:** Liu Yunyun  
**Associate President:** Gao Dingbo

**Executive Editor:** Yan Wei  
**Production Director:** Yao Bin  
**Editor:** Wang Hairong  
**Researcher:** Lan Xinzhen  
**Editorial Consultants:** Elsbeth van Paridon, G.P. Wilson  
**Reporters:** Ji Jing, Kang Caiqi, Li Qing, Li Wenhan, Li Xiaoyang, Liang Xiao, Lu Yan, Ma Miaomiao, Pan Xiaojiao, Peng Jiawei, Tao Xing, Tao Zihui, Wang Jun, Wang Ruohan, Yuan Yuan, Zhang Shasha, Zhang Yage  
**Visual Director:** Pamela Tobey  
**Photographer:** Wei Yao  
**Art:** Li Shigong  
**Design Director:** Wang Yajuan  
**Chief Designer:** Cui Xiaodong  
**Designer and proofreader:** Zhao Boyu

**Editorial Administrator:** Zeng Wenhui  
**Planning Director:** Xu Bei  
**Deputy Planning Director:** Li Nan  
**World News Director:** Ding Ying  
**World News Deputy Director:** Li Fangfang  
**Director of Digital Media:** Yu Shujun  
**Director of Strategic Research:** Zan Jifang  
**Deputy Director of Strategic Research:** Lu Ling

**Administration:** Zhang Yajie  
**International Cooperation:** Sun Xuan  
**Legal Counsel:** Yue Cheng

### 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:** Lin Yeqing  
**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

Published every Thursday by

CICG Center for Americas, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,  
Beijing 100037, China

**Overseas Distributor:** China International Book Trading  
Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,  
Beijing 100044, China

**Tel:** 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)

**Fax:** 86-10-68412166

**E-mail:** fb@mail.cibtc.com.cn

**Website:** <http://www.cibtc.com>

### General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:

Peace Book Co. Ltd.

17/FI, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK

**Tel:** 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

*Beijing Review* (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is published weekly in the United States for US\$6.400 per year by Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080 News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*, Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080

## Model for Mediation

A best practice first recognized decades ago is being increasingly revisited to advance social governance in China. Over the past decade, President Xi Jinping has reiterated the importance of adhering to and developing the Fengqiao model, a dispute mediation strategy created in Fengqiao, a town in Zhuji City, Zhejiang Province.

In the 1960s, officials and residents in Fengqiao explored ways of resolving disagreements within the town rather than escalating them to higher-level authorities. At that time, the People's Republic of China had been in existence for only around 10 years and the legal system was still in the early stages of development. In order to decrease conflict and better maintain social stability, communities in Fengqiao began persuading those involved in disputes to solve them at the source through mediation. In 1963, Chairman Mao Zedong commended this strategy, calling on local governments across China to learn from it.

In many countries, third-party dispute settlement processes exist at the community level outside the judicial system. The Fengqiao model in China is similar to them. In many cases, courts provide the most fair

and just method of conflict resolution, but in reality, many conflicts can be solved before judiciary authorities need to make a formal verdict. With a population of 1.4 billion, China would inevitably be overwhelmed if all matters were settled through lawsuits. This is partly the reason why the Fengqiao model has retained its relevance and become so widely practiced.

President Xi has endorsed this model as it plays a pivotal role in China's social governance. As China continues to grow, new sources of discord are likely to crop up. By staying true to the principles enshrined in the Fengqiao model, the country can ensure these issues are addressed in a way that is conducive to social cohesion and justice.

In recent years, new types of mediation organizations have been emerging in China, including centers specifically set up to mediate disputes regarding online transactions. These can be regarded as the digitalization of the Fengqiao model. Given the complexity of balancing conflicting interests in the wake of seismic economic shifts and technological advances, working with all parties to find a mutually acceptable solution is the way forward. **BR**



### WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: [editorsoffice@cicgamericas.com](mailto:editorsoffice@cicgamericas.com)

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

CHINA.....RMB6.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70  
AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20  
CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60  
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90  
TÜRKIYE.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位：中国外文出版发行事业局

主办单位：中国外文局美洲传播中心（北京周报社）

地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037

编委会：李雅芳 李建国 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 曾文卉

主任：李雅芳

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

印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2023年第49期 ISSN 1000-9140

国内统一连续出版物号：CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号：2-922

广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证733号

国内零售价：人民币6.00元



## SPILLING SECRETS

File photo shows a bracelet unearthed from the Liangzhu Ruins in Zhejiang Province, east China.

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage on November 29 unveiled new archaeological discoveries at the ruins of Liangzhu Ancient City and its water conservancy system.

The new findings offer a preliminary understanding of the three development phases of the Liangzhu Ruins, starting from scattered settlements, through the construction of a water conservancy system, to the establishment of Liangzhu Ancient City.

The Liangzhu Ruins, which have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, date back some 5,000 years.



## In the Fast Lane

Builders working on the Lingdingyang Bridge of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan link in Guangdong Province on November 27. The highway consists of one underwater tunnel, two bridges and two artificial islands, making it one of the most challenging cross-sea cluster projects in the world. It is scheduled for completion next year.

## Service Infrastructure

China will thoroughly evaluate and fine-tune service infrastructure in urban communities to meet people's urgent needs and improve any weak links for the sustainable development of cities.

The country plans to implement comprehensive checking for service facilities in communities of cities at or above the prefecture level starting from 2024, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

Efforts will be made to identify problems related to community facilities in senior and childcare services, as well as public and cultural activities. These problems will be recorded

on related information platforms and updated dynamically.

The ministry has guided the evaluation work in pilot cities since 2018. Under its guidance, 56,000 community service facilities in these fields, including senior and childcare services, have been added amid renovation of old urban residential areas.

## Bing Dwen Dwen Goes Zodiac

A Chinese zodiac dragon version of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 mascot Bing Dwen Dwen was unveiled at the National Stadium in Beijing on November 29.

The special version was designed to celebrate the second

anniversary of the Beijing 2022 Games and the upcoming Year of the Dragon in February 2024.

"The dragon represents the spirit of the Chinese nation and the best wishes for health and wellbeing, which echoes the solidarity emphasized by the Olympic family," Lin Cunzhen, a designer of the Bing Dwen Dwen dragon edition, said.

Licensed products of the new version, including toys, badges and key chains, hit the market on December 7.

"The international community expects to see the Olympic cultural heritage continue to shine worldwide. China has already made breakthroughs in revitalizing the Olympic mascot through the traditional Chinese zodiac and the Spring Festival,

China's biggest annual holiday," Lin added.

During the Beijing Winter 2022 Games, which coincided with the Chinese New Year in 2022, organizers released a special festival edition of Bing Dwen Dwen dressed in a costume featuring tiger elements to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

Following Hu—meaning tiger—Dwen Dwen, Tu Dwen Dwen was unveiled for the current Year of the Rabbit.

"After getting to know the concept of our design, people from other countries and regions can better understand Chinese culture. If possible, we hope to carry out all 12 Chinese zodiac versions of Bing Dwen Dwen to meet the expectations of the public," Lin said

## Rehabilitation Services

China has pledged an initiative to establish a network of rehabilitation service centers across the country for people with disabilities, aiming to enhance support for this group.

According to a plan issued by the China Disabled Persons' Federation, in 2024, every provincial-level region must set up at least one service center for each category of people with disabilities. The initiative is set to expand further in 2025, with more rehabilitation service centers established nationwide.

The service centers will focus on offering different types of assistance, including training in rehabilitation knowledge and skills as well as providing psychological counseling, for individuals with visual, auditory, physical, intellectual and mental disabilities, the plan read.

The initiative will be conducive to fostering confidence and independence among disabled people, according to the plan.



## Railway Services

China will provide foreign travelers with more convenient railway services, including easier online ticket purchases and self-service check-in, according to China State Railway Group Co. Ltd.

Railway authorities launched an online identity verification service for foreign passport holders on November 28. Previously, foreign passengers buying tickets on 12306.cn, China's official railway ticket-booking website, had to take their passport to the railway station counters to verify identity information.

The move comes after the country decided to issue a new version of the Foreign Permanent Resident ID card starting from November 24. Holders of the new card will enjoy the same railway self-service and online services as Chinese citizens, the company said.

## New Campuses

The first group of Beijing-based universities began construction of their respective campuses in the Xiongan New Area in neighboring Hebei Province on November 28.

The four universities, namely Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing University of Science and

Technology, Beijing Forestry University and China University of Geosciences (Beijing), are all directly under the Ministry of Education.

The Xiongan campuses are expected to contribute to Xiongan New Area's role as a thriving hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in the new era.

China announced plans in April 2017 to establish the Xiongan New Area, which is located about 100 km from Beijing.

It was designed as a major recipient of functions relieved from Beijing that are not essential to its role as China's capital, and to explore a new model of development in densely populated areas.

## Cyber Violence

China's Ministry of Public Security on November 28 made public several typical criminal cases involving cyber violence against the backdrop of frequent occurrence of such cases in recent years.

In one such case, an offender surnamed Zhang, while on probation, illegally obtained the victim's private information through locators and wiretaps, hired online spammers to distribute the victim's intimate videos and photos, and forged letters of complaint to the victim's



## Happy Bearversary!

Visitors watch giant panda Gonggong at the Hainan Tropical Wildlife Park and Botanical Garden in Haikou, Hainan Province, on November 25. A ceremony took place that same day to mark the fifth anniversary of giant pandas Gonggong and Shunshun arriving at the island from Sichuan Province.

employer in an attempt to continue manipulating the victim, causing the victim to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Zhang was sentenced to six years in prison for misuse of personal information, causing disturbance and intentional assault, the ministry said.

In another case, a number of suspects were hired to unleash cyber violence on underage victims through various means, such as spam phone calls, using the victims' names to apply for

organ donations, and sending the victims funeral wreaths and incense, causing the victims to fall into depression and even contemplate suicide.

Cyber security departments of public security organs nationwide will continue to take strong measures against acts of cyber violence and strengthen cooperation with other departments to eliminate the breeding grounds for cyber violence and ensure a clean cyberspace, the ministry said.



## Teaching Tradition

A teacher shows young girls how to draw blue and white porcelain patterns on paper plates at a kindergarten in Jinan, Shandong Province, on November 29. The kindergarten has set up workshops to teach children traditional Chinese culture.

## Tax and Fee Relief

As part of measures to support the development of businesses and bolster the real economy this year, newly implemented measures led to tax refunds, tax and fee cuts and deferrals amounting to 1.66 trillion yuan (\$232.9 billion) in the first 10 months of 2023, according to the State Taxation Administration (STA) on November 27.

Taxpayers in the private sector became the primary beneficiaries of the country's tax and fee relief measures, the STA said.

Nearly 1.24 trillion yuan (\$174 billion) in tax and fee payments were rebated, deducted or deferred for private enterprises during the period, accounting for nearly 75 percent of the total.

Among all sectors, the manufacturing and related wholesale and retail industries benefited the most from the support, the data showed.

## Digital Trade Expo

Deals on 32 projects with a total value of over 155.8 billion yuan (\$21.9 billion) were reached by leading enterprises in the sector at the Second Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China, according to the provincial department of commerce.

Themed Digital Trade, Global Access, the expo, running from November 23 to 27, attracted 68 international organizations and business associations, as well as over 800 enterprises. Finland and South Africa were invited as guest countries of honor.

Hot topics such as cross-border data flow, digital finance and digital security governance were discussed during the five-day event. More than 100 activities took place at the expo, as well as the debuts of over 100 cutting-edge products and services in digital trade.

The Third Global Digital Trade Expo will take place from

September 25 to 29 in 2024. The expo is set to unfold in Hangzhou once a year during the last week of September from then on.

## New REITs

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the country's top securities regulator, has approved three applications for the country's first publicly traded consumption-related Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

REITs products are financial tools to pool capital for the development of real estate projects. China kicked off a public REITs pilot program in infrastructure in 2020.

Two of the three REITs applications were submitted by China Asset Management Co. Ltd., one of the largest asset managers in the country. The third application was submitted by the CICC Fund, a fund management company that provides financial services to domestic and foreign institutions

as well as individual customers, according to the CSRC.

In March, the commission unveiled new measures to foster the issuance of REITs products, saying China will develop REITs for consumption infrastructure that can create improved conditions and scenarios for consumers.

REITs have been a popular asset class for investment in major economies for some time. Experts believe that REITs in the world's second largest economy have immense potential for investors, as infrastructure spending is a key pillar of China's growth.

## Industrial Profits

China's major industrial firms saw their combined profits increase for a third straight month in October, official data showed on November 27.

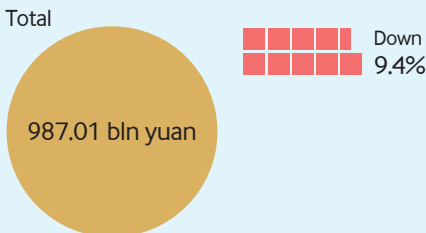
The profits of major industrial firms with an annual main business revenue of at least 20

# NUMBERS

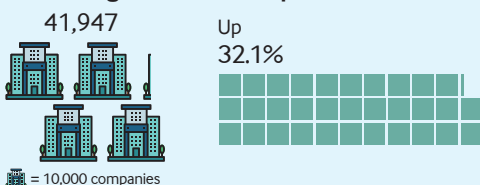
## Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in January-October

(All growth rates are y.o.y.)

### Paid-in FDI into the Chinese mainland



### New Foreign-Invested Companies

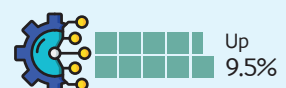


### FDI into:

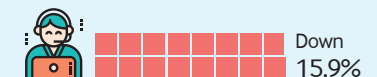
Manufacturing industry



Hi-tech manufacturing sector



Services sector





million yuan (\$2.8 million) each went up 2.7 percent year on year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The raw material production sector emerged as the most important growth driver with a 22.9-percent profit surge as the recovering downstream demand led to an overall price upswing.

As the consumer market continued to warm up due to favorable government policies, the profits of consumer goods manufacturers posted a stable increase of 2.2 percent from a year earlier, up for three consecutive months.

Other industries, including equipment manufacturing and power, natural gas and water supply, also registered profit growth in October.

In the first 10 months of the year, the profits of major industrial firms reported a 7.8-percent decline, narrowing by 1.2 percentage points from the January-September period. More than 70

percent of China's 41 industrial categories monitored by the bureau reported an improved performance in profits.

## Jetliner Passengers

China's domestically developed ARJ21 passenger jet welcomed its 10 millionth passenger on November 24, marking another major milestone in the aircraft's commercial journey.

The passenger was aboard a China Southern Airlines flight from Guangzhou to Jieyang, both of which are in Guangdong Province in south China, according to the Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China, Ltd. (COMAC), the ARJ21's developer.

Since the jetliner entered commercial service in June 2016, 117 aircraft have been delivered and are operating on more than 400 routes in China and beyond, according to the COMAC.

In October, the first two air freighters converted from ARJ21 passenger aircraft were delivered,

marking a milestone in the jetliner's conversion program.

## Further Opening up

China will continue to open up the services industry and push ahead with a national demonstration zone dedicated to the sector in Beijing, according to the Ministry of Commerce on November 24.

The renewed commitment comes alongside the release of a work plan on November 23 that proposes more than 170 pilot tasks to help Beijing advance the construction of the Integrated National Demonstration Zone for Opening Up the Services Sector, the ministry said.

From September 2020 to September this year, the demonstration zone attracted \$45.75 billion of foreign investment in the services sector, accounting for 11.2 percent of all services-related foreign investment across China, Vice Minister of Commerce Ling Ji told a press conference.

Looking ahead, the country will adhere to high-standard international economic and trade rules, and deepen reform and opening up of the entire service chain while developing the demonstration zone, he added.

## International Trade

China's international trade in goods and services totaled 4.09 trillion yuan (\$569.9 billion) in October, official data showed on November 24.

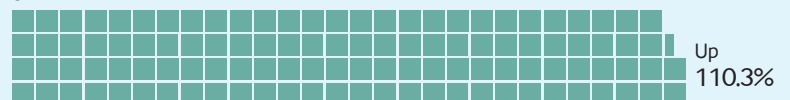
Exports of goods came in at 1.96 trillion yuan (\$275 billion) and imports hit 1.63 trillion yuan (\$228.7 billion), resulting in a surplus of 326.6 billion yuan (\$45.8 billion), the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

Services exports totaled 177.7 billion yuan (\$24.9 billion) that month, while services imports reached 316.8 billion yuan (\$44.5 billion), resulting in a trade deficit of 139.1 billion yuan (\$19.5 billion), according to the administration.

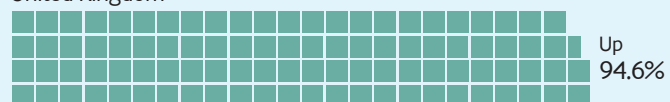


### FDI in the Chinese mainland from

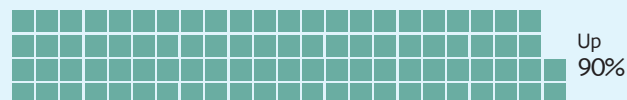
Canada



United Kingdom



France



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)

# THIS WEEK **WORLD**



## PALESTINE

A bus carrying released Palestinian prisoners arrives in the West Bank city of Ramallah on November 28.

The Israel Prison Service confirmed that 30 Palestinians, 15 women and 15 minors, had been released from Israeli jails in the fifth exchange under a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas



## MADAGASCAR

People prepare for a hot air balloon flight in Morondava on November 25



## UNITED STATES

Artists from the Central Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra in Beijing perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City on November 24





## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ZEBRA (Zero wastE Blade ReseArch) project's 100-percent recyclable wind turbine blades stand in a corner of Dubai's Expo City on November 29. The COP28, the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is underway from November 30 to December 12



## THE NETHERLANDS

A campaign poster shows Geert Wilders, who leads the Party for Freedom (PVV), in The Hague on November 15. The PVV won the most votes in the country's parliamentary election on November 22



## THAILAND

A father lifts up his son so he can take a closer look at the lanterns at Wat Phra That Hariphunchai in Lamphun on November 23. Lamphun Province organized a grand lantern festival to attract tourists to hang lanterns and make wishes





# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ XIAOMI FOUNDER DONATES TO ALMA MATER

Smartphone maker Xiaomi's founder **Lei Jun** donated 1.3 billion yuan (\$183.7 million) to his alma mater Wuhan University on November 29, on the 130th anniversary of the university's founding. The donation is the highest-ever to a Chinese higher learning institution by an individual contributor.

The funds will support basic research in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, literature, history and philosophy, as well as scientific and technological innovations in computing science, and the nurture of undergraduates.

Lei graduated from Wuhan University's School of Computer Science and Technology in 1991. In 2010, he founded Xiaomi, which is now one of the world's top five smartphone makers.

Prior to this latest donation, Lei had donated a total of 130 million yuan (\$18.4 million) to the university since 1997, contributing to scholarship, and science and technology development.



## Bring on the Baby Boom

**Rednet.com**  
**November 24**

In an effort to boost China's falling birthrate, dozens of Chinese cities have rolled out a dazzling array of measures, from cash bonuses to extended leave to encourage residents to have more children.

One of the cities that has recently come under the spotlight for its pro-birth incentives is Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province. On September 1, the local government launched a scheme that offers one-off subsidies to families with new babies. Both parents will also be granted 10 days of paid parental leave each year before the child turns 3. However, locals

have been complaining their applications were rejected when they tried to claim the subsidies or take the parental leave.

It is important that these childbirth incentives be thoroughly implemented, as the high cost of raising children is one of the major reasons for the declining birthrate. Another dilemma that young mothers face is the daily struggle of balancing childcare and career development. Authorities must make sure that the promised cash subsidies and paid leave are duly provided.

Zhengzhou's delay in carrying out its scheme has raised questions about its credibility. Therefore, the rigid implementation of pro-birth policies is also vital to safeguarding people's trust in their local governments.



## Mystic Megabytes

**Lifeweek**  
**December 4**

With the rise of social media and e-commerce, the ancient mystical practice of fortune telling has shifted away from in-person consultations toward online psychic readings, which have enjoyed popularity among a new generation of tech-savvy Chinese netizens. From free artificial intelligence tests to paid online consultations, the online fortune telling business has evolved into an increasingly robust industry.

**“The two-state solution is the bottom line for international justice. There is no stepping back from that.”**

Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi**, speaking to the press after presiding over a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on the Palestinian-Israeli issue in New York City on November 29

**“As a foreign investor, we see that the innovation speed of the Chinese market is very fast, especially the digital trend in the Chinese automotive market. We must keep up with the pace.”**

**Andreas Glunz**, legal representative of BMW (China) Insurance Brokers Co. Ltd., in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

The country's online psychic reading sector also shows an interesting blend of Western belief systems, such as horoscope and Tarot card reading, and elements of Chinese mysticism, such as *bazi*, a type of fate calculation based on a person's time of birth, and divination based on *I Ching* or *The Book of Changes*.

Chinese millennials and Gen Z have been the major force driving this trend. These young consumers, many of whom are not aligned with any particular type of religion or belief, have used these services mainly as a means to assuage daily anxieties. Ridden with a great deal of uncertainties about their love lives, career paths and friendships, these young minds are not only in search of concrete answers to their problems, but also seeking self-assurance when making difficult decisions.

Some youngsters, not content with being on the receiving end of these services, have decided to join the mysticism bandwagon as psychics. However, the sector still lacks qualification criteria. Many fortune tellers have suggested that consumers should use their services recreationally, and that people with mental illness should seek professional help from psychiatrists and psychologists.

## Live Old While We Are Young

Ce.cn

November 24

Following trends of the youth has long been considered one of the major means to enrich retired life. However, things have taken an interesting about-turn, as more and more young Chinese are picking up on the living trends of seniors.

Tired of food safety scandals and the greasiness of delivered meals, young people are turning toward community canteens, which offer discounted meals to the elderly, as a more affordable and healthy dining option. Some cost-conscious members of the Chinese Gen Z have also been signing up for budget-friendly courses at learning centers for the elderly as a

way to enrich their life after work.

This shift in consumer trends not only suggests the growing interest of young people in economical living, but also reflects the rapid rise of China's silver economy. In the face of an aging population, China has invested much energy into offering a wider range of high-quality senior-targeted goods and services.

Some people are worried that the trend will trigger a competition for resources. What they don't know is that many senior-friendly facilities have set up rules to ensure priority is given to the elderly. Furthermore, experts believe young people's "intrusion" into community canteens and elderly learning centers may help these institutions generate more revenue and thereby facilitate the sustainable growth of China's silver economy.

## ↓ WORLD GO MASTERS CHAMPION

Chinese competitor **Ding Hao** clinched the 28th Samsung Cup World Go Masters Championship with a narrow 2:1 victory against another Chinese player Xie Erhao in Gyeonggi Province, the Republic of Korea (ROK), on November 28. This was Ding's first win at the prestigious tournament and his second world championship.



Born in Datong, Shanxi Province, in 2000, Ding began playing go at the age of 6. In 2019, he won his first national competition. In February this year, Ding won the 27th LG Cup World Go King Tournament, becoming the 23rd Chinese world go champion and the first Chinese go world champion born in or after 2000.

Go, or *weiqi*, is a strategy board game invented more than 4,000 years ago in China. It is part of popular culture in China, Japan and the ROK, home to electronics giants Samsung and LG.

“Even a brief study of the history of China, with its record of zero overseas colonial expansion, could help American policymakers lay to rest their deep fear that China is threatening America.”

**Kishore Mahbubani**, a distinguished fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, at the World Conference on China Studies Shanghai Forum, held on November 23-24

“The traditional model of relying heavily on infrastructure and real estate can generate higher growth, but it can also delay structural adjustment and undermine growth sustainability.”

**Pan Gongsheng**, Governor of the People's Bank of China, at a gathering of central bank governors in Hong Kong on November 28





COVER STORY

# TRIED AND TRUE

Community-based mediation contributes to conflict resolution and social tension prevention By Ji Jing