

# BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.65 NO.52 DECEMBER 29, 2022

北京周报 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

## GROUP CHAT

*Goodbye, 2022*



2023 invited to the group



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

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914222

邮发代号2-922·国内统一连续出版物号: CN11-1576/G2

# Follow CICG Americas

And get in on the conversation



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



@BeijingReview



China Hoy



China Hoje



# CONTENTS

## EDITOR'S DESK

02 **The Year in Review**

## THIS WEEK

## COVER STORY

12 **Top 10 Nation News Stories of 2022**

16 **Top 10 World News Stories of 2022**

20 **Top 10 Business News Stories of 2022**

## OPINION

26 **Exchanges Between Civilizations**

China-Arab States Summit ushers in new era

28 **National Rejuvenation Explained**

Making the ancient civilization young again

30 **Stop, Look and Listen**

The U.S. says it's "all in" on Africa's future, but is it?

## FEATURES

34 **Building Up the Defense Line**

Tianjin Guidelines promote responsible bioscience research

36 **On the Road**

Delivery workers from all over China zip around Beijing

38 **New Ark Sets Sail**

Creating a paradise for biodiversity

40 **Second Hometown**

Belgian agribusiness in Xinjiang

## CULTURE

44 **Bringing Classics to Life**

Philosophy on stage

46 **Hardcore Style**

Contemporary camping couture

## FORUM

48 **Why It Is Time to Downgrade COVID-19 Management**

Cover Design: Cui Xiaodong

©2022 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



www.bjreview.com



Follow us on



BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader



Please recycle



北京周報

## BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine  
Published Since 1958

**President:** Li Yafang  
**Editor in Chief:** Li Jianguo  
**Associate President:** Yan Ying  
**Associate Editor in Chief:** Liu Yunyun

**Executive Editor:** Yan Wei  
**Associate Executive Editor:** Ding Ying  
**Production Director:** Yao Bin  
**Editor:** Wang Hairong  
**Researcher:** Lan Xinzheng  
**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 Xiaogao, Peng Jiawei, Tang Yuankai, Tao Xing, Tao Zihui, Wang Jun, Wang Ruohan, Yuan Yuan, Zhang Shasha  
**Visual Director:** Pamela Tobey  
**Photo Editor:** Wang Xiang  
**Photographer:** Wei Yao  
**Art:** Li Shigong  
**Design Director:** Wang Yajuan  
**Chief Designer:** Cui Xiaodong  
**Designer:** Zhao Boyu  
**Proofreader:** Ma Xin

**Editorial Administrator:** Zeng Wenhui  
**Planning Director:** Xu Bei  
**Deputy Planning Director:** Li Nan  
**World News Deputy Director:** Li Fangfang  
**Director of Digital Media:** Yu Shujun  
**Director of Strategic Research:** Zan Jifang  
**Administration:** Lu Ling  
**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:** chinahoyx@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:** fp@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 distributed weekly  
in the United States for US\$64.00 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

## The Year in Review

When reviewing global developments in 2022, the following trends have stood out:

Pursuing development in a tumultuous world. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which broke out in February, still shows no signs of ending. It has plunged the Western world into turmoil, with food and energy crises bringing difficulties to the lives of many people. High inflation in Western economies and substantial interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve have also increased uncertainty.

Against this backdrop, China remains committed to stability and development. In October, the Communist Party of China convened its 20th National Congress, electing a new Central Committee and outlining goals for Chinese modernization in the next five years and beyond. The Fifth China International Import Expo in November, as well as other trade and investment fairs, shared opportunities in China with other countries.

Recovering from the pandemic. China adjusted its COVID-19 control measures as the virulence of the virus dropped, with the aim of restoring normal life and promoting economic growth. This will be the common task for the entire human community in the post-pandemic era.

Holding major sporting events to boost solidarity. The Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games delivered a top-level sporting event to the international community despite the many challenges of the pandemic. At the end of the year, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 also brought joy to soccer fans.

Exploring the frontiers of science and technology. In 2022, China completed its space station *Tiangong*, made new discoveries with its Mars probe and launched a solar exploration satellite. China's artificial sun, an advanced experimental superconducting tokamak with the goal of creating nuclear fusion like the sun, set a new world record in May, achieving a plasma temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius for a period of 101 seconds.

Throughout 2022, as COVID-19 dragged on, the world economy became more fragile, the geopolitical environment remained tense and global governance was seriously inadequate. All these posed formidable challenges.

We hope in 2023 more efforts will be made to champion unity over division, cooperation over confrontation, and inclusiveness over exclusion, so as to tide over difficulties and embrace a better future together. **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  
TURKEY.....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 闫颖 杨琪 刘云云 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2022年 第52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 北京市期刊登记证第733号  
国内零售价：人民币6.00元





## NEW AIRPORT

A new airport in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on December 20. The airport, built at an altitude of 3,252 meters, opened to traffic on December 23.

Located in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, it is the westernmost airport in China and the highest in Xinjiang.

The airport's passenger throughput and cargo volume will reach 160,000 and 400 tons annually, respectively.



## Tropical Fare

Visitors take a closer look at tropical fruits at the 2022 China (Hainan) International Tropical Agricultural Products Winter Trade Fair in Haikou, Hainan Province, on December 15. Agricultural products from 1,200 companies in 18 Chinese provinces were on display at the four-day fair, including fruits, vegetables and coffee. Business models, including cross-border e-commerce, were also featured.

## Agricultural Training

An international agricultural training course on green technology and new agricultural varieties took place in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, from December 19 to 20.

Cohosted by the Rice Research Institute of Anhui Academy of Agricultural Sciences (AAAS) and Anhui Hua'an Seed Industry Co. Ltd., the course attracted over 200 agricultural scholars, experts, and students from more than 15 countries, including China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Viet Nam, Kenya, and Rwanda. The course was organized both online and offline.

The training aimed to enhance grain production and technological advancement in countries along the Belt and Road, as well as strengthen China's scientific and technical cooperation with them. At the event, agricultural experts from different countries presented their reports on various topics, such as

crop breeding, rice seed production, and green production technology.

"Pakistan and China face the same challenges, such as droughts and floods due to global climate change. We can cooperate with each other to develop new rice varieties that can resist extreme weather. And I hope to become a bridge of that cooperation," Muhammad Ahmad Hassan, a postdoctoral research student at the Rice Research Institute of AAAS, said.

## 2022 Buzzwords

China released the 10 most popular Chinese buzzwords of 2022 on December 20, with Chinese modernization topping the list.

Whole-process people's democracy, digital economy, words related to China's *Tiangong* space station mission, and the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics also made the list.

A list of Chinese words born in

2022, including winter economy, was also unveiled.

Stability and the Party's 20th National Congress were selected as the top buzzwords of the year for China, while war and the Russia-Ukraine conflict were selected for the world.

An algorithm was used to generate the lists, with the final results confirmed by a committee of experts and researchers.

The buzzword selection has taken place every year for 17 consecutive years and this year's event was jointly held by the National Language Resources Monitoring and Research Center, the Commercial Press, and Guangming Online, the official website of *Guangming Daily*.

## Pollution Reading

Beijing saw its primary air-pollution index reading for the January-November period hit the lowest level since official records began

in 2013, official data showed on December 20.

The city's average concentration of PM2.5 in the first 11 months of 2022 was 31 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau. PM2.5 readings are a gauge of airborne particles that are 2.5 microns or below in diameter.

The city's authorities have taken a slew of measures to reduce the emissions of PM2.5 precursors, including nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. The measures include increasing the number of taxis, buses and sanitation trucks that run on new energy, while eliminating oil-fired boilers in downtown areas and household coal use in the suburbs. Authorities have also strengthened pollution control coordination with neighboring provincial-level regions and beefed up the monitoring of key pollution sources.

## Siberian Tiger

Footprints and other evidence of wild Siberian tigers have been found in the Tianqiaoling forest area in Jilin Province, the local forest bureau and public security bureau jointly announced on December 19.

On December 4, a villager discovered the footprints of a wild Siberian tiger in a valley. Staff from the local wild animal protection department determined that the prints had been left by an adult male wild Siberian tiger.

Ten days later, more Siberian tiger footprints were found near a highway, together with marks where it had lain down.

When animal protection staff inspected infrared camera data, they found a wild Siberian tiger had been walking in the forest on December 15.

In response to these discoveries, the local forest bureau and

public security bureau have taken precautionary measures to prevent conflict between the tigers and local residents.

## Soybean Output

Heilongjiang, China's largest soybean-producing province, set new records in 2022 in terms of soybean output and planting area, Xinhua News Agency reported on December 18.

Statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics show Heilongjiang yielded 9.54 billion kg of soybeans this year, up 32.6 percent year on year and accounting for 47 percent of the country's soybean output. The sown soybean area in the province hit 4.93 million hectares, up 26.9 percent year on year.

To ensure national food security, Heilongjiang has been increasing its soybean yield through a string of measures such as improving varieties and field management techniques.

## High-Speed Railway

A 106-km high-speed railway, linking the cities of Mengzi and Mile in Yunnan Province, entered operation on December 16.

With a design speed of 250 km per hour, the new railway has slashed the travel time between

Mengzi and Kunming, the provincial capital, to 69 minutes.

The construction of this railway started in June 2018. Fifty-two bridges and 10 tunnels were built to overcome the area's complex geological structure.

It is an important part of the railway network between China's southwestern region and ASEAN countries, which will play a positive role in speeding up the urbanization process of rural areas along the railway, according to Shi Liang, Deputy Director of the passenger transport department of China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Co. Ltd.

## Film Festival

The Fourth Hainan Island International Film Festival took place in Sanya, a resort city in Hainan Province, from December 18 to 25.

This year's film festival featured 3,761 films from 116 countries and regions for the Golden Coconut Awards, the festival's competition section, with over 80 percent of the films coming from overseas, the organizing committee said.

Zhang Jun, Secretary General of the event organizing committee, said the festival is committed to strengthening international film cultural exchanges and cooperation, promoting the development



## Arabic Arts Festival

Guests visit an intangible cultural heritage exhibition during the Fifth Arabic Arts Festival in Jingdezhen, also known as China's "porcelain capital," in Jiangxi Province on December 19. The two-day event included a series of cultural exchange activities such as performances, a cultural forum and an exhibition featuring works by Arab and Chinese artists.

of the film industry, and fostering the prosperity of film creation.

First organized in 2018, the film festival was jointly hosted by China Media Group and the Hainan provincial government.

## Highway Tunnel

A tunnel connecting Tsokha and Jinling townships in Banbar County, Tibet Autonomous Region, was completed on December 17. It is located on the county's Shargongla mountain pass, where altitudes soar to 5,200 meters above sea level.

Hampered by extreme weather,

high altitudes, low temperatures and a shorter working season at the construction site, the project took four years to complete.

The tunnel is a major element of the National Highway Project (G349). It is 4,392 meters long, with the altitude of one entrance at 4,750 meters above sea level.

The tunnel has laid a solid foundation for the completion of the G349 Highway. Full operation of the tunnel is expected to shorten the journey between Qamdo City and the regional capital of Lhasa by 300 km.



## Sculpting Snow

Staff members work on a gigantic snow sculpture for the upcoming 35th Taiyangdao Island International Snow Sculpture Expo in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, on December 18.



## Data Systems

On December 19, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council jointly released a guiding document for the better management of the nation's data resources. The document lays out 20 specific measures to improve systems in this area to cope with new challenges arising from the increased use of data in business, administration and governance.

An official with the National Development and Reform Commission said the document is “a landmark, overarching, and strategic move” to continue deepening China's reform and opening up in the new era.

It will help give full play to the role of data resources, empower the real economy, promote high-quality development, and help strengthen, improve, and expand the digital economy. It will also respond to the technological revolution and industrial transformation and build new advantages for the

country in international competition, the official said.

In addition, the move will promote the sharing of the development dividends of the digital economy by all, promote mutual prosperity and, at the same time, improve the governance efficiency of data resources and modernize the national governance system and capacity.

## Service Opening Up

The State Council said on December 20 it has allowed a further six cities to launch comprehensive pilot programs for opening up their service sectors.

The six cities—Shenyang, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Wuhan, Guangzhou and Chengdu—can carry out the pilot programs for three years, starting from the date when their plans for the programs were approved, according to the State Council.

It urged these cities to speed up reform and opening up in the service sector, accelerate the

development of modern services, and forge new advantages in international competition and cooperation.

China started its pilot program for opening up the service sector in Beijing in 2015 and added Tianjin, Shanghai, Hainan and Chongqing to the list in 2021.

The country's service trade grew 17.2 percent year on year to 4.92 trillion yuan (\$706.5 billion) in the first 10 months of 2022, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

## Stock Market Access

The top securities regulators of the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) said on December 19 they have agreed in principle to expand the range of stocks eligible under the Stock Connect program between the two capital markets.

The move seeks to further deepen mutual stock market access between the Chinese mainland and HKSAR and promote the

development of both capital markets, according to a joint statement released by the China Securities Regulatory Commission and the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission.

The Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, which started operating in 2014 and 2016, respectively, give mainland and international investors direct access to each other's stock markets.

For northbound trading, eligible stocks will include constituent stocks of the Shanghai Stock Exchange A Share Index and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange Composite Index that have a market capitalization of 5 billion yuan (\$718 million) or above and meet specific liquidity criteria.

Company stocks listed on the two mainland exchanges that have issued both yuan-denominated A shares and Hong Kong dollar-denominated H shares will also be included.

For southbound trading, the

## NUMBERS





scope of eligible stocks will be expanded to include stocks of foreign companies primary-listed in Hong Kong that are constituents of the Hang Seng Composite Indices and meet related criteria.

Also, the scope of southbound eligible stocks under the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect will be aligned with that under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect to include constituents of the Hang Seng Composite SmallCap Index with a market capitalization of 5 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$642 million) or above.

Preparations for the expansion of eligible stocks will take about three months, and the stock exchanges will announce the official launch date in due course, the statement said.

## Jetliner Delivery

China's homegrown regional jetliner, the ARJ21, was delivered to its first overseas client, Indonesian airline TransNusa, on December 18, marking China's first domestically

developed passenger jetliner to enter a foreign market.

The delivered aircraft is designed with 95 seats, all economy class, the Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China (COMAC), developer of the ARJ21, said.

The ARJ21 has a range of up to 3,700 km. It can fly in alpine and plateau regions and is adaptive to various airport conditions.

So far, nearly 100 ARJ21 planes have been delivered to clients, operating on over 300 air routes to more than 100 cities and transporting over 5.6 million passengers, the COMAC added.

## Major Projects

China had approved 106 major projects with a total investment of about 1.5 trillion yuan (\$215.4 billion) by late November, in its bid to expand effective investment, the National Development and Reform Commission said in a statement.

By the end of that month, over 2,700 projects financed by the country's policy-based

and developmental financial instruments had all started construction, according to the commission.

The total annual investment quota—worth 640 billion yuan (\$91.9 billion)—from the central government budget has all been allocated, and the rate of projects undergoing construction has reached the highest level in nearly five years.

The commission said it will speed up the use of policy-based and developmental financial instruments and infrastructure project development as to expand effective investment.

## Forex Settlement Deficit

China's banks reported a significant drop in their combined foreign exchange (forex) settlement deficit in November, official data showed on December 15.

The deficit declined 47 percent from October to \$6.3

billion, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. Forex purchases by banks stood at \$185.7 billion, while sales reached \$192 billion.

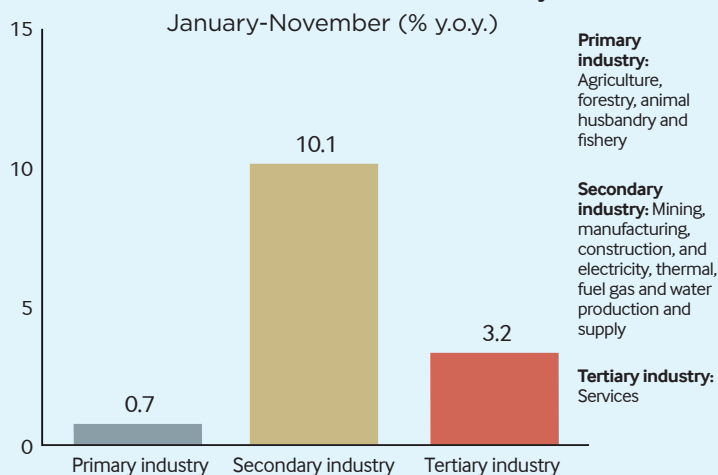
The forex supply and demand in the domestic market became more balanced, Wang Chunying, a spokesperson for the administration, said.

There was a \$34.3-billion net capital inflow in China under trade in goods in November, up 4 percent from a month ago, and the net inflow of foreign direct investment expanded rapidly. Foreign investors also increased their holdings in China's stock market, Wang said.

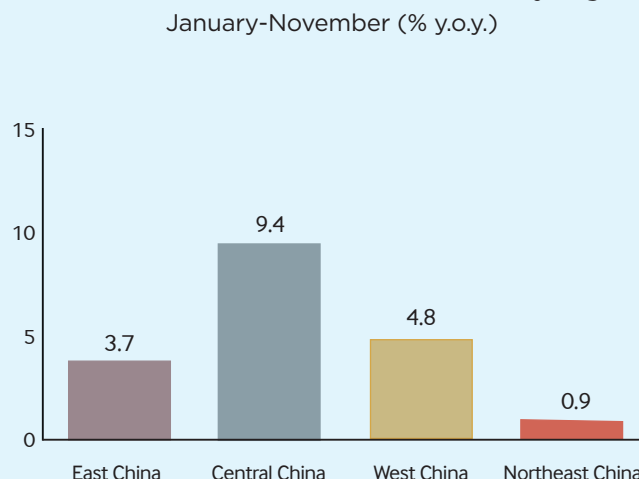
Wang predicted goods trade and foreign direct investment will continue to contribute to capital inflows in China, playing a fundamental role in stabilizing the forex market.

In the first 11 months, forex purchases by banks stood at \$2.36 trillion, while sales reached \$2.26 trillion.

Fixed Assets Investment Growth in China by Sector



Fixed Assets Investment Growth in China by Region



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



## MALAYSIA

Rescue workers at the site of a landslide in Batang Kali, Selangor, on December 16. At least 26 people had been killed and seven were still missing as of December 21, according to the Selangor Fire and Rescue Department



## ROMANIA

Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciuca, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili (left to right) are pictured ahead of the signing ceremony of an agreement on the Black Sea submarine cable for the transport of electricity from the Caspian area to Romania



## SOUTH AFRICA

Cyril Ramaphosa (left), re-elected President of the African National Congress (ANC), talks to Paul Mashatile, newly elected Deputy President of the ANC, during the 55th National Conference of the party in Johannesburg on December 19

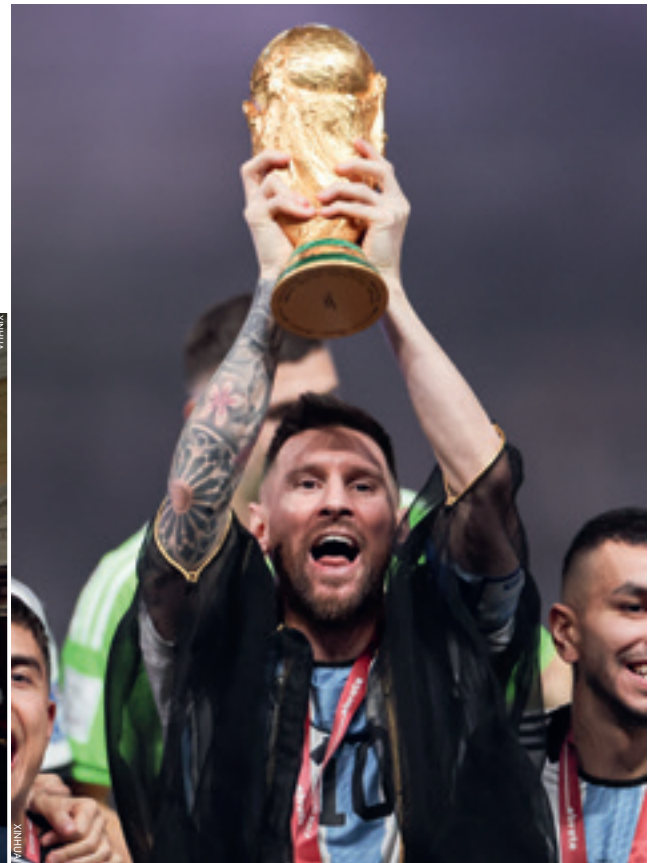






## UNITED STATES

The House select committee investigating the Capitol riot of January 6, 2021 holds its final public session on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on December 19. The committee accused former President Donald Trump of inciting an insurrection, conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and obstructing official proceedings



## QATAR

Argentina's Lionel Messi holds up the FIFA World Cup trophy as he celebrates winning the final of the event at Lusail Stadium in Lusail on December 18



## JORDAN

Leaders attending the Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership pose for a group photo in Sweimeh on December 20. The conference called for stronger support for Iraq to help it maintain security and stability, as well as achieve comprehensive development

# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

**Yao Ming** was reelected as the president of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) on December 17.

The 42-year-old former National Basketball Association (NBA) star, who took the helm of the CBA in February 2017, will now serve a second term.

Born in Shanghai in September 1980, the 2.26-meter-tall Chinese basketball player became an international star as a center for the Houston Rockets in the NBA.

The Chinese men's national team will strive for a berth at the Paris Olympic Games in 2024, while the Chinese women's team, which was runner-up at the World Cup this fall, will aim to reach the top four, according to Yao.

"We also hope that more Chinese players can go abroad to play in high-level professional leagues and that young players can participate in more tournaments," he added.



## Repurposing for Recovery

**Yangcheng Evening News**  
December 19

During the previous rounds of COVID-19 control, China adopted a mass screening strategy that used regular nucleic acid tests to curb local flareups. Tens of thousands of kerbside testing stations mushroomed across the country as a result.

With the continuous optimization of pandemic control policies, temporary testing booths have been taken down. Yet some testing sites in Suzhou in Jiangsu Province have transformed themselves into fever clinics that provide

consultation and prescription services for local residents.

These newly converted fever clinics enable a much more efficient medical process than completing complex check-ins and waiting in long queues at hospitals. Furthermore, these makeshift stations allow diagnosis and prescriptions to be issued in the absence of the patients, who may be physically unfit for outdoor activities.

As a new alternative to traditional medical care, these local stations not only avert COVID-19 patients' exposure on buses and subways, but also help ease hospitals' current shortages in staff and medical resources.



## Vaccination Needs Education

**China Newsweek**  
December 5

Despite weakening pathogenicity, the new COVID-19 variant is more infectious and carries higher health risks for older adults, who are especially vulnerable to severe complications or death from the virus. Most COVID-related deaths have been of seniors aged 80 and above with diabetes, chronic lung

"China is really showing leadership at the international level."

**Inger Andersen**, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency, on China's role in global biodiversity protection

"I am more determined than ever to make 2023 a year for peace, a year for action. We can't accept things as they are. We owe it to people to find solutions, to fight back and to act."

**António Guterres**, UN Secretary General, at an end-of-year press conference at UN Headquarters in New York City on December 19



disease, heart conditions or other underlying health issues.

One of the urgent tasks at hand is to make sure that older generations are fully vaccinated. According to data released by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, only 40.38 percent of seniors aged 80 and above had received booster vaccines as of November 28.

A rather obvious reason for this unfortunate state of affairs is restricted mobility, a natural condition of old age. Conscious of this predicament, government authorities in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou have acted fast by providing seniors with door-to-door vaccination and shuttle services between home and distant vaccination sites.

Another primary cause driving this low vaccination rate is a widely shared fear among the elderly of potential side effects. Given the common misconceptions surrounding COVID-19 vaccines, the government should clarify vague descriptions of contraindications, better monitor and track adverse reactions reported after vaccination, give regular updates on the latest data and findings, and offer compensation to those affected.

Once put in place, these policies will not only protect the old, but also point out a possible direction for China to roll out targeted and dynamic control measures.

## Peachy Placebo

Gmw.cn

December 14

As China braves elevated numbers of COVID-19 cases, medicine-purchasing frenzies and other short-term consequences of the recent lifting of restrictions on social and economic activities, the country has, surprisingly, found itself in the midst of a craze for hoarding canned peaches.

For many Chinese people, especially those in northeast China, the sweet treat is a folk remedy for colds and fevers. This custom is partly rooted in an age-old belief that the word *tao*, or “peach,” a

homophone for “escape,” can drive away ailments and pains.

This belief is not entirely superstitious. Canned peaches serve not only as a sweet placebo, as many have argued, but also as a refreshing delicacy that restores lost appetites and replenishes vitamins, energy and other nutrients that help to boost immunity.

The peach-purchasing spree should be interpreted as an expression of the public’s desire for a more positive and relaxed mindset, one that no longer regards the pandemic as a formidable intrusion upon life, but as a common infection that only requires a short period of home-based recovery for most people without underlying health issues.

### FORMER MINISTER PENALIZED

**Xiao Yaqing**, 63, former Minister of Industry and Information Technology, who was placed under investigation for suspected violations of discipline and laws in July, was expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) and stripped of his post in public office.

Xiao became the minister of Industry and Information Technology in 2020.

An investigation conducted by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Commission of Supervision found that Xiao attended banquets that might compromise his impartiality at work and accepted funds in exchange for influence. Xiao has been granted leniency because of his quick confession, expression of remorse and return of his illicit gains.

He was expelled from the Party, dismissed from his posts, demoted to a lower rank in public office and required to retire.



“China’s economic prospects are promising and the super-large-scale market potential will be released faster to bring greater opportunities to other countries, including France.”

**Wang Yi**, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister, meeting with French Foreign Affairs Minister Catherine Colonna via video link on December 19

“We have the confidence, conditions and capacity to advance China’s entire economy.”

**Han Wenxiu**, Executive Deputy Director of the Office of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs at an annual conference on the Chinese economy held by the China Center for International Economic Exchanges on December 17

# Top 10 Nation News Stories of 2022



Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), leads the other members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 20th CPC Central Committee in meeting the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on October 23

## 1 Xi Jinping Re-elected Top CPC Leader

On October 23, Xi Jinping was re-elected general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee at the First Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

He will serve for another five years, to lead the nation to complete the tasks laid out at the 20th CPC National Congress, which was convened in Beijing from October 16 to 22.

In a report delivered to the national congress at its opening ceremony, Xi pointed out, “From this day forward, the central task of the CPC will be to lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realize the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization.”