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DIPLOMACY

Plan cements Mekong cooperation

China, 5 other nations
to boost connectivity,
use of river resources

By **ZHANG YUE** in Sanya
and **LI XIAOKUN** in Beijing

China and five other countries along the 5,000-km Lancang-Mekong River agreed on Wednesday on a sweeping plan to deepen cooperation and build a comprehensive connectivity network covering railways, highways, waterways, ports and aviation. China also promised 10 billion yuan (\$1.54 billion) in preferential loans and a credit line of \$10 billion to support infrastructure and production capacity projects in cooperation with the countries. Premier Li Keqiang announced the loans and the agreement in Sanya, Hainan province, at the first meeting of the leaders from the six countries along the river.

The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting also discussed the use of water resources, and China vowed to take measures to support improvement of living conditions in downstream areas along the river. The Mekong River, whose upper part is known in China as the Lancang River, is an important water source for the five countries on the Indochinese Peninsula — Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam — and it nourishes a population of 326 million. Beijing announced last week that it will provide an emergency water supply through April 10 to countries along the river to deal with drought.



“That demonstrates China’s sincerity toward improving living conditions in countries along the Mekong River,” Premier Li said at a joint news conference after the meeting. He announced that China will use \$200 million from its South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to help the five nations to realize the targets set in the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China also will provide \$300 million to support small and medium-sized cooperation projects proposed by the six countries.

Additionally, it will set up a Lancang-Mekong water resources cooperation center and an environmental cooperation center to promote green development. Li suggested holding leaders’ meetings every two years, foreign ministers’ meetings every year and occasional meetings of high-ranking officials and working teams. Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, who co-chaired the meeting with Li, called the gathering a “new chapter” in the Lancang-Mekong cooperation process.

Former Chinese ambassador to Cambodia Zhang Jinfeng said, “The mechanism will not only benefit the six nations, but also boost the integration of the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations.” China is the biggest trading partner of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, and the biggest source of investment in Cambodia, Laos and



Premier Li Keqiang consults with Yuan Longping (left), known as “the father of hybrid rice”, during an exhibition on Lancang-Mekong cooperation in Sanya, Hainan province, on Wednesday.
WU ZHIYI / CHINA DAILY

CYBERSPACE

Fighting terrorism online sees big strides

By **CAO YIN**
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An online team dedicated to rooting out violence and terrorism on the Internet has made a difference over the past year in ridding cyberspace of improper and illegal content, an official of China’s top Internet watchdog said. The China Internet Illegal Information Reporting Center received more than 20,000 violence- and terrorism-related reports from netizens — including many parents and youngsters who frequently surf the Internet — and it ordered websites and network managers to remove 200,000 pieces of unlawful content, Zhang Chenggang, director of the center, told China Daily in an exclusive interview. A nationwide campaign against online violence and

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BRUSSELS ATTACKS

Intelligence sharing ‘is key’ as Europe faces terror threat

By **CHRIS PETERSON**
in London

With Europe facing a fresh terror threat after three bomb blasts killed at least 34 people and injured about 270 in the Belgian capital on Tuesday, analysts agreed that sharing intelligence was at the heart of combating extremist groups such as Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for the Brussels attacks. Anthony Glees, a professor at the University of Buckingham in London and director of its Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies, told China Daily that Belgium’s divided society made it easy for terror groups to slip into that country unnoticed. He said the Brussels attacks on the main airport and a rush-hour subway train came as no surprise, given last week’s arrest in Brussels of Salah Abdeslam, a key suspect in the November terror attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. Security analysts said the perpetrators of the Paris



People mourn for the victims in Brussels after terrorist attacks left at least 34 people dead and about 270 wounded on Tuesday in the Belgian capital. MARTIN MEISSNER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

attacks were traced back to Molenbeek, an area of Brussels with a heavy immigrant population — many from Syria, Iraq and North African countries. Abdeslam had fled from France to Molenbeek. The ease with which Abdeslam and others were able to cross the border between France and Belgium — until

now free of controls because of the Schengen Agreement, which established open borders — was also a factor, analysts said. Glees said there were doubts about the effectiveness of communication between Belgian intelligence services and the police. The terrorist attacks in Europe have refocused attention on the seemingly unchecked flow of migrants arriving in Europe via Turkey and Greece. Intelligence analysts said some of those involved in attacks over the past 18 months have used that route to infiltrate the European Union and take advantage of the Schengen Area. More than 1 million migrants, mainly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, are now in Europe.

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DEVELOPMENT



Tech talks

Jack Ma, CEO of Alibaba Group, Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Indonesia's minister of trade, and Luis Alberto Moreno, president of the Inter-American Development Bank, join a Boao Forum for Asia session in Boao, Hainan province on Wednesday. The session discussed setting rules for global e-commerce. ZOU HONG/ CHINA DAILY

Industrial parks 'key to making progress on growth'

By XINHUA

Industrial parks have been successful in kick-starting economic development, even in some of the world's most underdeveloped economies, according to former World Bank chief economist Justin Yifu Lin.

"In countries like Ethiopia and Rwanda, ... nobody would have expected a local factory to be a competitive exporter in global markets," Lin told a news conference on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference on Tuesday.

Lin said conventional economic wisdom agreed that a shortage of infrastructure and skilled labor were the major bottlenecks that hindered underdeveloped economies.

However, the renowned economist said that factories in the industrial parks of such countries had quickly become profitable.

Lin said that developing countries can use such an approach to jump-start their economic development, while investors from economies like China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region can find new growth opportunities through participation.

Lin unveiled a new index developed by his team to measure the inclusive structural transformation of different economies.

The index is based on the New Structural Economics advocated by Lin, who believes that structural changes and an optimal policy mix are the foundation of sustained and inclusive growth during the progressive stages of development.

The index focuses on the critical elements of successful economic development strategies and measures a country's performance through industrialization results, environmental protection and supportive macropolicies and micropolicies.

The Chinese mainland and the "tiger economies" of Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan have registered good scores on the index, showing that they have the potential to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth over the long term.

The Czech Republic, Malaysia, Japan, Vietnam and Kenya have the top five highest scores.

China's overall score is high due to its strength in manufacturing, which compensates for a relatively bad environmental score. European economies are balanced and have also registered good scores on the index.

Northeast poised to rejuvenate

By ZHONG NAN

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Northeast China will undergo an industrial boom to compete with eastern provinces during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20), senior officials said in Hainan province on Wednesday.

The boom will be led by developing the "Made in China 2025" pilot program and an upgraded service sector, according to the officials.

Northeast China comprises Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces.

The region was the country's top industrial hub in the 1970s before declining rapidly in the following decade, when it encountered difficulties in adapting to the structural reforms of the new market economy.

Jiang Youwei, the vice-governor of Jilin, said seeking new market growth points from the fast-growing service sector, including logistics and e-commerce businesses, can help the three northeastern provin-

ces to optimize their resources to improve exports. This will also create more jobs and attract foreign investment.

Jilin is preparing to launch international freight train services from Changchun, the provincial capital, to Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, and major Russian cities in the next three years.

Aviation a priority

"Air cargo services from Changchun Longjia International Airport to the capitals or major cities in Russia, Mongolia and Japan will be available soon to transport high-end and high-tech products to consumers and manufacturers," Jiang said at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference.

Pan Ligu, mayor of the Liaoning provincial capital Shenyang, said the province will give priority to developing aviation, railway and intelligent equipment in the next five years. It will also encourage innovation, talent cultivation and transforma-

tion of traditional industries.

Shenyang's work on a new China-Germany equipment park has helped the city to further diversify its development models from labor-intensive industry to more environmentally-related and intelligent manufacturing businesses.

To date, the park has attracted 35 German companies from various industries to build either factories or research and development centers.

Zhang Yansheng, secretary-general of the National Development and Reform Commission's Academic Committee, said the proportion of State-owned enterprises is higher in the northeast than in the majority of other provinces.

As a result, the region must accelerate SOE reforms to allow these companies to expand globally, modernize their management and become more innovative with increased trading activities through China's Belt and Road Initiative.

“Air cargo services from Changchun ... to ... Russia, Mongolia and Japan will be available soon to transport high-end and high-tech products.”

Jiang Youwei, vice-governor of Jilin

35 German companies

have been attracted to build factories or R&D centers in Shenyang

More cultural exchanges urged

By WANG YANFEI

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Delegates attending the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference have called for more dialogue among Asian civilizations, with a high-level conference on this issue expected to be held next year.

A mechanism for intercultural exchanges among Asian countries should be established and such exchanges should be held regularly, Jiang Jianguo, minister of the State Council Information Office, said at a panel discussion on Wednesday.

The discussion had the theme "Dialogue of Asian Civilizations".

"China is promoting a conference for dialogue among Asian civilizations next year, which will be a beginning (for such exchanges)," he said.

Jiang added that these exchanges should be conducted on multiple platforms, either official or nonofficial. Media organizations, cultural and religious groups and NGOs all have their roles to play, he said.

One year ago, while addressing the opening of the 2015 Boao Forum, President Xi Jinping proposed a conference be held for dialogue among various Asian civilizations to boost regional understanding and cooperation.



Jiang Jianguo (second from right), minister of China's State Council Information Office, Justin Yifu Lin (right), honorary dean of the National School of Development at Peking University, former Pakistani prime minister Shaukat Aziz (second left) and Iran's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Ahmad Jalali (left) take part in a panel discussion at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Boao, Hainan province, on Wednesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Delegates attending Wednesday's session agreed that such dialogue is particularly essential at a time when the world is witnessing more conflicts and misunderstandings among civilizations.

In response to Tuesday's terror attacks in Brussels, Cheng Yung-nien, director of the East Asia Institute at the National University of Singapore, said he does not consider such attacks a result of a clash of civilizations — a theory put forward in the 1990s by US political scientist Samuel Huntington.

"Civilizations do not generate clashes themselves, but an improper world order propelled by geopolitics does," Cheng said at the forum.

Nada Al-Nashif, assistant director-general of Social and Human Sciences at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said the principles of mutual respect, diversity, tolerance and inclusion should be upheld in cultural exchanges.

"Intercultural dialogue denotes an open process of

exchange and respect between individuals and groups of different cultures, points of view and aspirations," she said.

Justin Yifu Lin, a professor of economics at Peking University, said cultural dialogue should take place on the basis of equal treatment.

Countries should have confidence in their own cultures, and respect and learn from each other. "Only in this way, can dialogue among civilizations contribute to a more peaceful world," the academic said.

DIPLOMACY

Xi's Czech visit 'to yield good result'

President will also travel to the US next week to attend nuclear security summit

By AN BAIJIE

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A state visit by President Xi Jinping to the Czech Republic next week is expected to achieve pragmatic outcomes in areas including nuclear power, finance, civil aviation and scientific research, according to analysts.

The Foreign Ministry said the visit will take place from Monday to Wednesday, and Xi will also attend the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington on Thursday and Friday.

Xi has been invited to visit the Czech Republic by President Milos Zeman. The tour will be Xi's first visit to a Central European country as Chinese president.

Early in March, when the presidential office in the Czech Republic announced the visit, local media reported that Xi was "likely to be accompanied by a very strong delegation" consisting of dozens of entrepreneurs.

The Czech News Agency reported Zeman as saying earlier that he expected China to invest 45 billion crowns (\$1.84 billion) in his country. About 20 agreements are due to be signed, including documents on a strategic partnership.

Xi will stay in the Czech Republic for 40 hours and will visit Prague Castle and the Lany chateau, the official presidential residences in the capital and the countryside, the news agency reported.

There have been frequent

high-level Sino-Czech exchanges in recent years, and Xi has met with Zeman four times since he became president in 2013.

China is the Czech Republic's second-biggest trading partner, next only to the European Union, while the Czech Republic is China's second-biggest trading partner in Central and Eastern Europe. The trade volume topped \$11 billion last year.

Wang Yiwei, a professor at the School of International Studies at Renmin University of China, said the Czech Republic plays a key role in Central and Eastern Europe due to its cultural richness, level of development and location.

Zeman has been seeking pragmatic cooperation with China since he became president, Wang said, adding that the bilateral ties will gain new momentum.

Wang said the visit is expected to result in pragmatic achievements on nuclear power, finance, civil aviation and scientific research.

In November, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on jointly building the China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It was the first such document signed between China and a Central European country.

After completing his Czech visit, Xi will attend the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington with leaders and representatives of about 40 other countries.

Leader's book attracts praise

By TUO YANNAN in Prague
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President Xi Jinping's book *The Governance of China* has been applauded in the Czech Republic ahead of his state visit to the nation from Monday to Wednesday next week.

The book, a compilation of Xi's work from Nov 15, 2012 to June 13, 2014, comprises speeches, talks, interviews, instructions and correspondence. It was first published in 2014 in Chinese and many other languages, including English, French, Russian and Arabic. Of the 5.36 million copies, 400,000 have been sold overseas.

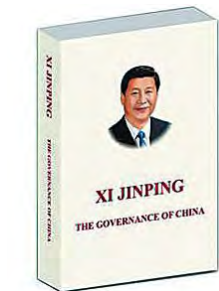
The book is being translated into Czech and will soon be published in that language.

Jan Kohout, president of the New Silk Road Institute Prague, an independent think tank, said at a symposium on the book in the Czech capital on Monday, "It is very readable and the language used is thrilling."

Kohout said Xi has caught the attention of the international community through many initiatives, one of the most important being the Belt and Road Initiative, which "is a real strategy for the 21st century".

This refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives — transportation infrastructure projects linking Asia and Europe, launched by Xi in 2013.

Guo Weimin, vice-minister of the State Council Information Office, said the book shows the new concepts, new ideas and new strategies of



President Xi Jinping's *The Governance of China*

the central leadership.

"In the book, President Xi reveals from various angles how Chinese tradition has been continued and enhanced in the governance of a modern country and has given modern values and significance to fine Chinese traditions," Guo said.

Kohout added, "(From the book), you can gain a lot of information regarding Chinese history, Chinese sayings and a better understanding of the Chinese attitude and the Chinese leadership — especially President Xi Jinping — regarding the country's domestic development."

"Xi is definitely becoming one of the most important global leaders, presenting a new attitude to international relations."

Zdenek Skromach, vice-president of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, said, "It is very interesting that the book presents President Xi's political view, a view of what's going on in the world and also development in China."



Council members of the Boao Forum for Asia prepare to display a commemorative banner with their signatures during a dinner celebrating the forum's 15th anniversary in Boao, Hainan province, on Wednesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

FACES AT THE FORUM

Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference participants gather to address the region's key issues

Political leaders, renowned businessmen, experienced economists and dignitaries from all walks of life are attending this year's Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference.

The conference, which started on Tuesday and is set to wrap up on Friday, is taking place in Boao, Hainan province. This year's theme is "Asia's New Future: New Dynamics and New Vision".

The Boao Forum for Asia, established in 2001, is seen by many observers as one of the most important events for Asia because it has played an active role in arranging dialogue platforms for public, private and academic sectors, facilitating discussion about economic, social, environmental and other pressing issues.

China Daily photographers recorded some of the memorable moments.



Zhou Wenzhong, secretary-general of the Boao Forum for Asia, and Michael Treschow, chairman of Unilever, attend a meeting on Tuesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY



A visitor tries on a pair of glasses that use virtual reality technology at a Boao Forum exhibition on Tuesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY



A group of Boao Forum delegates stand for a photo during an interval between meetings on Wednesday. HUANG YIMING / CHINA DAILY



Former NBA star Yao Ming attends a luncheon about global trade rules in the Internet era on Wednesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY



Bob Hawke, 86, former prime minister of Australia, attends a meeting at the Boao Forum on Tuesday. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

MEDICINE

Li vows no leniency in scandal over bad vaccines

Dozens detained by police; top prosecutors will oversee the case

By SHAN JUAN
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Premier Li Keqiang said there will be no leniency for anyone involved in a vaccine scandal that has shocked the nation and ignited wide public concern about vaccine safety.

Li pledged on Tuesday to punish officials who are proven to have been derelict in their duty in the distribution of the possibly ineffective vaccines, according to the State Council website.

Investigations into the matter are continuing.

Police in Shandong province said improperly stored or expired vaccines, worth more than 570 million yuan (\$88 million), were apparently sold in more than 20 provincial-level areas since 2011.

37 suspects

implicated in the scandal have been detained by police in Shandong province.

Wu Zhen, deputy head of the China Food and Drug Administration, pledged strict measures on Wednesday to close loopholes in the distribution system.

“The scandal has revealed problems in the distribution of vaccines,” he said on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan province.

The administration said on Tuesday that it has given local authorities until Friday to find out who bought the mishandled vaccines to ease public concern.

In addition, police in Shandong have detained 37 suspects implicated in the scandal, including a mother and daughter alleged to have illegally sold the improperly stored or expired vaccines, and people at three pharmaceutical companies, according to the work group handling the case.

Police in Hunan, Jiangxi and Guangdong provinces also have reported detaining suspects.

The Supreme People's Procuratorate announced on Tuesday that it will directly oversee the case and urged prosecuting bodies at all levels to spare no effort in their investigations.

Prosecutors throughout the country are expected to work closely with local police

and drug administrations to uncover the manufacturing sources, circulation channels and buyers of the inferior products.

Wu said the administration would work closely with law enforcement. He added that the distribution and use of vaccines are generally well-managed under existing rules, especially the 14 vaccines included in the nation's routine immunization program.

Vaccines involved in the recent scandal are considered Category 2 vaccines, including those against meningitis and rabies, among other pathogens. Category 2 vaccines are administered upon request, and people pay for them.

Industry insiders said that, unlike the strictly managed vaccines of Category 1, loopholes and room for profit exist in Category 2.

A confused public may not be able to tell the difference. Some parents have reportedly held back their babies from the routine immunization program for fear of getting a bad dose.

Public health experts, including those from the World Health Organization, urged the Chinese public to stick to routine immunization programs, which are vitally important to both individual and public health.

Improperly stored or expired vaccines can lose potency and become less effective, but they pose a very small risk of causing a toxic reaction, a statement issued by the WHO China office said on Tuesday. The organization also expressed its willingness to provide support.

A vaccine rendered ineffective through age or improper storage could fail to protect the recipient against infectious diseases, which creates a public health challenge, according to Gao Fu, deputy director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Xiong Huang, deputy head of the information office of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, said there has been no increase in reports of side effects after vaccinations so far.

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HEALTH



Peng Liyuan, China's first lady and the World Health Organization's goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, greets a migrant worker in Beijing on Tuesday at a publicity event ahead of World Tuberculosis Day, which falls on March 24 each year. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

First lady helps fight tuberculosis

By SHAN JUAN

Tuberculosis has been declining in incidence and fatality in China, but it still has a high prevalence, a senior health official said.

Wang Bin, deputy director of the disease prevention and control bureau of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, made the remarks at a news conference on Wednesday ahead of World TB Day, which falls on March 24.

On Tuesday, China's first lady Peng Liyuan visited construction workers in Beijing to

promote TB prevention and treatment.

Peng, a well-known Chinese soprano, was appointed as WHO goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in 2011.

Her efforts promoting public health date back 10 years. In China, she became the health ambassador for HIV/AIDS prevention for the Ministry of Health in January 2006 and the national ambassador for TB control and prevention in March 2007.

The incidence rate declined to 63.4 per 100,000, compared

with 71.1 per 100,000 in 2011. The mortality rate dropped by 23 percent during the same period, said Wang, who cited a nationwide TB surveillance network.

Between 2011 and 2015, China reported 4.27 million TB cases, and 1.6 million were highly contagious.

Populations such as students and migrant workers are relatively susceptible due to their living environments, Wang added.

To curb the disease, the central government has earmarked 3.06 billion yuan (\$471

million) in the past five years for TB control and prevention.

The treatment for TB is highly subsidized, with that for common TB virtually free of charge, said Li Liang, a veteran TB specialist in Beijing.

But efforts need to be further enhanced, particularly with the multidrug-resistant TB, or MDR-TB.

The WHO's 2015 Global TB Report said only three in 10 TB patients in China receive proper laboratory diagnosis, and five in 100 of all estimated MDR-TB patients are reported to receive proper treatment.

BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA

New airport helps Hainan's tourism take off

By SU ZHOU in Beijing and LIU XIAOLI in Boao, Hainan

For the first time, people attending the Boao Forum for Asia have been able to take flights — either direct from overseas or via connecting cities on the mainland — to the coastal town of Boao on the east side of Hainan Island, instead of having to fly into Haikou or Sanya.

“This year's forum is a little bit different from previous years,” said Mao Chaofeng, executive deputy governor of Hainan province, during a news conference on the sidelines of the forum on Wednesday. “Many participants of the forum and media representatives had the chance to take a direct flight to Boao Airport, which was still an area of waste ground this time last year.”

Boao Airport, which began operations on March 17, not only makes it much easier for forum participants to access the resort town but also eases the way for many tourists who visit the area. The airport is designed to be able to accom-



Mao Chaofeng, executive deputy governor of Hainan province, is interviewed after a news conference on the sidelines of the Boao Forum for Asia on Wednesday. HUANG YIMING / CHINA DAILY

modate 480,000 passengers and handle 1,440 metric tons of cargo annually by 2020.

The facility is part of Hainan's transportation upgrade and fits in with the tropical island's aspiration to grow into a global tourism destination by the end of the decade.

According to this year's Government Work Report for Hainan, in addition to the establishment of Boao Airport,

the province plans to expand existing airports at Haikou and Sanya this year and build another airport in Danzhou within the next three years.

Hainan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) says the province is expecting to see more than 80 million tourists a year by 2020, with 1.2 million of those coming from overseas. Total tourism revenue is expected to pass 100 billion yuan (\$15.2 billion)

by then, and better connectivity is seen as a key component of the expansion in tourism.

“In 2015, we had 19 airlines connecting to 11 countries. This year, we will keep up our efforts and do our best to connect to all major source countries of Hainan's inbound tourism,” said Sun Ying, head of the Hainan Provincial Tourism Development Commission. “For those countries already connected by air travel, we will add more flights.”

In recent years, Hainan has lost ground in the face of fierce competition from resorts in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, where tourism facilities and services were more mature.

“Hainan is as good as or even better than surrounding islands when talking about scenery and the ecosystem,” Sun said.

However, the province needs to increase direct flights to other countries and further promote the visa-free policies to boost its tourism development, she said.

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Briefly

BEIJING

Xi urges training of commanders

President Xi Jinping on Wednesday stressed the importance of training commanding officers capable of leading joint warfare. In an inspection tour of the National Defence University of the People's Liberation Army, Xi noted that this goal should be the university's priority. He urged the university to improve educational theories and training models for a more competent and professional faculty. Xi, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, promised that the CMC will also harness the efforts of military headquarters and armed forces for the training of commanding officers.

INNER MONGOLIA

Major land port to expand capacity

Manzhouli, China's largest land-based port of entry, is expected to see its annual highway cargo handling capacity climb to 10 million metric tons this year, from the current 3 million tons, according to the city government of Manzhouli, which said the increase is related to the first stage of a project aimed at upgrading road services to the port, which is near both Russia and Mongolia. The project is expected to be completed in 2017 at a cost of 1.03 billion yuan (\$159 million).

QINGHAI

Free education program to start

A 15-year free education program will be started in some parts of Qinghai beginning with this year's spring term, the local education department said on Wednesday. Some 860,000 students from Qinghai's five Tibetan autonomous prefectures — Haibei, Hainan, Huangnan, Guoluo and Yushu — and the Haixi Mongol and Tibetan autonomous prefectures, together with those from poverty-stricken families in Xining and Haidong, will benefit.

GUANGDONG

Party chief under investigation

Li Jia, Party chief of Zhuhai, Guangdong province, is under investigation for “suspected serious disciplinary violations”, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection announced on its website on Wednesday night. Li, born in 1964, spent almost his entire political career in Guangdong. He has been the Party chief of Zhuhai since 2012, according to his official resume.

XINHUA — CHINA DAILY

Web: Netizens encouraged to report banned content

FROM PAGE 1

terrorism has been ongoing for many years, but the center, established in 2005 and operated under the supervision of China's Cyberspace Administration, determined it needed more resources to keep fighting illegal content on websites, micro blogs and text messaging sites, Zhang said.

To more efficiently monitor the Web, the center required the administration's branches and website operators to build up their channels for detection and to provide more ways for netizens to report banned content, he said.

China has 4.23 million websites producing 40 billion pieces of content every day, “which is a huge workload for the Internet

management departments to cover, let alone distinguish illegal or harmful ones from among them,” Zhang said.

The government is especially concerned by websites that promote violence and terrorism through videos and audio recordings, spread separatist messages or advocate religious extremism by posting terror messages and photos on covert sites, he said.

“Lots of terrorism-related information is hidden in cloud storage or by instant messaging tools, such as WeChat and QQ, as well as on some small online forums,” Zhang said.

Increased reporting channels have contributed to tips from netizens, and enforcement against online terrorism

Pornography, fraud, rumors top online complaints, watchdog says

Pornography, fraud and spurious rumors were the top three netizen complaints about online content in 2015, and received significant attention from law enforcement authorities, an official of China's top Internet watchdog said.

The China Internet Illegal Information Reporting Center dealt with 1 million reports last year, most of which were related to porn, scams and unfounded reports meant to incite people, Zhang Chenggang, head of the center, told China Daily.

In addition to handling citizen tips directly, the center also ordered local websites to manage more than 38 million reports last year in an effort to make the process more efficient, Zhang said.

The center also started a campaign to keep illegal and harmful online information from children, especially pornographic content, which is more dangerous to youngsters, he said in an interview earlier this month.

As part of the crackdown, the center directly removed more than 15,000 pieces of content

that were detrimental to children and coordinated with other administrations to delete more than 9,500 problematic website links and QQ and WeChat text messaging accounts, he said.

“Many reporters are parents or young people who often surf the Internet, and some of them have become volunteers to help us fight illegal and harmful information,” he said.

Nearly 3,000 volunteers, most in their 20s and 30s who have mastered Internet-related rules, joined the center last year in its

pioneering effort to police cyberspace, Zhang said.

“Some volunteers are from government departments, while some are college students and white-collar workers,” he said. “We established some WeChat groups to communicate, and trained 500 of them.”

The center also started a smartphone application to diversify the reporting channels and make it more convenient for people to report problem content, he added.

CAO YIN

has improved, he said.

“On one hand, more ‘eyes’ helping us scrutinize online terrorist activity can alleviate our work burden,” he said. “On the other hand, reporting

such messages is also a way for netizens to implement the rule of law while surfing the Internet.”

More tips are being provided through the center's online

reporting website, as it offers a convenient way to attach website links and screen shots, he said.

For example, a netizen reported a WeChat account

that had posted a large number of photos of violence and terrorism, including photos in which a woman was beaten to death, he said.

“The clue provider sent such

screen shots to us. We verified the report and asked the WeChat operator to handle the case in a timely manner, such as removing the photos or even shutting down accounts,” he said.

The administration also has recommended improved supervision of local networks. “Clue providers can decide on whether to leave their real names, ... and some of them can be rewarded if their tips prove valuable,” he said.

Last year, the center allocated more than 2 million yuan (\$308,000) to tipsters who identified terrorism-related content, “which encouraged more netizens to join the fight”, Zhang said.

The center also coordinated with foreign reporting organizations to eliminate nearly 2,000 text messages, audio recordings and videos of terrorist attacks, as well as content related to child pornography, he said.

Germany special

中国日报 CHINA DAILY

Adaptation needed in Sino-German partnership

WINFRIED BOSTELMANN

The author is chairman of BVMW China, the China branch of the German Association for Small and Medium-sized Businesses.

Sino-German trade relations have been growing tremendously during the past 20 years. German mechanical engineering as well as the country's new strategy of "Industry 4.0" plays a key role for China's industry. China, in turn, is by far the most important supplier of consumer goods to Germany.

Since the announcement of the "Made in China 2025" strategy by the Chinese government, it is clear that China will make greater strides in its economic growth. To this end, various measures have already been taken to steer the entire economic and also ecological development of the country in new, more sustainable paths. This is also recorded in the current Five-Year Plan (2016-20), which China's National People's Congress approved last week. Yet China's economy is strategically highly dependent on German export

goods. Many German machines are being used in industries in which China exports a large proportion of its production. In particular, highly specialized and technology-intensive goods — such as machines — are currently limited to be replaced by imports from other countries. This will certainly change in the future in various industries, and this is also a result of Made in China 2025. The German economy is very well advised to adapt to this in time and based on the partnership. For Germany, in return,

China is very important as a supplier of textiles and clothing. While China's share of German textile imports in 1992 represented only about 7 percent, it now exceeds 31 percent. Germany's dependence on Chinese office machines, computers and laptops rose even more strongly. Here, the share of Chinese imports since 1992 has grown from below 1 percent to almost 44 percent. Because of the somewhat weaker Chinese economy or the "new normal" in 2015, Germany experienced its first export decline to

the country since 1997. While exports from Germany to China declined by around 4.5 percent to just over 71.2 billion euros (\$79.7 billion), imports from China rose in the same period by almost 15 percent to more than 91.5 billion euros. The conversion of the previously export-driven Chinese economy toward sustainable, innovation-driven growth and a strengthening of domestic consumption offers great opportunities for the German economy. China is, after France, the United States and

the United Kingdom, the fourth-largest buyer of German exports and the world's most important market for German machinery. After the US and the UK, the most German motor vehicles are sold in China. Last year, 4.4 million vehicles were sold, representing a market share of German automobile manufacturers of 20.8 percent. From 2008 through 2014, German electronics exports to China doubled to 2.6 billion euros. Exports of German food and related products to China leveled off after three

years to a record rise in 2014 to almost 900 million euros. With a continued high growth rate — up 65 percent in 2015, China remains one of the most important foreign markets for the German agricultural and food industry. Germany needs long-term investment from China. Because of this, Germany should lift its restrictions on high-tech exports to China in the medium-term. This requires an analogous procedure on the Chinese side, of course, and cooperation based on partnership and being on par with each other is the present need.

Chamber aids Chinese companies to enter EU markets

DUAN WEI

The author is executive director of Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Germany

China and Germany have long enjoyed sound trade relations and have maintained their status as each other's largest trade partner. However, obstacles exist with Sino-German and Sino-European trade cooperation. Thanks to economic globalization, trade liberalization and the multilateral trade talks under the framework of the World Trade Organization, traditional trade protection tools including tariffs, import licenses and export quotas have seen their

existence reduced. More and more countries have been adopting new trade protection methods including anti-dumping, anti-subsidies and green trade barriers, as well as intellectual property protection. In recent years, trade frictions between China and European countries have occurred during anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations targeting China's photovoltaic and telecommunications industries. However, German companies' attitudes toward their Chinese counterparts have changed significantly, and for the better. They have become aware that Chinese enterprises could not only provide inex-

pensive textile products and toys, but that many high-tech enterprises are active in the country, including Huawei, Lenovo and Haier. The hardworking, diligent, modest Chinese people who are keen to learn have impressed their German counterparts. China and German enterprises have strong complementary advantages. On one hand, China has embarked on the road to upgrade its industries, and the era when Chinese companies only manufactured cheap products is gone. During the industrial transformation, China needs to partner with countries like Germany that have strong high-tech prowess. On the other hand, for

the growth of German companies, China is the world's largest consumer market with the fastest development speed. The huge Chinese market has huge allure for German companies. During Chinese businesses' "go global" campaign, overseas Chinese chambers of commerce must play a key role in protecting the investment interests of Chinese enterprises. In particular, in a country like Germany with strong and mature business associations, the chamber should play a responsible role in the country's political and economic development. As the first Chinese chamber of commerce set up in Europe that has been recog-

nized by the two countries' governments, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Germany will beef up its efforts to do the following work: First, establish a public information service platform, helping Chinese enterprises expand overseas and aiding their foray into German and other European markets. Second, establish a platform to sustain communications among Chinese businesses that have set up in Germany, help their exchanges with their German counterparts, accelerate their pace of integrating into local society, help their efforts in localized management and business development and build a real and positive image for Chinese enterprises in Germany's



German President Joachim Gauck pays a visit to the Forbidden City in Beijing on Monday. ZHANG LING / XINHUA

mainstream society. Third, analyze the investment climate in the proposed destinations, acting as a representative between Chinese and German governments as well as business circles, aid Chinese enterprises to improve their investment environment

and solve any difficulties, and partner them to tackle challenges in Germany.



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Festival breaks barriers between China, Germany

Black Forest event helps youths gain understandings with music

By ZHUANTI
zhuanti@chinadaily.com.cn

This summer, a group of Chinese teenaged art enthusiasts will take part in the sixth annual Black Forest Arts and Cultural Festival in Freudenstadt, Germany.

The festival, to be held in July and sponsored by China Daily Education Special and the Beijing Silk Road Culture International Exchange Center, is a cultural exchange for teenagers from the two countries. Over the past five festivals, more than 400 Chinese participated in each event.

The two nations established a strategic partnership and long-term bilateral relations in 2014.

On March 21, leaders of the two countries attended the opening ceremony of the China-Germany Year of Student and Youth Exchange in Beijing.

Chinese and German teenagers will play various musical instruments together, including the piano and cello as well as traditional Chinese instruments such as the *hulusi*, a kind of wind instrument. German teenagers will also teach their Chinese peers about their traditional dances, while the Chinese teens are expected to hold kung fu performances and demonstrate how to write calligraphy.

Michael Clauss, the German ambassador to China, said he expects many Chinese and German teenagers to discover the dazzling variety of cultures far beyond stereotypes.

"Nothing is more valuable than a face-to-face encounter with teenagers from another country. That's why we promote exchanges between China and Germany," he said.

Chinese parents that China Daily spoke with said they expect their children to improve how they communicate with foreign peers. They said many Chinese students prefer to keep to themselves rather than socialize with others.

Chinese participants are expected to study Western manners, German arts and outdoor sports activities.

Clauss said Chinese students are more focused on their studies and have less spare time. He called their self-discipline impressive and said German teenagers tend to be "carefree".

"They do sports, play music and try to find their own way in life," he said.

"I personally think that self-determination and self-discipline don't conflict. That is why I think that Chinese and German teenagers can learn a lot from each other," he said.

Teens grow up

The event has proven fruitful for many Chinese families. Dong Cuiping, mother of 8-year-old Ma Yijia, said her daughter became more responsible and independent after taking part in the event.

She said her daughter came away impressed upon noticing that her German peers clean their tables after meals. Chinese students, she said, usually go out to play after eating.

Zhou Guanyu, mother of 9-year-old twins, said her daughters became more mature and improved on their manners.

But most importantly, many of the teens said they were touched by the music when they attended the event.

Zhao Jierong, 17, has been playing the drums since the age of 7 and attended the event last year. When she saw a marching band of teenage girls perform on Freudenstadt's main street, she jumped at the chance to join them.

"I saw they had a spare drum, so I asked with gestures if I could play and they welcomed me to join," she said.

"I don't speak German and they don't speak Chinese, but we played a song together and our rhythms totally matched. I also learned a few cool moves from them." Cheng Siqi, a 16-year-old pianist studying at Beijing's Middle School attached to the China Conservatory, said she enjoyed soaking up the atmosphere



Students from China and Germany attend the Black Forest Arts and Cultural Festival in Freudenstadt, Germany. Over the past five years, more than 400 Chinese teenagers have taken part in the event. This year, the event coincides with the China-Germany Year of Student and Youth Exchange. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

during her trip last year.

"My piano teacher studied in Germany, so I always wanted to go to Germany," she said. "I heard people playing music everywhere."

Jin Di, leader of a group of children from Jiangxi province, said the opportunity to travel and study overseas is precious for children from the inland province.

"Our province is famous for porcelain, so I gave a blue and white porcelain vase to Freudenstadt's mayor as a gift last year. I hope more people will come to know we not only have porcelain, but also have many young talented musicians," she said.

The Black Forest, a forested mountain range in southwestern Germany, is known for its cuckoo clocks, Black Forest cake, fresh air and picturesque landscapes. Many stories from *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, including *Snow White* and *Little Red Riding Hood*, were based in the region.

Freudenstadt is a small ancient city with beautiful scenery in the northern part of the Black Forest. Several artists from around the world including Chinese pianists Li Yundi and Lang Lang have hosted concerts in the city.





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EDITORIAL

Lack of transparency breeds skepticism

Nothing has caught a nerve in China quite like the latest vaccine scandal. The failed endeavors to contain the ripple effects are teaching the same old, unlearned lessons: That, in our time of social media, withholding information is self-defeating and worsens the credibility drain.

That no cover-up can withstand sustained public curiosity. That there is no better crisis control than timely information sharing. With plenty of questions still unanswered regarding the sources and whereabouts of all the vaccine products in question, the authorities have nobody but themselves to blame for the disbelief and mistrust they face. They have had authoritative medical professionals at home clarify that vaccines transported and stored in unrefrigerated conditions are not deadly by themselves, being at worst invalid. They have even had the World Health Organization assure unnerved Chinese parents that inappropriately stored or expired vaccines are not harmful and to encourage them to continue vaccinating their children. Yet everything that is from the authorities, everything that is meant to clarify, to reassure, is being taken with a pinch of salt. That vaccines, which are supposed to be transported and stored in refrigerated conditions, by authorized dealers, under strict government oversight, have been illegally bought by unlicensed private sellers, stored and transported without being refrigerated, and distributed before the eyes of disease control agencies is certainly a matter for every parent to worry about.

Particularly because the problem has existed for five years and involves 24 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions, and particularly as the individual who headed the network had already received a sentence for illicitly dealing in vaccines, and committed the same offense during her five-year probation. The matter appears even more upsetting when other recent scandals related to vaccines are taken into account. Although the reported claims of fatalities and symptoms as a result of problematic vaccines have largely been declared “groundless” after official investigations, they have repeatedly exposed the same irregularities we are seeing today. In our face is no longer another case of “competent authorities” being incompetent. Although dereliction of duty is evident throughout, corruption should be a main focus of the ongoing investigations. After all, we have the clue that rent-seeking is rampant in the vaccine business. There is no excuse for the probe to not pursue that “gray chain of interests”. Looking back on what has gone wrong is embarrassing. Acknowledging it may be demeaning. But underplaying or simply looking aside from the root causes has cost the authorities dearly. And it will prove more costly, because this is a matter of life and death, not merely disguising management dysfunction.

TO THE POINT
Gauck’s focus on boosting ties

Considering his “civil rights” experience in East Germany before its unification with West Germany, the ongoing state visit to China by German President Joachim Gauck has been viewed by some Western human rights organizations as an opportunity to exert pressure on China on the human rights issue. But this will turn out to be a naïve illusion. Although he may raise the issue of human rights as a “routine gesture” like other Western politicians usually do during their tour of China, Gauck has surely put how to boost ties with Beijing to a higher level at the top of his agenda during his visit. Despite his different values to those advocated by Chinese people, Gauck is sure to know how to gain mutual respect with the host nation, which is different from the East Germany of his youth. And China’s human rights situation is not as depicted by Western media outlets and radical human rights organizations. The West should look at the basic facts of China’s human rights conditions with unbiased eyes. Any people without prejudices should be able to recognize the remarkable progress China has made in improving the rights of subsistence and development for its more than 1.3 billion people over the past decades. Different from the multi-party systems in Western countries, the political system in China led by the ruling Party is a choice made by Chinese people after decades of painstaking practice. Western politicians should realize this is something that Chinese people will long adhere to. — GLOBAL TIMES

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ZHANG TIANKAN
Vaccine scare-mongering risks epidemics

One after another there have been postings on social media about the “dangers of vaccines” after a network illegally storing and selling vaccines was busted by the police. One of the most popular posts was one titled “Tragedies Caused by Vaccines”, which blamed vaccine injections for the deaths and disabilities of 19 children, it was reported many times accompanied by calls to “boycott vaccines”. What these posts will never tell you is that there is always a slight possibility that children will suffer an adverse reaction to a vaccine. Vaccines are inactivated pathogens, and they work by prompting the human immune system to produce antibodies to fight similar pathogens in the future. While most people do produce the desired antibodies after receiving a vaccine injection, a few, perhaps one in a million, will have adverse reactions because of their specific immunity conditions. This is what the Japanese call “a demon draws lots”, because although the possibility is low the unlucky person suffers a lot. Even if the vaccine is a genuine product, properly stored, there is always that possibility. Sometimes poor quality vaccines or irregular operation during their injection might cause adverse reactions, too, but the probability of that is also very low. However, that’s fundamentally different from the current vaccine scandal in which over 300 suspects sold more than 20,000 improperly acquired and stored vaccine shots, worth more 570 million yuan (\$88 million), to health centers in 24 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions nationwide. Vaccines must be kept at a temperature between 2 and 8 degrees Centigrade during storage and transportation, but the illegal dealers failed to do that; as a result, the vaccines they sell are no longer effective. Those being injected with the vaccine will still get sick when infected with the pathogen the vaccine is supposed to protect against. This might have serious consequences, even cause fatalities, as the vaccines are for protection against serious diseases. The authorities announced on Monday that those illegally selling the vaccine will be investigated and punished. But punishments should also be given to those in the health departments and the enforcers of the regulations that have failed in their duties, and the holes in the fences must be closed. Of course, ineffective vaccines are also a serious public health incident,

FANG XUANCHANG
Vaccines are not high-risk biological products

The latest vaccine scandal, exposed in East China’s Shandong province in early March, has generated excessive unprofessional interpretations of possible side effects, as it involves 570 million yuan (\$87 million) worth of vaccines that were suspected of being sold to 24 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions without being kept and transported in the required refrigerated conditions. Undoubtedly, the vaccine scandal has brought about very adverse social effects and its occurrence has underlined management and supervision loopholes in the production and use of vaccines. All involved in the scandal should be held accountable in accordance with the law. Vaccines that fail to be strictly stored and transported as required, however, are neither equivalent to “poisonous vaccines” as described by some nor will they inevitably produce the terrible consequences suggested. The posting of previous media

but there is no need to mix the normal risks associated with vaccines with the risks arising from criminal activities, which also should not be blown out of proportion. As the World Health Organization pointed out, “improperly stored or expired vaccines seldom, if ever, cause a toxic reaction... The risk to children is the lack of protection from the disease for which the vaccine was intended”. Internationally, there are also strict standards for vaccines. Each vaccine must pass many tests and protect over 70 percent of those receiving it without threatening their lives, causing disease or disability, or new-born defects. Thus the real dilemma concerning vaccines is: Shall we protect people’s lives at the risk of one adverse reaction out of a million? Most nations have said yes, and their choices have helped control one disease after another. A typical example is the eradication of smallpox in 1980, which had been a threat to humans for millenniums. Vaccinations have also helped cut the incidence of polio by 99 percent from 1988 to 2013, although it is on the rise in some African and Asian countries which have resisted vaccine injections for religious or other reasons. That’s something the Chinese public needs to reflect on before deciding whether it wants to “boycott” vaccines or not. Many people argue that poor quality vaccines might lead to adverse reactions. The possibility is very low. A typical example is 2013, when some hepatitis-B vaccine was reported to fail quality standards, China Food and Drug Administration and the National Health and Family Planning Commission investigated and concluded that none of the 17 deaths reported in the incident had anything to do with the vaccine. WHO endorsed that conclusion. For those who feel suspicious about official announcements, a 2013 essay published in Vaccine, the most respected and authoritative global publication on vaccines and their use, concludes that the number of adverse reaction incidents to vaccine injections in China is similar to those in other countries. Of course, China has much to do, because its nationwide vaccine adverse reaction monitoring system was not established until 2009. The current scandal shows that supervision throughout the vaccine production and inoculation process — namely production, circulation, sales and usage — must be strengthened because any incident could ruin public’s trust in vaccines, which is a bigger risk to public health. The author is deputy editor-in-chief of the magazine Encyclopedic Knowledge and a former research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences.

reports about “problem vaccines”, has meant the country’s drug epidemic prevention regulators have been severely criticized. However, a calm and objective look at these reports will reveal that the hazardous consequences of the “problem vaccines” were exaggerated. People with any medical knowledge will easily discern that there actually exists no links between the “problem vaccines” and the “strange diseases” the reports claimed some children had contracted as a result of being vaccinated with invalid vaccines. The use of “problem vaccines” usually exposes the receivers to the threat of serious diseases such as rabies and tetanus as they are unaware that they are not protected, leaving them at the risk of being infected. The use of vaccines that have not been completely inactivated is also tantamount to injecting vaccine users with the corresponding pathogens, thus exposing them to the risk of infection. Aside from these consequences, the use of vaccines, either qualified or disqualified, will also possibly depend on the recipient’s reaction to an injection; there is always the possibility of an adverse reaction, although this is rare. The incidence of one to two adverse-reaction cases in every 1 million vaccinations manifestly includes not only serious allergic reactions and epidemics contraction due to the incomplete inactivation of vaccines, but also minor body reactions. It is unscientific to equate all these adverse reactions following a vaccination with the contraction of lifelong disabilities, as a 2013 Southern Metropolis Daily story, which has been widely reposted after the latest scandal, did. With such a misperception, the Southern Metropolis Daily reporter thus drew the absurd conclusion that “vaccines in themselves are a high-risk biological products”. However, the fact is that vaccines produced under normal and matured procedures belong to particularly low-risk biological products. When it comes to children, a group that’s more inclined to be vaccinated, some journalists eager to make headlines are motivated to discover some “inevitable correlations” between vaccination and the diseases vaccinated children contract because of other factors. People need to have meals and drink water, but one cannot inevitably link eating and drinking to some diseases they suffer due to other causes. Any irresponsible media reports about vaccines will aggravate public fears over possible adverse consequences, which may directly reduce people’s willingness to have their children vaccinated and thus expose them to the tangible threat of various epidemics. The author is a Beijing-based senior science reporter.



The United States has talked about militarization in the South China Sea, but can it explain why its own increased military deployment in the region isn't equivalent to militarization?"

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Hua Chunying** criticizing the United States and the Philippines for increasing their military presence in the South China Seas at a news conference.

VIEWS

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily

FRASER CAMERON

More resources, action needed against terrorism

London, Madrid, Paris – and now Brussels, Europe's fight against terrorism is set to continue for some time, probably a long time. As world leaders express their condolences and outrage, they also know that there is no quick or easy solution to defeat today's terrorists, especially the fanatics who belong to the Islamic State group, the organization that claimed responsibility for the Brussels attacks.

It is relatively easy to carry out a terrorist attack whether with an automatic rifle, suicide vest or home-made bomb. And no society can provide 100 percent security against such attacks. There are simply too many soft targets, whether train and bus stations, soccer stadiums or shopping malls.

In all of the recent terror attacks in Europe the common

European leaders have expressed their solidarity and full support for Belgium. But statements are one thing, action is another. Terrorists and criminals are often one step ahead of the police in moving from one country to another ...

element has been disaffected youths of Muslim backgrounds. They appear to have been radicalized partly due to anger at Western interventions in Iraq and Syria, and partly due to their alienation from the mainstream of society.

In Brussels the police estimate there are up to 50 potential terrorists and their numbers are augmented by those returning from jihadist campaigns in Syria and Iraq. For its size (12 million inhabitants) Belgium has proportionately more jihadists (around 500) in Syria than any other European country.

So what is to be done? Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel and French President Francois Hollande have called for a calm and determined campaign against all terrorists and urged greater sharing of intelligence among European security agencies. European leaders have expressed their solidarity and full support for Belgium. But statements are one thing, action is another. Terrorists and criminals are often one step ahead of the police in moving from one country to another in a borderless

Europe. The Paris attacks, for example, were plotted and carried out by terrorists operating from Brussels who only had a three-hour drive to Paris without any border checks.

EU leaders will now be under strong pressure to strengthen the monitoring of borders in an attempt to make life more difficult for terrorists and other criminals. This is likely to be accepted by most citizens who are also concerned at the vast numbers of refugees entering Europe from Syria, Iraq and other countries in the past two years.

There will be more resources devoted to police and intelligence services. Belgium's capabilities for surveillance have already been stretched to the limit. Again citizens will accept such expenditure as right and proper in the circumstances.

There will also be a renewed

attempt to ensure that the fragile ceasefire in Syria holds and that talks can begin on a political solution. Some politicians will try and mix up the refugee crisis with the terrorist attacks in order to create a climate which enables refugees to be sent away. The EU is already half-way to such a system with its deal last week with Turkey. Ankara has agreed to take back any refugees who arrive in the EU and who are not eligible for asylum; and in return the EU will take one eligible refugee from the humanitarian camps in Turkey.

Combating terrorism thus requires patience, determination, greater resources and action on several fronts, domestic and foreign. Terrorism will not disappear from Europe's streets anytime soon.

The author is director of the EU-Asia Centre in Brussels.

ZHOU YONGSHENG

Firm wants a bite of the cherry and blossom

An enterprise in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, recently ran an outdoor advertisement in Tokyo, claiming Wuhan is home to cherry blossom. The ad also invited Tokyo residents to visit Wuhan University, where cherry blossom attracts a considerable number of tourists from across China, even abroad, in spring every year.

The ad, as a historian at Wuhan University said, has several mistakes, especially those on the origin of cherry blossom and the cherry trees in Wuhan. Despite its famous cherry-themed scenic spots, Wuhan did get most of its cherry trees from Japan after 1938, when Japanese soldiers invaded the city and sowed cherry seeds during the occupation.

In other words, the cherry blossom in Wuhan does have a genetic connection with the trees planted by the imperial Japanese army more than seven decades ago. That, to some extent, serves as a reminder of the shameful past, when many Chinese people fell prey to the brutality of the Japanese colonialists.

True, most cherry trees in Wuhan today have their origins in those planted by imperial Japanese soldiers. But that does not justify the grudge some people have against the city for using the cherry blossom season to attract tourists.

Through trials and tribulations, China, along with its anti-Fascist allies during World War II, managed to claim victory in the war against Japan in 1945. But some Japanese politicians' recent rhetoric denying the country's past and war crimes has rubbed salt in Chinese people's wounds. And they should be held responsible for the declining understanding between the people of the two countries.

But what drove the Wuhan enterprise to run the inaccurate ad is not clear. It would be a sad comment on the enterprise, however, if the entire endeavor turns out to be a mere publicity stunt to promote its image while deliberately turning a blind eye to the fact that Wuhan is not the place where cherry blossom originated.

Nonetheless, criticizing the ad as an "ignorant attempt" to make light of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-45) would be too harsh an act. True, most cherry trees in Wuhan today have their origins in those planted by imperial Japanese soldiers. But that does not justify the grudge some people have against the city for using the cherry blossom season to attract tourists.

Many may see Wuhan's cherry trees as a symbol of Japanese invasion, which was brutal and criminal to say the least, but it is wrong to do so. The cherry trees are a gift of nature that draw hordes of tourists in spring.

Moreover, the stands of cherry trees the Japanese soldiers had planted in Wuhan died years ago. Most of the trees we see today were grafted into the rootstocks of the old ones by local residents after the 1970s, some of which were gifts from the then Japanese government and people. The existing trees, therefore, have nothing to do with Japanese militarism and should not incite hatred. More importantly, the cherry trees are now part of public property in Wuhan.

Thanks to globalization, most countries have intensified their political, economic and cultural exchanges, especially because their interests are intertwined. Such being said, China has to keep its past sufferings in mind, but it also needs to look to the future.

The author is a professor on Japan studies at China Foreign Affairs University.

CHU YIN

EU's 'forgotten ones' easy targets for extremism

The terrorist attacks at the airport and a subway station in Brussels on Tuesday came just a few days after the Belgian police captured Salah Abdeslam, the suspected leader of November's Paris attacks, in a recent raid.

It is both astonishing and lamentable that Belgium, a European Union member state known for its generosity toward immigrants and its diverse culture has fallen prey to terror attacks.

It seems something is wrong with the social governance and security situation in the European Union. It is noteworthy that Islamic extremism, one of the biggest security concerns for the EU, has actually developed from within.

Marginalized, cold-shouldered and radicalized, these extremists have European identities, a clear understanding of what is going on in their neighborhoods, and deep grudges against society.

These "forgotten ones" are easy targets for religious extremism, as they lack any sense of belonging. They constitute a major threat to regional stability and will continue to be one, if local governments refrain from making efforts to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Following the EU's expansion and integration, the massive inflows and outflows of people within EU borders, have become a headache for many countries' security authorities, as terrorists have even plotted cross-border



LI FENG / CHINA DAILY

assaults under the cover of the "free migration" in Europe. Intelligence activities and the surveillance of certain individuals often involve sovereignty and state secrets, and European countries, especially those with less intelligence resources, always find it difficult to keep a closer eye on local security affairs and prepare for latent dangers.

In fact, "Western liberalism" seems to have resulted in European governments gradually losing their control over security, as they have allowed terrorists to disseminate extremism and recruit terrorists via the Internet.

Given the increasing number of terrorist attacks inside the EU community, the price for freedom may be too high for all economies, many of which are already struggling to fight back in the face of the barbaric attacks. For them, it is almost impossible to safeguard their national security with just their own strengths.

However, the prospects of other options, including soliciting support from a unified European security agency and a total retreat back to original borders, are equally dim – the former is not in line with the sovereignty of countries, while the latter is hardly possible.

The author is an associate professor at the University of International Relations, and a research fellow at the Center for China and Globalization.

OP RANA

Fighting terror a fight to save civilization

Tragic. Horrific. Devastating. No adjective can describe what happened in Brussels on Tuesday. Just like no adjective could describe the Paris attacks on Nov 13.

Indeed, no security is secure enough to stop people from blowing themselves up in the name of religion, albeit driven by the blatantly wrong interpretation of faith. The world, from New York and London to Mumbai and Beijing, has seen what youths under the influence of self-proclaimed protectors of religion can do.

The so-called war on terror has been raging since the Sept 11, 2001, attacks. It started against al-Qaida. Before al-Qaida it was the Taliban that was the scourge of humanity. And even before Osama bin Laden was gunned down in Pakistan's Abbottabad in May 2011, Boko Haram was wreaking havoc in Nigeria and other African countries. And then from the battle-

The world has been fighting terrorism for decades, more intensely over the past decade and a half. Yet terrorism has grown from strength to strength. Counter force just doesn't seem to be working.

grounds of Iraq and Syria emerged a dastardly force giving sleepless nights to people across the world. The Islamic State group is by far the most dreaded religious outfit in history, and its leaders use the most sophisticated means to recruit youths and indoctrinate them with a distorted version of religion to turn them into brutal killers and mobile grenades. They have a way with the Internet, their propaganda literature is designed to fool and lure

youths, their recruitment process uses filters to draw the most dogmatic youths as well as to preempt infiltration by suspected "saboteurs", and their brutality is aimed at spreading fear not only among their "enemies" but also among their own members to prevent them from even thinking of leaving the outfit.

For the IS, a Paris or a Brussels seems to be a means to an end – spreading the fear of another attack so that government organizations go into a frenzy and launch intelligence and security operations that unwittingly inconvenience people of a particular faith. The more suspicious government organizations become of members of a certain community, the more its youths will feel wronged and the more they will be drawn toward the IS. The IS orchestrated the Brussels attacks just days after the arrest of the prime suspect of the Paris attacks Salah Abdeslam from the Molen-

beek neighborhood of the Belgian capital.

Children of the faith that the IS claims to represent are among the most marginalized in the world, overwhelmed by the vicious circle of poverty, illiteracy and ignorance, and are thus easy prey for terrorist outfits. The world has been fighting terrorism for decades, more intensely over the past decade and a half. Yet terrorism has grown from strength to strength. Counter force just doesn't seem to be working. And the interventions in Afghanistan, and Iraq, Libya, Syria and other Middles East countries have worsened the situation.

Perhaps it is time to counter terrorism with information. The IS' network is deep, wide and extensive, because youths have co-opted be part of the terrorist outfit's offshoots in countries not only in the Middle East but also Europe and Asia, even the United States.

No religion, not even the one

that IS claims to be the flag-bearer of, tells its followers to kill fellow human beings or blow themselves. Why cannot we teach the children born into a certain community this fact? Why have we forgotten our responsibility to "save the children that have not tasted human blood"? Why cannot we launch a counter propaganda war against terrorism outfits like the IS? Why cannot we seek the help of religious heads of a certain community to spread the true message of God?

Experience shows the decimation of a terrorist outfit gives rise to a more savage force. So let us not turn the fight against terrorism into a clash of human civilizations, because it is a clash to save human civilization. Only when the world realizes this fact can it save itself from not only terrorism but also all forms of savagery and oppression.

The author is a senior editor with China Daily. oprana@hotmail.com

Ambitious plan laid out for future of ancient port

South China city a key location at the Belt and Road Initiative

By ZHENG CAIXIONG
in Guangzhou
zhengcaixiong@chinadaily.com.cn

Ren Xuefeng, Party chief of Guangzhou, mapped out an ambitious plan to construct the ancient commercial port city into a new national center city with three strategic hubs in his opening speech at the Guangzhou Annual Investment Conference that opened in the metropolis on Wednesday.

According to Ren, the city, one of the major starting points for the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, will become a hub for aviation, shipping and scientific innovation in the years to come.

“Guangzhou, a major trade port to the outside world in olden times, will try to attract more key companies to help build the city into a hub of aviation, shipping and scientific innovation,” Ren said. “Scientific innovation will become a new driving force and growth engine for Guangzhou,” he added.

To this end, relevant departments in the city have introduced a series of preferential policies and regulations to help attract talent, capital, technologies and management from home and abroad.

Ren promised to further improve Guangzhou’s investment climate and living environment to better serve the city’s economic construction and scientific innovation.

Unique advantages
Dong Qiang, chairman of China State Shipbuilding Corp, said his company will further expand its cooperation with relevant departments in the city to help build the city into a hub for the shipping industry in the following years.
“As an ancient port city and one of the major starting points of the China’s ancient Maritime Silk Road, Guangzhou has its special and unique advantages to become a new shipping and transportation hub which needs the participants of many key companies,” Dong said.
CSSC will seize the opportunity to “join hands for Guangzhou’s economic development.”
Dong said his company will invest more than 15 billion yuan (\$2.3 billion) during the 13th



Left: Olivier Ferraton, global CEO of GL Events SA, said in a speech on Wednesday during the Guangzhou Annual Investment Conference that the company will boost its presence in Guangzhou. Right: Participants during the event listen attentively. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A view of Guangzhou. The city, an ancient port hub, is looking to boost its scientific and innovation competence.

“The city will become a hub for aviation, shipping and scientific innovation in the years to come.”

Ren Xuefeng,
Party chief of Guangzhou

Five-Year Plan period (2016-20) to construct its Longxue ocean equipment production base, located at the estuary of the Pearl River in Guangzhou’s Nansha district.

A new takeoff
“Now that Guangzhou has mapped out its plan to become an aviation hub, China Southern Airlines and related companies will have the opportunities for a new round of takeoff in the future,” said Tan Wangeng, Party chief of China Southern Air Holding Co and deputy chairman and president of China Southern Airlines.
One of the three major airlines on the mainland, China Southern Airlines operates more than 100 international and regional flights every week, linking Guangzhou

to major cities around the world.
Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, which handled more than 55 million passengers last year, has become the third-busiest airport on the mainland after Beijing and Shanghai.

More opportunities
Olivier Ferraton, global CEO of GL Events SA, said the French company is eager to advance its cooperation with relevant departments and expand its presence in Guangzhou.
“Guangzhou is an interesting city that is providing myriad business opportunities,” Ferraton said.
He said with the city seeking to become a new hub for aviation, shipping and scientific innovation, Guangzhou’s exhibition and convention industry

has great potential.
Likewise, Morris Li, president of China Guangfa Bank, said the bank expects to both help promote and benefit from the city’s economic construction and scientific innovation.
In another development, Canada’s Alberta province launched a trade office in Guangzhou on Tuesday, its fourth in China.
“The government of Alberta is very interested in increasing the two-way trading opportunities with China going both directions,” said Deron Bilous, minister of economic development and trade of Alberta, at the opening ceremony.
China is the second-largest trading partner of Alberta and Guangdong province receives more than 20 percent of Canada’s exports to China, he said.

Guangzhou strengthens its role as southern hub

By ZHENG CAIXIONG
in Guangzhou

Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, is expected to strengthen its status as a major aviation and shipping hub in the southern Chinese region with the coming expansion of its airport and ports.
Qiu Zhizhong, deputy director of Guangzhou aviation administrative commission, said, the second terminal of Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport is expected to come into service in February 2018.

“The supplementary facilities for the third runway have also been completed while feasibility studies for a fourth and fifth runway have also begun,” Qiu said.

The construction of the second airport expressway and the related expressway projects that will help link the airport to major Pearl River Delta cities are ramping up, Qiu added.

According to Qiu, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport will be able to handle more than 80 million passengers a year by 2020.

More than 2.5 million metric tons of cargo will arrive in and leave Guangzhou via the airport by 2020, he added.

More than 199 million yuan (\$30.62 million) has been invested to help improve the airport’s environment and facilities, including



More than 199 million yuan (\$30.62 million) has been invested to help improve and expand Baiyun International Airport’s environment and facilities.

80 million passengers a year by 2020 at the Baiyun International Airport

520 million tons of cargo was handled by Guangzhou’s ports last year



Local quality and quarantine inspectors at a port in the Nansha Free Trade Zone. Ports in Guangzhou are strengthening their ties with overseas countries and are creating plenty investment opportunities.

the construction of hangars and related facilities.

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, which currently has one terminal and three runways, is now the third-busiest airport on the mainland after Beijing and Shanghai.

In 2015, the airport handled 55.21 million passengers and 1.54 million tons of cargo.

The airport has 136 international and regional routes, with more than 1,000 scheduled flights linking Guangzhou to 207 destinations in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand daily.

Huang Bo, deputy director of the Guangzhou port administrative commission, said Guangzhou ports will open between eight to 10 new international ocean routes in 2016, connecting the southern metropolis to even more global destinations.

While also making efforts to strengthen ties with Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia, the city is giving top priority to opening new international ocean routes to American nations and regions, Huang said.

To this end, the third and fourth expansion projects for Nansha Port, located at the estuary of the Pearl River, will begin before the end of year.

Ports in Guangzhou handled 520 million tons of cargo last year, up 4 percent year-on-year, ranking fourth on the mainland and the sixth in the world.



The Tianhe II supercomputer born in Guangzhou is the fastest super computer in the world. LONG HONGTAO / XINHUA

Core city for innovation cooperation

By ZHENG CAIXIONG
in Guangzhou

The Guangzhou government has promised to expand its cooperation and exchanges with advanced countries and regions to help build the southern metropolis into a core city for the country’s innovation industry in 2020.

To this end, the government is now creating a number of innovation centers and industrial parks for international technological transfers, joint research and development, international innovation, incubators for off-shore companies and training bases for world talents, said Ma Shu, an official with the Guangzhou bureau of science and information.

Meanwhile, the construction of the city’s major scientific industrial parks and projects are being accelerated. These include the Guangzhou New and High-tech Zone, Sino-Singapore Knowledge City, Pazhou Internet Innovation Zone, Nansha Mingzhu Scientific City, Guangzhou Scientific Innovation Corridor, as well as a scientific and technological city, a biomedicine island, a privately run scientific industrial park and an international innovation city.

“The city government is encouraging its scientific companies, scientific research institutes and research and development institutions to set up overseas companies and branches while paying great efforts to build a platform to help attract international talents,” Ma told a news conference in Guangzhou on Monday.

“Guangzhou is expected to become a new innovation center in the mainland, offering research for innovation, technical consultancy, testing and inspection, education and training for the cities in the Pearl River Delta region as well as in other regions and Southeast Asian countries,” Ma said.

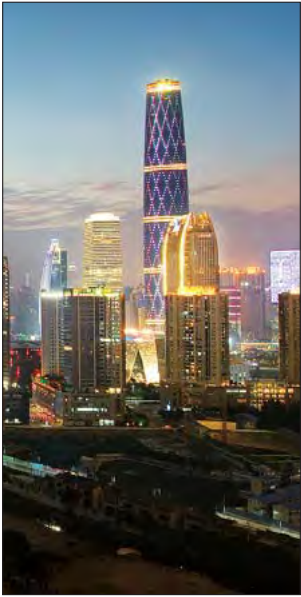
The city’s efforts are expected to attract a number of big-name innovation companies and the formation of several important industrial clusters, he said.

Relevant departments have introduced a serious of preferential policies for international talents to settle down in Guangzhou in the coming months, including housing, individual income tax, medical care, education, car purchases and training.

By end of 2015, Guangzhou had registered 66 State-level engineering technology centers, State key labs and State technological innovation platforms, plus 959 provincial-level ones.

The city is also home to 119 incubators of local scientific and technological companies, with a floor space of more than 6.5 million square meters, up 4.25 and 3.76 times, respectively, compared with 2010.

The Tianhe II supercomputer in the Supercomputing Center under the Sun Yatsen University, which is the fastest super computer in the world, has provided applied services for more than 660 companies and been utilized in many sectors.



Guangzhou International Finance Center, a landmark building on the central axis road in the city.

Briefly

CANADA

Former Toronto mayor dead at 46



Former Toronto mayor Rob Ford, whose tumultuous four years as leader of Canada's largest city included an admission he smoked crack cocaine and a history of erratic behavior, died on Tuesday after struggling with cancer. Ford, 46, was serving as a city councillor and undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of cancer that recurred despite surgery and several rounds of chemotherapy.

BANGLADESH

Election-eve violence kills 11

At least 11 people were killed in overnight violence as Bangladesh went to the polls for local elections, with seven of them shot dead by security forces, police said on Wednesday. The opposition said there had also been widespread vote-rigging in the council elections, held amid a deepening political crisis in the impoverished country.

TURKEY

13 suspects held amid attack fears

A Turkish state-run agency says authorities detained three men, including two foreigners, suspected of planning another attack in Istanbul. Security forces also captured 10 men suspected of being linked to the Islamic State group in southern Turkey. Anadolu Agency says security operations targeted three different Istanbul addresses based on information gathered by the Turkish anti-terrorism agency and German intelligence services.

WESTERN SAHARA

Morocco orders UN to close office

The United Nations said on Tuesday it has closed a military liaison office in the disputed Western Sahara after Morocco gave observers with the world body 72 hours to leave. The move was in protest of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's use of the word "occupation" in describing the status of the vast mineral-rich territory during his first visit earlier this month to refugee camps in Algeria.

JAPAN

Runaway Zebra dies on golf course

A runaway zebra led police on a dramatic chase across a golf course, until its bid for freedom ended in death when it collapsed in a water trap. The creature's odyssey, which was broadcast live on national television, saw officers in hot pursuit as they tried to recapture it alive. After attempting to corral the animal, vets shot it with a tranquilizer dart only to watch as it plunged into a small golf course lake.

NEW ZEALAND

Businessman gets 8 years in jail

A businessman who threatened to spike New Zealand infant formula destined for markets at home and abroad was jailed on Wednesday for 8 and a half years. Auckland businessman Jeremy Hamish Kerr sent letters anonymously to dairy giant Fonterra and the Federated Farmers industry group in 2014, threatening to spike infant formula with the poison sodium monofluoroacetate, also known as 1080.

AFP—AP—XINHUA



Colorful holiday

Hindu devotees daubed in bright colors sing religious songs inside a temple during Holi celebrations in Ahmedabad, India, on Wednesday. AMIT DAVE / REUTERS

MIDDLE EAST

2 Palestinian clowns offer relief to children in Gaza Strip hospitals

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in Gaza City, Gaza Strip

A pair of Palestinian clowns is offering some laughs and relief to children with chronic illnesses at pediatric wards in hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

With no circus or fair in Gaza to offer employment, Majed Kaloub and Alaa Miqdad began reaching out to kids in kindergartens and schools. Now, thanks to the aid of CISS, an Italian nonprofit organization, they have found a niche for their work in hospitals, bringing some much needed cheer to sick children.

Neither is formally trained in medical clowning, a profession popularized by American doctor Patch Adams and in which Israel's University of Haifa offers a bachelor's degree, but their goal is the same — to raise the spirit of young patients in an already sad part of the world.

"The clown is a supporting tool for the medical doctor," said Kaloub, 24. "As much as we can, we try to let the child respond to us to reach his heart."

For Miqdad, a 33-year-old dwarf, the experience has been far more personal. When he was younger, he said he was bullied and teased and for a long time after that, he resisted children.

"The children are all my life now. I do most of the work with them," he said.

Both started clowning in



Palestinian clown doctors Majed Kaloub, top right, and Alaa Miqdad, right, perform for children during their visit in the waiting room at Al-Rantisi Children's Hospital in Gaza City. Both visit three medical centers in the Gaza Strip a week. ADEL HANA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

hospitals in 2014. That summer, they worked with children traumatized by incessant airstrikes during a deadly 50-day war with Israel. They performed in damaged neighborhoods and temporary shelters. The experience inspired the clowns to take their act to hospitals where there were children with chronic illnesses.

Hardships remain in the Gaza Strip, an isolated coastal Palestinian territory ruled by the Islamic militant Hamas

group and operating under a joint blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. According to UNICEF, some 300,000 of its 1.8 million residents are in need of emotional and psychological support.

The clowns typically visit three medical centers a week. On a recent visit to al-Rantisi hospital, children jumped from their parents' laps to greet Miqdad, even before he put on his clown costume.

In a tiny locker room, Kal-

oub and Miqdad put on colorful loose outfits over their casual street clothes and applied makeup and a red clown's nose. Miqdad put on a bright Mohawk wig. They then set off giggles with dancing, magic tricks and bubble-blowing.

"They are beautiful," said Mohammed al-Baz, 11, who suffers from a disorder of the brain that can cause epileptic seizures. "They make me laugh every time I come here."

US-CUBA RELATIONS

Obama wraps up tense visit

Two leaders concede significant differences, big challenges linger between longtime foes

By XINHUA

Before boarding Air Force One bound for Argentina, Obama and his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro shook hands in a demonstration of shared willingness to continue the process of normalizing bilateral ties they jointly announced in late 2014. The two countries restored diplomatic relations last July.

Obama began the visit on Sunday and arrived in Havana with his wife, daughters and mother-in-law, as well as 40 members of Congress and a business delegation.

On Monday, Obama paid tribute to Cuban national hero Jose Marti, laying a wreath at his mausoleum at Revolution Square, then held a closed-door meeting with Castro at the government headquarters.

After the meeting, the two leaders held a joint news conference, where Castro and Obama reviewed the two countries' conflicts, focusing on the continuing economic embargo and the Guantanamo Naval Base.

"The blockade remains in force, it contains discouraging elements, intimidating effects and is guilty of extraterritorial outreach," said Castro.

"Much more could be done if the blockade was lifted. We recognize the position of President Obama against the blockade and his repeated appeals to Congress to have it removed. However, the most reasonable measures by his administration are positive but insufficient," he added.

Castro also demanded the return of "the territory illegally occupied by the Guantanamo Base".

The United States first leased the Guantanamo Bay camp from Cuba in 1903, for which it pays \$4,085 in rent annually. Havana has been demanding its return since the Cuban revolution in 1959.

Castro also lambasted Washington for its continued intervention in Cuban affairs, saying that "nobody

“The blockade remains in force. Much more could be done if the blockade was lifted.”

Raul Castro, Cuban leader

should demand that the Cuban people renounce their freedom and sovereignty”.

Later on Monday, Obama hosted an entrepreneurial conference organized by the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, where the representatives of US companies met with their local counterparts, including from Cuba's fledgling private sector, to explore investment opportunities in Cuba.

At the forum, as throughout the visit, both sides stressed that the trade embargo remains the main obstacle to normalizing political and business ties.

Obama also announced educational exchanges that will see Cuban entrepreneurs invited to the United States, and US companies going to Cuba to offer training for local business.

On Tuesday, Obama addressed the Cuban nation via a live broadcast from the Grand Theater of Havana, where Castro was among the audience.

Obama said his trip aimed to put an end to the Cold War animosity that had lingered in broken Cuba-US ties, adding the Cuban government and people have nothing to fear from the United States, and that only the Cubans will decide their future.

The two leaders attended a friendly baseball game between the island's national team and the US major league's Tampa Bay Rays.

MALAYSIA

Ex-PM sues Najib alleging corruption

By REUTERS in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Former Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohamad filed a suit against scandal-plagued Prime Minister Najib Razak on Wednesday, alleging corruption and abuse of power, his law firm said, the latest salvo in Mahathir's efforts to remove Najib from office.

But it is unlikely to have any immediate impact as it will take months before any case is heard.

Najib has come under criticism over allegations of corruption linked to the debt-laden state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad and deposits into his private accounts worth around \$680 million.

He has denied any wrongdoing, maintains that he did not use the funds for personal gain and this year he was cleared of any criminal offense or corruption.

Mahathir accused Najib in the lawsuit of the "corrupt practice of carrying out vari-

ous steps that were actively and deliberately taken in bad faith ... to obstruct, interfere, impede and derail the various investigations and inquiries which were being conducted by various legal enforcement agencies”.

Mahathir was joined in the lawsuit by Khairuddin bin Abu Hassan and Anina binti Saadudin, former members of the United Malay National Organization, which Najib heads.

Mahathir on March 4 joined hands with long-standing foes to crank up pressure on Najib to quit.

In a dramatic flourish, Mahathir read a statement signed by 58 politicians and anti-corruption activists at a news conference where he was flanked by opposition leaders and some members of the ruling party he has now quit. The plaintiffs seek damages from Najib to the government of \$650 million and aggravated damages of 42 million ringgit — equal to the amounts that were allegedly deposited into Najib's bank account.

BRAZIL

Rousseff vows not to quit as scandal grows

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Brasilia, Brazil

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said on Tuesday she had committed no crime and would never resign despite corruption allegations, as the scandal threatening her government escalated with dozens of new arrests.

In a defiant speech from the presidential palace, the leftist leader accused her opponents of seeking to stage a "coup against democracy", with impeachment proceedings and mass protests calling for her ouster.

"I will never resign," she told a cheering crowd of supporters. "Not under any circumstances."

Rousseff's presidency appears to be in peril as she fights impeachment, protests, recession and scandal.

And her decision to call her predecessor and mentor, Luiz

“I will never resign. Not under any circumstances.”

Dilma Rousseff, president of Brazil

Inacio Lula da Silva, to the rescue backfired last week when a Supreme Court judge blocked his appointment as her chief of staff over pending corruption charges.

Ruling expected soon

Another Supreme Court judge refused on Tuesday to rule on Lula's request to overturn that decision.

But yet another high court judge requested that the anti-corruption investigation hand over Lula's case, on grounds that it affects people who are under immunity, such as Rousseff.

The full Supreme Court is expected to issue a definitive

ruling on Lula's appointment — which comes with ministerial immunity — sometime after it reconvenes on March 30.

Lula, who presided over a booming Brazil from 2003 to 2011, faces money-laundering charges related to a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal centered on state oil company Petrobras that has unleashed a political crisis.

The scandal expanded yet again as federal police staged raids in nine states across the country to execute 43 arrest warrants or temporary detention orders.

The raids targeted construction giant Odebrecht, which investigators accuse of collud-

ing with competitors to divvy up Petrobras contracts over the course of a decade, paying huge bribes and then inflating the contracts by even larger amounts.

Former chief executive Marcelo Odebrecht was sentenced to nearly 20 years in prison earlier this month, but prosecutors said he had shown the "audacity" to keep ordering bribe payments even after his detention.

Investigators said bribes of up to \$2.5 million at a time were paid out at hotels, in cash. Prosecutor Carlos dos Santos Lima said the investigation "is going to touch other areas besides the oil sector".

The crisis is threatening the "democratic stability" of Brazil, warned Alicia Barcena, the head of a UN panel for the region, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brussels bombings



This combination of pictures shows the colors of the Belgian flag being projected on to (from top left) the Trevi Fountain in Rome, the Royal Palace at Dam Square in Amsterdam, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and the Eiffel Tower in Paris as a tribute to the victims of Brussels. AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

World leaders condemn terror attacks

President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang extend their condolences to victims

By AGENCIES in Brussels

World leaders united in condemning the carnage in Brussels on Tuesday and vowed to combat terrorism, after Islamic State bombers killed at least 34 people in a strike at the symbolic heart of the European Union.

President Xi Jinping strongly condemned the terror attacks in a message sent Tuesday to King Philippe of Belgium. He extended his deep condolences to the victims and expressed sincere sympathy for the injured and families of the victims.

Premier Le Keqiang told Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel that China condemned the cruelty involved in the attacks, and stressed that China was behind Belgium in its efforts to combat terrorism.

Global landmarks from the Eiffel Tower in Paris to Berlin's Brandenburg Gate were lit up in the black, yellow and red of the Belgian national flag in solidarity.

In Brussels, hundreds of people crowded into Place de la Bourse in the capital's historic center to grieve for the dead, while in London fans of Adele lit up the O2 stadium with their phones after the pop star asked them to "take a moment for Brussels".

The European Union vowed to combat terrorism "with all necessary means" after the bombings at Brussels airport and a metro station, only a short walk from the bloc's core institutions.

Flags at half-staff

The EU said the Brussels attacks were an assault "on our open democratic society" at a time when the bloc is already on edge after a wave of jihadist violence.

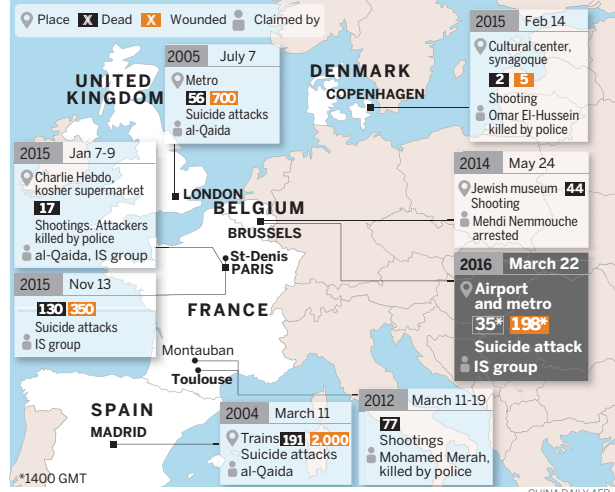
Officials said around 20 people were killed on the metro and 14 at the airport in the assaults, which came days after the main fugitive suspect in November's gun and bomb rampage in Paris was arrested in Brussels.

"Our Union's capital is under attack. We mourn the dead and pledge to conquer terror through democracy," the Greek foreign ministry said on



People display a solidarity banner in Brussels following bomb attacks in Brussels, Belgium, on Tuesday. Banner reads "I am Brussels" in French and in Flemish languages. CHARLES PLATIAU / REUTERS

Jihadist attacks in Europe



Twitter. *Nous sommes tous Bruxellois* — "We are all citizens of Brussels."

Belgian colors lit up the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and hundreds joined a vigil in support of the Brussels victims. Flags were to fly at half mast in France, a nation still raw from last year's jihadist rampage.

"The whole of Europe has been hit," French President Francois Hollande declared, urging the continent to take "vital steps in the face of the seriousness of the threat".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said "the horror is as boundless as the determination to defeat terrorism" and British Prime Minister David Cameron vowed: "We will never let these terrorists win."

US President Barack Obama branded the attacks "outrageous", calling on the world to stand "together regardless of nationality or race or faith in fighting against

the scourge of terrorism".

"We can and we will defeat those who threaten the safety and security of people all around the world," he said in Havana.

Turkey, which has seen hundreds killed in a wave of bombings blamed on Islamic State as well as Kurdish rebels, said the attacks in Brussels emphasized the need to combat terrorism of every hue.

"The terrorists who targeted Brussels ... are showing once again that they respect no value nor any human and moral limit," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a statement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country was left reeling after a Russian plane was downed by a bomb over Sinai in October that killed 224 people, also lashed out at what he called "barbarous crimes".

AP—XINHUA—REUTERS

Suspects still on the loose

By AGENCIES in Brussels

Belgian authorities said several people possibly linked to Brussels attacks are still on the loose.

Paul Van Tigchelt, head of Belgium's terrorism threat body, said on Wednesday that is why the country is keeping the terrorism threat level at its highest level, which means there is a danger of an imminent attack.

He spoke alongside prosecutors who said they are searching for at least one person directly involved in the attack on Brussels airport.

Belgian authorities searched for Najim Laachraoui, a man pictured at the Brussels airport with two apparent suicide bombers, amid growing suggestions that the bombings of the Brussels airport and subway were the work of the same Islamic State cell that attacked Paris last year.

Belgian media identified two of the attackers as brothers Khalid

and Brahim El Bakraoui, and said they are believed to have blown themselves up. According to the report, Khalid El Bakraoui had rented an apartment that was raided last week in an operation that led authorities to arrest Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam.

Belgian authorities have been searching for Laachraoui since last week as a suspected accomplice of Abdeslam. Laachraoui is believed to have made the suicide vests used in the Paris attacks, a French police official said, adding that his DNA was found on all of the vests as well as in a Brussels apartment where they were made.

Abdeslam was arrested on Friday in Brussels where he grew up, a rough place with links to several of the attackers who targeted a Paris stadium, a rock concert and cafes on Nov 13. Those attacks killed 130 people and spread panic across Europe.

AP—REUTERS

History of IS group

Islamic State's beginnings can arguably be traced as far back as the 1980s, when Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, born Ahmad Fadeel al-Nazal al-Khalayleh, traveled to Afghanistan in 1989 during the Soviet incursion. The Jordanian had spent most of his adult life engaged in violent activism in the Middle East. The invasion of Iraq by US-led forces took Zarqawi to Iraq, where he pledged allegiance to al-Qaida. After his death in a US airstrike in June 2006 in Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq was established.

• **May 2010**
Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was appointed the new leader of the Islamic State of Iraq. He led the group as civil conflicts erupted in Iraq, and the group grew in size and strength.

• **Jan 24, 2012**
The Islamic State of Iraq in Syria announced the formation of its al-Nusra Front, which grew rapidly with popular support from Syrian rebels opposed to the government.

• **April 9, 2013**
Baghdadi claimed that Islamic State of Iraq and al-Nusra Front merged into Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham, or ISIS, which wasn't recognized by al-Nusra or al-Qaida.

• **June 2014**
IS controlled a broad region, from western Syria to central Iraq, an area larger than the territories of Israel and Lebanon combined. Baghdadi declared himself caliph, a religious and political leader of the Muslim community, renaming ISIS as Islamic State.

• **Sept 13, 2014**
The US vowed to combat IS.

• **January 2015**
IS released a video in which a captive Jordanian pilot was burned alive in a cage, just days after extremists beheaded a Japanese journalist.

• **Oct 31, 2015**
A Russian plane crashed near Sinai in Egypt, killing all 224 people aboard. IS claimed responsibility for the attack.

• **Nov 13, 2015**
IS attacked entertainment venues in Paris, killing 129 people.

• **Nov 19, 2015**
Chinese journalist Fan Jinghui, who was captured by IS in 2015, was confirmed murdered.

• **Jan 12, 2016**
IS attackers struck the capital of Muslim-majority Indonesia, executing a westerner and blowing up a Starbucks in an assault in which seven people were killed, marking the first IS attack in Southeast Asia.

• **March 22, 2016**
Twin attacks on Brussels International airport and a rush-hour subway train in the Belgian capital killed at least 35 people, for which IS claimed responsibility.

— YAN DONGJIE

Yang Jun at the World Development Institute of the Development Research Center of the State Council contributed to this story.

Bombings: Chinese investments in Europe 'unlikely to be affected'

FROM PAGE 1

"The difficulty is that those who want to cause trouble are already in Europe, and the security services, especially in Belgium, struggle to keep track of them," said a British expert in asylum affairs who requested anonymity.

The attacks came at a particularly crucial time for the United Kingdom, which will vote on continued European Union membership in a national referendum on June 23.

Current polls indicate that people wanting to remain in the EU are leading. However, those in favor of leaving the EU said the attacks could swing the vote in their favor, citing increased security and less exposure to Europe-based terror attacks as reasons.

Meanwhile, in China, investors, academics, analysts and govern-

ment officials attending the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan province said the attacks would not deter Chinese investment in Europe.

He Jintong, a professor of global investment at Nankai University in Tianjin, said most Chinese companies were interested in either acquiring or partnering with manufacturers and technology companies in Europe, which are mainly located in business parks outside cities, where it would be difficult for terrorists to launch an attack.

"Great opportunities are still there for Chinese investments in Europe, particularly since they would be protected by Europe's relatively stable legal and governmental framework, especially in ... Germany or France," he said.

Yao Zhizhong, deputy director of the Institute of World Economics and

Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the terrorist attacks won't change Chinese companies' decisions to invest in Europe because of its high-quality assets, which are "at a bargain price over time".

However, Ni Jiali, general manager of the outbound tourism department of Chinese online travel service provider Lvmama, said the terrorist attacks "will dampen the enthusiasm of Chinese tourists to visit Europe over the short term. Before, security was the last issue you needed to worry about."

Zhong Nan in Boao, Su Zhou in Beijing and Wang Mingjie in London contributed to this story.

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BUSINESS

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TOURISM

Genting Dream set to sail in November

By **QIU QUANLIN**
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Genting Hong Kong Ltd, the global leisure, entertainment and hospitality corporation, has announced details of its maiden cruises, designed specifically for high-spending Chinese travelers.

Its inaugural ship to operate out of China, the *Genting Dream*, is set to sail in November from its home-port of Guangzhou (Nansha Port), according to Thatcher Brown, president of the company's Dream Cruises brand.

The ship will offer two- to five-night cruises to Hong Kong, Da Nang and Halong Bay in Vietnam, as well as Sanya in Hainan province.

Its sister ship, the *World Dream*, will begin operations in late 2017, he said.

According to the China Cruises and Yacht Industry Association, the country's 10 major ports handled 629 cruise ships in 2015, a 35 percent annual increase, with about 1.24 million Chinese cruise passengers traveling overseas.

The potentially huge Chinese cruise-ship market has already attracted an increasing number of luxury foreign operators, including British/American-owned Italian cruise line Costa Cruises and Royal Caribbean International, which have both expanded their local offerings in recent years.

Genting Hong Kong established its first brand *Star Cruises* in 1993, and has

built a strong reputation for top-class Asian hospitality.

Its expansion plans in Chinese mainland include further moves into Xiamen, Fujian province, and a base in Sanya, offering services geared specifically to appeal to Chinese travelers, said Brown.

The Hong Kong and Singapore-listed firm bought Crystal Cruises, which has been dubbed by some the world's most-awarded luxury cruise line, in May last year and now plans rapid expansion over the next three years, he said.

Edie Rodriguez, president and chief executive officer of Crystal Cruises, added: "As wealthy travelers from China emerge as the dominant force in the travel industry, we see great opportunities in delivering them our luxury services."

Her firm's expansion plans include various new classes of vessel including yachts and river boats, and offering ocean/flight travel combinations.

"We are extremely happy more wealthy Chinese people are taking cruises," said Rodriguez.

She said Crystal Cruises expects its share of Chinese travelers to double from 2 percent in 2015 to 4 percent this year, describing the Chinese market as key to its future growth as more wealthy people emerge in the country.

"It has been wonderful to witness the excitement and enthusiasm from our China travel partners for Crystal's expansion in luxury travel and hospitality," she said.



The *Genting Dream*. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

INVESTMENT



A worker looks closely as containers are unloaded in Qingdao Port, Shandong province. China is eager to create a fair investment environment for foreign businesses. YU FANGPING / FOR CHINA DAILY

China urges US to wrap up trade pact

Negotiators have already completed 24 rounds of talks

By **ZHONG NAN**
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China and the United States should complete negotiations on the bilateral investment treaty before November's US presidential election to prevent potential political intervention, former commerce minister Chen Deming said on Wednesday.

His comments came after the US Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump pledged to impose tariffs on Chinese products to "level the playing field", even though this would be contrary to the rules of the World Trade Organization.

Speaking at the annual Boao Forum for Asia in Boao, Hainan province, Chen said China and the US have completed text negotiations on the bilateral investment treaty, or BIT. Both sides are now exploring ways of further

shrinking the so-called negative lists before moving on to talks on market access, he said.

A "negative list" specifies any bans or limits on foreign investment.

Businesses not on such a list are presumed to be unrestricted. This system has been adopted in China's four pilot free trade zones in Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangdong and Fujian, which opened in the past two years.

But negotiators have yet to decide on the negative lists in the China-US talks.

Eager to create a fair investment environment for foreign businesses, China has urged the US to exchange views on the negative lists to conclude the talks.

Reuben Jeffery, president of Rockefeller and Co, said the validation of BIT can help both Chinese and US companies operate business in each other's market independently in the long term, instead of looking for local partners to form joint ventures.

This would be fairly flexible for them to control their financial operations



Chen Deming, former commerce minister

\$558.39 billion

value of China-US trade in 2015

and make investment decisions.

US companies had invested \$77.5 billion in China by the end of 2015 and China had invested \$46.6 billion in the US during the same period, data from the Ministry of Commerce showed.

Bilateral trade reached \$558.39 billion last year, up 0.6 percent year-on-year from 2014.

"The bilateral investment treaty certainly can provide one of the best opportunities

to cut investment barriers and increase transparency level in both countries and ensure a level playing field among all companies, as well as improving protections for Chinese and US investors in each other's markets," said Merit Janow, dean of the School of Management and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Talks on the investment treaty began in 2008 as both countries sought to increase mutual investment, which only accounted for a tiny share of their overseas investment. They have completed 24 rounds of negotiations by January of this year.

"Reinforcing the relationship between China and the US will be more challenging and even more important now as the presidential election campaign creates a tendency among leaders running for office to blame US economic problems on other countries," said Yao Zhizhong, deputy director of the Beijing-based Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

DEALS

Fosun poised to acquire London complex

By **SHI JING** in Shanghai
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Chinese investment conglomerate Fosun International Ltd, founded by "the Chinese Warren Buffett" Guo Guangchang, is believed to be speeding up its overseas expansion with its latest acquisition in London.

A recent Reuters report said that Fosun is set to close the acquisition of the Thomas More Square complex in London for around 300 million pounds (\$426.4 million).

The complex, which was built in 1990, is located on the edge of the City of London, and adjacent to St Katherine Docks in Wapping on the north of the River Thames as well as London City Airport. The majority of its tenants since 2014 have been Rupert Murdoch's News Corp businesses.

According to Land Securities Group Plc, the largest commercial property company in the United Kingdom, which currently holds 100 percent of the Thomas More Square complex, its market value is estimated between 100 million pounds and 200 million pounds. The annualized net rent is around 9.7 million pounds.

\$426.4 million

value of the acquisition of the Thomas More Square complex in London

However, Land Securities declined to comment on the acquisition, according to Reuters. A similar response was given to China Daily by Fosun International on Wednesday, which added that everything should be based on the company's announcement.

However, no such announcement was made by the time the market closed on Wednesday afternoon.

Once the deal is finalized, it will become Fosun's biggest real estate transaction in Europe. Fosun had already bought London's Lloyds Chambers in 2013 and Milan's historic Palazzo Broggi in 2015.

Last year, Fosun set up a joint venture called Resolution Property Investment Management with European investment firm Resolution Property. Fosun announced last July that the joint venture would act as its exclusive investment manager to buy interests in real estate assets across Europe.

Justin Taylor, head of EMEA retail at property service provider Cushman & Wakefield, said Europe is one of the best choices for Chinese companies interested in buying overseas properties, as the retail market is expected to see further improvements in some parts of Europe, especially busy commercial areas.

"Indeed, a strong retail sales growth forecast, robust occupier demand and a lack of supply in many locations mean rents will keep rising in the most popular high streets," he said.

ELECTRONICS

Tech major LeEco plans to go global, with first targets US, India

By **MENG JING**
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Technology major LeEco Holdings Co Ltd is gearing up to become a global company with plans to enter several overseas markets within the year.

Hank Liu, cofounder and vice-chairman of LeEco, formerly known as LeTV, said on Wednesday that it has targeted the United States and India as its two major markets outside China in 2016.

"The year 2016 marks the beginning of our globalization. We don't make it a goal to overtake tech giants, such

as Apple Inc, Amazon.com Inc or Tesla Motors Inc. But we do have an ambition to become a globalized company, because all great companies are globalized," Liu said on the sidelines of the 2016 Boao Forum for Asia, in Boao, Hainan province.

According to Liu, LeEco recently entered the US and India markets by opening online channels to sell its smartphones and smart televisions. "Later in the first half of this year, we will make a major foray into Southeast Asia and in the second half of this year, we will enter the Russian market," he said.

He said the Beijing-based

firm, which sells Internet-enabled devices that are bundled with video contents in China, is going to replicate its business model in overseas markets.

He refused to reveal the amount of money LeEco plans to pour for the ambitious globalization strategy. But he said the investment will mainly be used to make sure its overseas users have great experience of watching online videos and have a rich selection of video contents to choose from.

"We use different strategies to get contents into different markets. In the US, we adopt a strategy to open our

"If we could be successful in those two markets, we can be successful around the world."

Hank Liu, vice-chairman of LeEco

platform to content producers, allowing them to reach audiences through our channel. And in some other coun-

tries, we could invest or even buy up some studios, so that we could produce our own programs."

LeEco's newly launched Super TV X65 equipped with a 65-inch 4K screen is priced at 4,999 yuan (\$769) in China. Some analysts argued that LeEco could never make profit by setting the price this low. But Liu said the company has no intention to make money from selling devices. "We had 12 million paid subscribers for our TV contents alone in 2015," he said.

The reason LeEco chose US and India as the top priorities for overseas expansion is that the market in the US is

very developed with cutting-edge tech companies while India is the most important emerging economy with a large population.

"If we could be successful in those two markets, we can be successful around the world," he said, adding being successful means that LeEco needs to become one of the top three players there not only in terms of market shares but also in the number of users.

The company has a unique business model that is based on the so-called ecosystem, covering smart devices, video contents and now electric cars.

Talking business

Loans are double-edged sword for college students

By XINHUA

Zheng Dexing died on March 9. The college student from Henan province committed suicide after accumulating loans worth 589,500 yuan (\$91,000) to pay for his gambling addiction.

Yang Bo, a junior in Southwest China's Guizhou Normal University, wanted to go on vacation to Guangdong province, so he resorted to a loan of 5,000 yuan.

"The loan makes it a lot easier to travel," Yang said. "I just pay 500 yuan or so monthly to pay it back."

More and more college students are turning to loans to supplement their lifestyles. To apply, students must disclose certain information about themselves and their parents for the loan to be verified.

Should a monthly repayment be missed or late, the interest rate is increased.

"It took me less than an hour to complete the application online," said Zhang Zeming, a freshman from eastern China's Fujian province. "For new applicants, the loan is interest free."

Students from more than 50 universities were surveyed by Capital Campus Press Union in January, of the respondents, 63 percent have applied for loans online, 85 percent of which did not want their parents to be involved.

"It feels awkward for me to ask my parents for that much money because I am a student," admitted Zhang, who applied for a loan to buy a laptop computer.

Apart from travel and shopping, loans have also been used to start or invest in businesses. Li Hailang, a college student from the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, used his loan to open a restaurant near his school.

"Online loans can stimulate consumption," said Li Yuansheng, an economics professor at Fujian Normal University. "College students tend to spend more on digital devices, but lack the spare funds, this is where loans can help."

Also, from a lender's perspective, college students are a huge market,



A student in Beijing uses her iPad to search for information. Some students are turning to loans to supplement their lifestyles. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

with a preference for short-term purchases, according to Kang Jun, a professor at Hunan University.

However, loans are not all about benefits: Take the sad story of Zheng Dexing. He was just one of a number of students who rely on loans to live beyond their means.

In some cases, students are borrowing more money to repay outstanding loans, resulting in increased compound interest.

This was the case for Lin Lin, who bought an iPhone 6s with an installment loan and has 4,000 yuan yet to repay, putting a huge strain on her weekly budget.

"College students are a special group," said Fu Jian, a lawyer from Henan province. "They are immature when it comes to money management and budgeting."

Li Yuansheng, the professor from Fujian, concurred. "They need to understand that loans should only be used for smaller purchases, or

else they will struggle."

As for the websites that offer these loans, there are calls that the terms and conditions should be made clearer.

"The websites should be more aware of their social responsibility, rather than encouraging irrational spending," Kang Jun suggested, referring to the fact that the platforms have made it too easy for students to register and get money.

"They should also consider expanding their interest rates based on the customers they target, especially college students," he added.

In addition, universities and parents have been encouraged to teach students better spending habits.

"At the end of the day, parents should talk with their children and prevent unnecessary loans from happening," Fu Jian stressed.

"What students truly rely on are their families and schools, not loans."

What's news



GOVTS & POLICIES

Vice-premier hails energy ties with Russia

Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli met Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller on Tuesday in Beijing. During his meeting with the head of the Russian energy giant, Zhang vowed to improve Sino-Russian energy cooperation, saying that it is of strategic and long-term significance in bilateral relations. He spoke about the construction of the China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline and the Yamal liquefied natural gas project, and called on both sides to maintain the momentum of the projects, adding that discussions should start on new collaboration and cooperation models.

Transition set to boost Asian integration

Regional economic integration in Asia is expected to deepen further as China moves up the international value chain despite weakening trade growth, experts who follow China's ongoing economic transition said.

"China's growing importance in the value chain will inevitably influence its economic and trade structures with these major economies (in Asia)," said Chen Lan, director of Deloitte Research at Deloitte China, in a report for the ongoing Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan. The report said that China's future industrial upgrade through innovation will enhance its position in the global value chain as rising production costs and labor costs in the country may weaken its position as the "world's factory."

Georgia's exports witness fast growth

Georgia's exports to China in the first two months this year grew by \$14.5 million year-on-year, making China the fastest-growing destination for Georgia's commodities, Georgia's national statistics office said. The country's total exports to China in the period totaled \$36.4 million. China ranked the fourth-largest trading partner for Georgia in 2015, with their foreign trade turnover reaching \$713 million.

Largest land port to expand capacity

Manzhouli, China's largest land port, is expected to see its annual highway cargo handling capacity climb to 10 million metric tons within the year from the current 3 million tons. The improvement will be the result of the first-stage of a project aimed at upgrading road services of the port, which borders Russia to the north, according to the government of Manzhouli, in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region. The first-phase construction will be finished by the end of October. With an estimated investment of 1.03 billion yuan (\$159 million), the construction of the overall project started in 2015 and is scheduled to end in 2017.



COMPANIES & MARKETS

Yuan strengthens against US dollar

The central parity rate of the renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 35 basis points to 6.4936 against the US dollar on Wednesday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

Step forward for nuclear project

The pressure vessel was put in place on the first high-temperature nuclear reactor of a demonstration power project in Shandong province last week, marking a major step toward the development of fourth-generation nuclear technology. The high-temperature and gas-cooled nuclear technology is an indigenous nuclear design by the Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology of Beijing-based Tsinghua University. Experts said the move signals that the project has entered into a major stage of installation and will be commissioned soon. The project, located in Shidao Bay of Shandong, is being jointly managed by China Huaneng Group, China Nuclear Engineering Group, and Tsinghua University.



Time for tea

A master of tea processing in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, performs the traditional tea-making art. This year's spring tea will soon be available on the market. XINHUA

MYbank app to better serve loan seekers

MYbank, the Internet bank backed by e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, recently launched a mobile app to better serve loan seekers. The private lender said in a statement on Wednesday that the app aims to provide financial services, such as loans and wealth management, to small and micro businesses and part of the individual users. The bank, which started operation in June 2015, has offered financial services to more than 80,000 small and micro businesses and entrepreneurs.

Credit Suisse aims to cut more costs

Credit Suisse Group AG announced new steps in its restructuring with greater cost cuts and plans to reduce headcount by another 2,000. The Swiss bank is citing "disappointing financial results" because of a combination of a high, inflexible cost

base, exposure to illiquid fixed-income assets, tough market conditions and "historically low levels of client activity." The bank said it is now targeting cost reductions of at least 4.3 billion Swiss francs (\$4.4 billion) by 2018, up from 3.5 billion francs previously. Savings of 1.7 billion francs are expected this year.

Uber offers bounty to bug hunters

Uber Technologies Inc, the car-hailing service provider, is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 to hackers who are able to spot possible bugs in its computer system. The San Francisco-based technology company said it launched a private, beta bug bounty program last year for more than 200 security researchers, who in turn found nearly 100 bugs. As the bugs were fixed, helping Uber to improve security, the company decided to kick off the "official bug bounty program", or loyalty reward program, to encourage members of the security community to dig deep.



AROUND THE WORLD

Ukraine's economy contracts 9.9% in 2015

Ukraine's gross domestic product shrank for the second year in a row in 2015, falling 9.9 percent, official data showed. The contraction last year has accelerated from the 6.6 percent slump registered in 2014, indicating that the country's economy plunged deeper into recession. The country's GDP dropped 1.4 percent in October-December 2015 on an annual basis, compared with 7.2 percent in July-September, the data released by the State Statistics Service showed. The Ukrainian economy sank into recession in the first quarter of 2014 due to anti-government street protests that toppled the previous authorities and ensuing military

conflict in eastern part of the country.

NYC passes plan for affordable housing

Many of New York City's residential neighborhoods will feature denser and taller development as part of a sweeping housing plan that will mandate the construction of more affordable housing and rewrite the city's decades-old zoning to enable more residential development. The plan, a major political victory for first-term Mayor Bill de Blasio, was passed on Tuesday by the City Council and intends to fundamentally reshape the way housing is developed in the US' largest city. It will link approval for increased development to the creation of more affordable apartments.

US expands tougher 'dolphin-safe' rules

The United States, facing sanctions for discriminating against Mexican tuna imports, is expanding tougher rules for labeling tuna "dolphin-safe" on the rest of the world instead of easing up on Mexico. Last fall, the World Trade Organization ruled that the United States was unfairly using stricter tracking and verification standards on tuna fishing in the waters from San Diego to Peru, where Mexican fleets operate, than it was imposing on fleets elsewhere. In retaliation, Mexico has been preparing to slap \$472 million in tariffs against imports of high fructose corn syrup from the United States.

Indiana court says IBM breached contract

IBM Corp breached its state contract in the company's failed attempt to privatize Indiana's welfare services but is still entitled to nearly \$50 million in state fees, the state Supreme Court said on Tuesday in a ruling that also opens the door for Indiana to seek up to \$175 million in damages. The high court's ruling in the long-running case upholds a February 2014 state Court of Appeals ruling and reverses a trial court judge's finding that Indiana had failed to prove IBM breached the \$1.3 billion state contract it won in 2006.

CHINA DAILY-AGENCIES

SURVEY

Study: Consumers shifting toward more high-end products

By YU RAN in Shanghai
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Chinese consumer confidence has remained surprisingly resilient over the past three years despite the slowing economic growth, as a result of more selective and careful spending, according to a new report from McKinsey & Co.

Daniel Zipser, partner in McKinsey's Shanghai office and leader of its China consumer and retail practice, said shoppers have been shifting their focus to premium

segments, away from what are considered mass-produced items.

Half of the respondents in the McKinsey's 2016 China Consumer Report said they look specifically for the best, most expensive products, a significant increase on previous years. The same share said they are allocating more of their income to lifestyle services and experience spending.

"Chinese consumer trends tend to shift in an instant, thanks to the contribution of social media, and at the moment they have turned toward

premium products," said Zipser.

The research was gathered from 10,000, aged between 18 and 65 in 44 cities, who were given 60-minute face-to-face interviews.

Zipser said a rising proportion of Chinese consumers are also focusing their loyalty onto fewer brands, and the number willing to switch to brand names outside their "short list" is dropped sharply.

Gong Fang, another partner in McKinsey's Shanghai office, said in the apparel sector, the number of consumers willing to consider a

“Overseas shopping will remain popular among Chinese consumers...”

Gong Fang, partner in McKinsey's Shanghai office

brand they hadn't bought before, dropped from 40 percent in 2012 to just below 30 percent last year.

"It is essential for both international and domestic brands to understand and respond to such changes in Chinese spending habits," said Gong.

Another major trend was that more Chinese consumers are spending money outside China during overseas trips.

The study suggested 70 million Chinese traveled overseas in 2015, making 1.5 trips on average, with

shopping an integral part of the experience.

Of those, 80 percent made purchases, and nearly 30 percent actually chose destinations based on their shopping opportunities.

Among international travelers, around half make their purchases of watches and handbags, while apparel and cosmetics were the most frequently bought categories.

"Overseas shopping will remain popular among Chinese consumers who are mostly taking on trips as groups and family units," said Gong.

MANUFACTURING

Boom town gets technological upgrade

Dongguan maintains healthy economic growth by shifting its focus to high-tech manufacturing industries with high added value

By **QIU QUANLIN**
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Guangdong Lianying Furniture Co started its online business only after the company, based in the southern manufacturing hub of Dongguan, set up a sales office in an electronic business park two years ago.

The company, which has been engaged in traditional furniture manufacturing for 15 years, suffered several consecutive drops in sales due to sluggish demand for factory and school dorm furniture after the global economic downturn in 2008.

“We were almost on the edge of bankruptcy in 2012 when the company generated less than 10 million yuan (\$1.53 million) in annual sales,” said Zhang Xilin, chief executive officer of Lianying Furniture.

The company responded to the sluggish growth by setting up an office in the e-commerce park, with more efforts being made in business-to-business services to reduce production and labor costs.

“We found a new market online — sales grew quickly and production efficiency increased significantly,” said Zhang.

The e-commerce park, which was once the workers’ dormitories for a Microsoft Nokia mobile phone factory in Nancheng district of Dongguan, now accommodates 120 online sales offices for local traditional manufacturers, which have developed strong needs to upgrade their business amid sluggish market demand.

The park was designed by the government as an incubator where traditional enterprises or products transform and upgrade via digital operation.

“In the past, traditional manufacturers like us did not know about the customers’ needs and expectations. But the Internet has helped us learn more about global market trends,” said Zhang.

According to Zhang, the company’s sales grew quickly to 30 million yuan in 2015, and he expects this figure to reach 100 million yuan in 2016.

“The current number of online orders has exceeded the number of offline orders in the past. All of our sales are now done online,” Zhang told China Daily.

Online sales are not the only factor driving the company’s growth, as Zhang noted that the company also introduced smart equipment such as robotic machinery to its processing lines.

“We have invested more than 3 million yuan to buy smart equipment to increase production efficiency over the past few years,” Zhang said.

Like Zhang’s company, a growing number of traditional manufacturers in Dongguan,



A worker carries an unpainted chair in a furniture factory in Dongguan, Guangdong province. The traditional Chinese-style furniture is mainly for export. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“
The current number of online orders has exceeded the number of offline orders in the past.”

Zhang Xilin, chief executive officer of Lianying Furniture



(Left) A garment maker in Dongguan prepares for the online shopping spree ahead of Singles Day. (Right) Two workers inspect a production line equipped with robots in Dongguan. FANG GUANGMING AND CHEN FAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



which has been known as the “world’s factory” since the 1980s due to its strong processing and exported products, have introduced smart equipment to upgrade their business operations.

From 2014 to 2016, the Dongguan government has allocated 200 million yuan each year to assist enterprises in carrying out a new round of technological upgrading by introducing advanced automation equipment.

Janus Precision Components Co, a Dongguan-based original equipment manufacturer for electronic components, installed 80 industrial robots that replaced around 100 of its production line staff.

“We are still processing components for international companies like Samsung Electronics Co Ltd. But the production efficiency has been greatly improved, with labor costs reduced significantly, due to the introduction of automated equipment,” said Huang He, deputy general manager of Janus Precision.

Facing a labor shortage and rising costs, factories in Dongguan are seeking solutions from robots as the city shifts from thin-profit labor-intensive processing to high-tech manufacturing with high added value, according to Xu Jianhua, Party chief of Dongguan.

China’s industrial robotics sector has boomed over the past few years, narrowing the gap with other countries, with sales in the Chinese market jumping 36.6 percent year-on-year in 2015, according to Xinhua News Agency.

According to Xu, Dongguan has developed about 200 companies that are engaged in producing and using industrial robots, with an annual market demand of around 10,000 robotic machines in the city.

Citing a local precision mold processing plant, which has replaced nearly 2,000 workers with 1,000 robotic arms, Xu said the introduction of robots would help greatly improve production efficiency.

“Robotic machinery, along

with other smart equipment, plays an important role in upgrading local manufacturing and boosting its competitiveness in the global market,” said Xu.

The introduction of smart equipment in big companies has helped expand sales and improve production, but small businesses, which are mostly engaged in labor-intensive processing, are facing great pressure, with some closing in the past few years.

“Hundreds of factories have shut down in the past year due to the global economic slowdown, but the number is limited and within a reasonable range, and more investment in high-end business is coming in,” Xu said in a recent interview with domestic and overseas media groups.

About 500 factories shut down or went bankrupt in Dongguan in 2015, but the number of newly registered enterprises in the city was “three times” as much as the number of those that closed, according to Xu.

“So, there was not a wave of factory closures or capital flight in Dongguan, given that the city witnessed more new foreign contracts signed in 2015,” said Xu, adding that the city’s new foreign investment reached \$5.3 billion last year.

Since China embarked on reform and opening up in the late 1970s, foreign investors from more than 40 countries and regions have been attracted to Dongguan, once an important agricultural area in Guangdong province.

According to the local government, 11,000 foreign-funded enterprises have operations in the city, with utilized foreign capital reaching nearly \$80 billion.

“Dongguan remains a powerful economic engine, partly fueled by industrial upgrading and the introduction of more advanced businesses,” said Xu.

According to the local government, Dongguan’s economy grew 8 percent year-on-year to 628 billion yuan in 2015, outpacing the national

average of 6.9 percent.

“Innovation-driven industries are playing a bigger role in promoting the growth of the local economy as there is a rising number of technology companies in the city,” said Xu.

In addition to the development of e-commerce and the introduction of smart equipment and foreign investment with advanced technology, Dongguan also aims to upgrade various businesses in its townships by boosting innovation and technology.

For example, the government of Hengli township, which is home to around 1,000 industrial mould manufacturers, has launched an innovation project with initial investment of around 205 million yuan to help upgrade local business.

Dongguan, in the heart of the Pearl River Delta, has 32 townships and districts, with each strongly focusing on a specified manufacturing sector such as electronic components, shoes, furniture, garments or mobile phones.

The Hengli project, in cooperation with tertiary education institutions, such as Shanghai Jiao Tong University, has become a major platform connecting traditional mould-making processes with innovative technologies such as 3-D printing.

Taking the innovation-driven approach, the project aims to push the mould production value to 20 billion yuan by 2018, according to the local government.

Since the project was launched in 2012, several sub-platforms including a mould testing technology center and a mould industrial park and professional associations including a 3-D printing union and a machinery tooling society have been set up in Hengli.

Powered by the project, the township’s mould industrial output value grew from 4.6 billion yuan in 2011 to 8.5 billion yuan in 2014, according to the government.

The local government provided free office space to innovative companies such as Dongguan Sprinray 3-D Printing Co, whose MoonRay printer has become a big hit in the global market.

“The advanced 3-D printing technology will help increase production efficiency once it is well connected with the traditional mould business,” said Tang Yaoke, deputy general manager of Dongguan Sprinray.

The 3D printing company, which was set up in 2013 by a number graduates who had been educated overseas, has developed direct business relationship with more than 30 local mould enterprises, according to Tang.

“The 3-D printing technologies are able to provide specified services for local mould manufacturing,” said Tang.

According to Chen Xiwen, Party chief of Hengli, the township’s GDP grew 10.9 percent year-on-year in 2015, thanks to innovative technologies being introduced to the local mould business.

“The township was once home to hundreds of original equipment manufacturers in the mould business in the 1990s, with lower production efficiency and higher energy consumption. But now it is becoming an innovative center for high-end moulds,” said Chen.

Hengli has now developed 14 national-level high-tech enterprises since 2012 and two national-level mould laboratory centers.

“A growing number of mould enterprises have increased investment in research and development, thanks to strong need to upgrade their business,” said Chen.

The township’s investment in mould technology research and development grew from 56.5 million yuan in 2011 to 190 million yuan in 2014, according to Chen.

TECH

Shenzhen-based 3Nod proves the power of innovation

By **QIU QUANLIN**
in Shenzhen

When 3Nod Group started its business as a supplier of plastic multimedia audio molds in 1996, it was difficult for the Shenzhen-based company to compete with its global counterparts in the audio market.

“We faced shortage of finance in the early years, especially for technology research and development,” said Liu Zhixiong, founder and chairman of 3Nod Group.

After 20 years of development, the company now produces one-tenth of the global computer audios, which

makes it the world’s largest supplier of multimedia audio products.

“We have gone through a very difficult time in the late 2000s, with the global demand for audio molds dropping significantly,” said Liu.

Like hundreds of other “traditional manufacturers — it is a phrase that refers to those in the labor-intensive sectors of electronic parts, garments, shoes and watches in the southern economic hub of Shenzhen — 3Nod Group had to upgrade its business to survive.

“We increased investment in building self-owned

brands and technology after we realized that we should not simply be a processor of audio parts but grow into a provider of a complete range of high-end audio and related services,” said Liu.

Industrial design and technology innovation are the key solutions for sustainable growth of traditional manufacturing businesses, according to Liu.

The company’s latest audio product, which relies on human body sensing technology, is designed to play, pause and delete audio according to various human gestures.

“Design, along with innovative technologies, helped



Liu Zhixiong, founder and chairman of 3Nod Group

boost the competitiveness of our products in the global market,” said Liu, adding that the company’s products have been globally recognized for their superior design in the past few years.

Despite a growing number of traditional manufacturers like 3Nod Group having successfully upgraded businesses,

more than 17,000 low-end enterprises with intensive manufacturing were closed in Shenzhen in the past five years, according to Jia Xingdong, deputy director of the Shenzhen Economic, Trade and Information Commission.

“Traditional manufacturers have been encouraged to develop high-end products, with more efforts being put into the design and brand-building, as well as technological innovation,” said Jia.

According to Jia, Shenzhen has plans to develop emerging industries, including lifestyle, health, oceanic economy, aviation, robotics, wearables and smart equip-

ment in the years ahead as the city is intent on optimizing its industrial structure.

“By being well integrated with technologies, traditional businesses could be developed as rapidly as emerging industries, as they still play an important role in the city’s overall economic development,” said Jia.

Over the past five years, emerging industries’ added value grew by 17.4 percent annually in Shenzhen, accounting for 40 percent of the city’s economic growth, according to Jia.

“Developing future industries does not mean traditional manufacturing will be

abandoned in Shenzhen. Instead, manufacturers in the traditional industries will be given more support to upgrade their business from simple processors at the lower end of the market to providers of high-end products and services,” said Jia.

Increased investment in technology research and development will play a key role as local traditional manufacturers upgrade their business, according to Jia.

Shenzhen’s overall investment in research and development reached 71 billion yuan in 2015, accounting for 4.05 percent of the city’s GDP.

INDUSTRY

SABIC sees China growth

CEO says the country remains firm's top market as demand for products keeps rising

By LYU CHANG
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SABIC, the Middle East's largest petrochemical company, said on Wednesday that it will continue to invest in China despite the economic slowdown in the world's second-largest economy.

"There are some signs showing the Chinese economy is slowing down, but it is still our fastest-growing market, so we will keep our investment here, especially in research and development," Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan, vice-chairman and chief executive officer of the Saudi company, told China Daily.

He said while some industries are suffering as a result of overcapacity in the past few years, China's petrochemical industry, on the other hand, plays a key role in driving the global market.

"We have seen growing demand for petrochemical products from many sectors including construction, healthcare, electronics and packaging," he said, adding that innovation and low efficiency are bigger issues for the industry than overcapacity.

China's petrochemical sector will grow by 8.8 percent this year, according to estimates by the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Association, much higher than the global rate of just 3 percent.

To promote innovation in the sector, SABIC has signed a cooperation agreement with Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, a research institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and China National Petroleum Corp, for the research of catalyst and development of conversion of methane into olefins, aromatics



A man walks past the headquarters of SABIC in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The company said it will continue to invest in China, especially in research and development. FAISAL AL NASSER / REUTERS

“We will explore opportunities in converting coal to chemicals at the same time.”

Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan, vice-chairman and chief executive officer of SABIC



and hydrogen.

The technology will enable chemical products to be made from natural gas in a more efficient and greener way.

In 2015, Brent crude prices plunged to the lowest level since 2004. Experts said that oil serves as a feedstock and price setter for many chemicals, plastics and fibers and the decline in oil prices has also

led to lower petrochemical prices and higher petrochemical derivative demand.

Last year, the Saudi giant increased its production by 1 percent amid a growing demand and has seen its revenue rise by 4 percent over the previous year.

In 2014, SABIC established a \$640 million joint venture with South Korean petrochemical producer SK

Global Chemical for the production of polyethylene products.

The South Korea-based plant will have a capacity of 230,000 metric tons of polyethylene per year.

Al-Benyan said the partnership with SK chemicals is not only targeting the South Korean market but also serves as a springboard to serve the Chinese market.

"We will explore opportunities in converting coal to chemicals at the same time," he said.

The company has 1,300 employees in China with 18 offices, three plants in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing, a joint venture with Sinopec — China's largest petroleum refiner and oil products producer in Tianjin — at a total cost of 18.3 billion yuan and one research center in Shanghai.

MANUFACTURING

Thyssenkrupp Elevator opens Shanghai HQ

By YU RAN in Shanghai
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Thyssenkrupp Elevator, a subsidiary of the German conglomerate thyssenkrupp AG, has opened its China headquarters in Shanghai, marking its latest investment in the country.

The 15,000-square-meter, 40-meter-high block was built in the Songjiang district at a cost of 120 million yuan (\$18.5 million). It showcases the company's latest elevators, escalators, moving walkways and TWIN elevators.

"China is by far our most important market in Asia," said Heinrich Hiesinger, chairman of the executive board of thyssenkrupp AG, after Wednesday's opening.

"In the past five years, thyssenkrupp has invested more than \$558 million to further grow our various businesses in China, and our elevator business is a very important part of these investments," he said.

Thyssenkrupp Elevator entered the Chinese mainland more than two decades ago. It currently employs almost 10,000 people at 68 branches and 132 offices in the mainland.

In 2011, the company launched its Sanfte brand of elevators, aimed at the local market.

"We're trying to set up a larger platform to listen to the demand of consumers to come up with more localized products offering high speed, comfort and safety," said Jurgen Bohler, chief executive officer of thyssenkrupp Elevator in China.

The company began building its new Zhongshan elevator plant and test tower in Guangdong province in 2015 with a total investment of 450 million yuan.

Upon completion, the plant will cover an area of nearly 100,000 square meters and include a world-class 248-meter test tower, which will support the development of high-end elevators for the global and local markets.

Additional innovations and tech-

“China is by far our most important market in Asia.”

Heinrich Hiesinger, chairman of the executive board of thyssenkrupp AG

nologies will be introduced into China to support urbanization.

The TWIN elevator at its headquarters is one example of thyssenkrupp's innovative power. Operating two cars independently in the same shaft, the TWIN elevator can take passengers to two different floors at the same time, thus saving waiting time.

It also comes with the company's intelligent destination-selection control system, which reduces the number of stops each elevator makes and includes functions such as VIP or emergency call overrides for immediate access.

"The company is making great efforts to create unique and efficient urban mobility solutions to address the demands from China's urban development. We have the innovations to face the upcoming needs of existing and future megacities," said Andreas Schierenbeck, chairman of the executive board of thyssenkrupp Elevator.

In addition, the company is also purchasing an additional 10,000 square meters of land adjacent to its Songjiang factory where it will build a new electrical workshop and logistics center.

"We will continue to grow and develop together with our valued partners to make urban life more convenient and efficient. In the future, thyssenkrupp will significantly contribute to place urban life in China among the best in the world," said Bohler.



BETTER LIFE
EXPERIENCE FOR
THE MOST
VULNERABLE

帮助最易受损者获得
更好的生命体验



EQUITIES

Boyuan case could spark more delistings

Report suggests as many as 40 troublesome firms are bracing for disciplinary action by regulator

By LI XIANG
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Analysts expect China's securities watchdog to delist more problematic companies this year, as it seeks to restore investor confidence through an intensified elimination of law-breaking listed firms.

The Shanghai Stock Exchange on Monday delisted Zhuhai Boyuan Investment Co Ltd, the first company to be ousted by the China Securities Regulatory Commission for violation of disclosure rules and fraudulent practices, including forging commercial bills and inflating asset and profit.

Analysts said the case could now lead to more delistings, as the regulator seeks to nurture a healthier and more stable market.

South China Morning Post on Tuesday cited a source close to the CSRC as saying the regulator had compiled a list of 30 to 40 troublesome companies, and could be poised to initiate more delistings.

"The report is not unfounded, as the CSRC has made it very clear it will toughen its stance toward market irregularities and financial crime," said Dong Dengxin, a finance researcher at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology.

Boyuan became the first company to be delisted after the CSRC refined the mechanism in 2014, with the aim of eliminating what it considered "trash" companies.

Analysts now said Boyuan's delisting could also stem the growing interest in shell companies, seen as ideal avenues for so-called backdoor listings by Chinese companies, and help clamp down on other illegal

market activities.

"The Boyuan case could mark the beginning of a new regulatory approach in China with an emphasis on the rule of law," said China International Capital Corp in a research note.

"It will also help deter illegal activities including speculation on shell companies, insider trading and financial frauds."

“

The registration-based IPO reform intends to raise listing efficiency.”

Dong Dengxin, a finance researcher at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology

So far this year, at least 42 listed companies have issued warnings of possible delistings, citing reasons including rising losses and being probed by the securities regulator for possible wrongdoings, according to financial data provider Wind Information.

A previously ineffective delisting mechanism has been one of the root causes blamed for recent market manipulation, and dishonest accounting practices by some firms.

Analysts said a more effective delisting mechanism will also help pave the way for the launch of the much-anticipated registration-based initial public offering system.

"The registration-based IPO reform intends to raise listing efficiency," said Dong.

ENERGY



Sany Group technicians assemble engineering machinery in the firm's assembly plant in Changsha, Hunan province. XINHUA

Sany outlines solar power plans

By YANG ZIMAN in Beijing and FENG ZHIWEI and WEN XINZHENG in Changsha

Sany Group, one of China's largest heavy-construction equipment manufacturers, plans to install 80-to 100-megawatts of distributed solar-energy capacity in the first half of this year, as it accelerates its drive into the photovoltaic industry, according to a top executive of the group.

Cheng Weihua, head of the company's photovoltaic equipment division, told China Daily the company now views the increased use of clean energy as inevitable, and that solar energy particularly, with its incomparable accessibility, has become a major part of Sany's product portfolio.

Sany has already incorporated 3.8 mW of distributed photovoltaic power capacity into the regional grid in the Nankou Industrial Park, its manufacturing base in Beijing.

The company supplied more than 100,000 kilowatt hours of solar power into the grid in the past week, 10 percent higher than expected, Cheng said.

Distributed solar-energy systems consists of small-capacity generators installed near their users. They are normally incorpo-

rated into power grids supplying less than 35 kilovolts of electricity.

Their appeal to users lies in their efficiency in energy distribution, and that they can be closely monitored.

"We believe that in the future, everyone will be both a consumer and producer of clean energy, instead of customers having to rely on one energy supplier," said Cheng.

3.8 megawatts

capacity of distributed photovoltaic power that Sany has incorporated into the regional grid in the Nankou Industrial Park in Beijing

"The shorter the distance between supplier and consumer, the higher the efficiency becomes."

The group plans to expand its building of distributed solar-energy systems for customers, suppliers and dealers at home in China, and now also plans to introduce solar power at its own factory in India, on a trial basis.

"Compared with Sany's first venture into construction machinery in 1993, the transformation going on at the moment into solar and

other types of clean energy is even more challenging," Liang Wengen, Sany's chairman, told the company's board meeting in February.

Liang said then that its clean-energy portfolio will focus on three sectors: Equipment manufacturing, new-energy development, and investment.

The company has already become competitive in wind power.

In the first half of last year, Sany sold wind-power equipment capable of generating 1 million kilowatts of power, double its orders in 2014.

Unlike its wind-power activities, for which it has created a mature industrial chain from manufacturing to operation, its photovoltaic business is still relatively small, however.

"There are many mature manufacturers with highly sophisticated technologies already in the industry. That's why we have begun by investing in smaller power units, and are now increasing our size and efficiency," said Cheng.

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FINANCE

Surge in listed firms setting up buyout funds

By ZHU WENQIAN
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Last year saw a fivefold surge in the number of companies that established buyout funds in China, and already this year another 125 companies have launched funds of this kind, according to new figures published in Securities Daily.

In 2015, 365 listed companies launched their own buyout funds, compared with just 71 in the previous year.

Thirty companies have launched the funds since the start of March, with investments focused on hot sectors like healthcare, environmental protection, graphene materials, culture and sports, and advanced manufacturing investment.

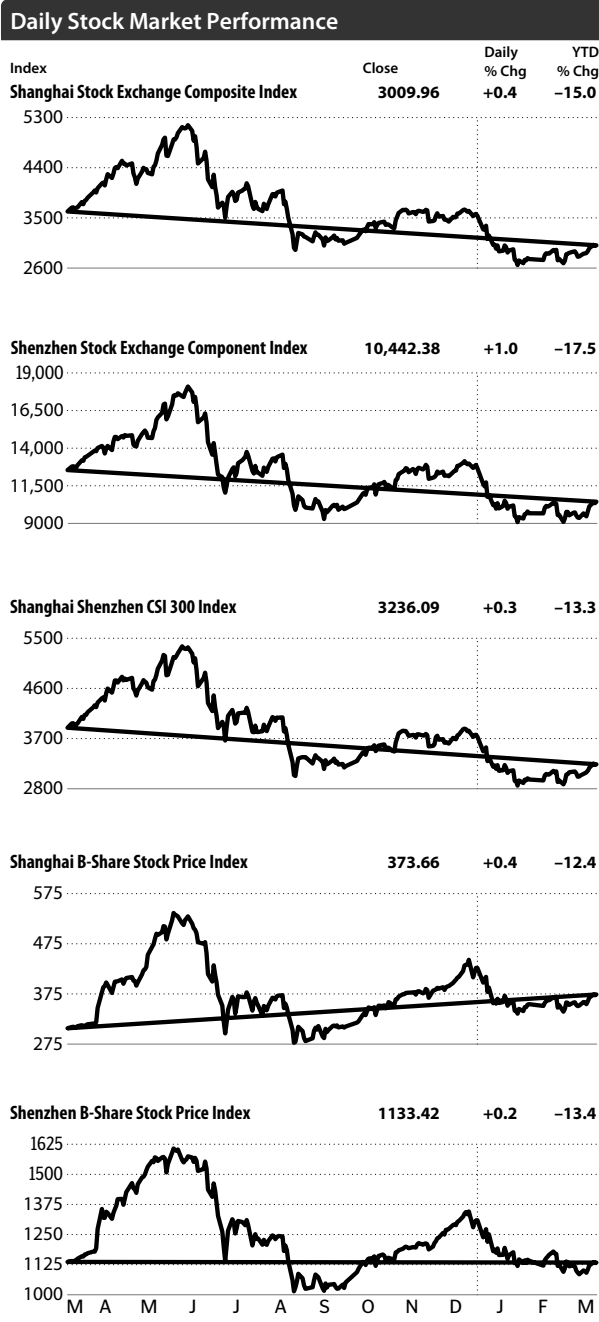
The statistics also show that the fund value of 10 companies reached 1 billion yuan (\$154 million), and funds created by Sichuan SCIMEE Technology and Science Co and Jiangsu Jiangnan now top 5 billion yuan in value.

In its commentary on the figures, Securities Daily said if a company chose to participate in a merger or acquisition, the possibility of failure was greater than launching buyout funds.

It also highlighted that investments in healthcare, especially, are active this year, given the development of the sector has been promoted strongly within the government's recently announced 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20).

As a result, the capital market is already keeping a close eye on related sectors, including pharmaceuticals, e-commerce and long-distance medical treatment.

According to data from Shanghai-based Wind Information Technology Co Ltd, the financial information provider, already this year there have been 51 M&A deals announced in the healthcare and medical sectors, worth 45 billion yuan. Those included a growing number of deals with overseas companies.



Gainers and Losers					
GAINERS			LOSERS		
	Close	Daily % Chg		Close	Daily % Chg
Shanghai Stock Exchange					
Qumei Home Furnishings	15.47	10.03	Shanghai Shyndec Pharm	34.59	-6.89
NingboJifengAuto Parts	21.29	10.03	HualingXingmaAutomoble	7.21	-6.73
Changbai Mtn Tourism	23.19	10.01	Anhui Expressway Co	14.60	-4.39
AnhuiGuangxinAgrochmcl	39.91	10.01	ChifengJilongGoldMinng	18.35	-3.37
NanjingInfmrSstrgEqpmnt	45.41	10.00	Songliao Automobile Co	42.16	-3.37
Zhejiang Guangsha Co	5.94	10.00	Shandong Gold Mining	27.05	-3.25
Xilinmen Furniture Co	18.93	9.99	Zhongjin Gold Corp Ltd	11.11	-2.97
Shenyang Toly Bread Co	34.12	9.99	Western Region Gold Co	24.33	-2.91
NingboOrientWires&Cbls	15.30	9.99	Yabao Pharmaceutical	11.68	-2.91
RisingNonferrrsMtlslShre	41.83	9.99	HarbinChurinGrpJntstck	9.64	-2.82
Shenzhen Stock Exchange					
Haima Automobile Group	5.38	10.02	ShandongHumon Smelting	10.59	-3.99
Shenzhen Infogem Tech	46.92	10.01	Yifan Xinfu Pharma	49.91	-3.96
HithinkRylFlshlnfNtwrk	74.97	10.01	ShandongShandWITSc&Tch	31.52	-3.31
Jiangsu Hoperun Sftw	38.15	10.01	SichuanTianqiLithiumIn	145.55	-2.76
Shanghai 2345 Network	28.37	10.00	Hunan Gold Corp Ltd	9.34	-2.20
HangzhLsnlntrctInfTchn	59.29	10.00	Guoxuan High-Tech Co	36.16	-2.16
Western Securities Co	29.26	10.00	SuzhouDongshanPrec Mfg	17.80	-2.14
Talkweb Info System	32.92	9.99	CangzhouMingzhuPlastic	18.02	-2.07
Sinodata Co Ltd	64.53	9.63	Zhejiang NHU Co Ltd	20.30	-2.03
WUSPrintedCircuitKnshn	5.07	9.50	ChinAvtnOptclElctrcTlc	34.85	-1.80
Hang Seng					
Tingyi Cayman Islands	7.64	4.09	Hengan International	62.35	-4.59
Sands China Ltd	31.00	2.14	ChinaOverseasLnd&Invst	24.50	-2.58
China Petroleum & Chem	4.92	2.07	MTR Corp Ltd	37.30	-1.84
China Mengniu Dairy Co	11.12	1.83	Link REIT	45.50	-1.73
Galaxy Entertainment	29.05	1.57	New World Development	7.55	-1.44

Cross Currency Rates											
	USD	EUR	CNY	HKD	GBP	KRW	BRL	RUB	JPY	INR	CAD
USD		1.119	0.154	0.129	1.417	0.001	0.279	0.015	0.009	0.015	0.765
EUR	0.894		0.138	0.115	1.267	0.001	0.249	0.013	0.008	0.013	0.684
CNY	6.497	7.269		0.838	9.207	0.006	1.813	0.096	0.058	0.097	4.970
HKD	7.756	8.676	1.194		10.988	0.007	2.166	0.115	0.069	0.116	5.931
GBP	0.706	0.790	0.109	0.091		0.001	0.197	0.011	0.006	0.011	0.540
KRW	1161.180	1301.060	178.718	149.715	1646.660		324.547	17.214	10.314	17.381	888.948
BRL	3.580	4.019	0.551	0.462	5.073	0.003		0.053	0.032	0.054	2.739
RUB	67.518	75.522	10.389	8.706	95.672	0.058	18.856		0.599	1.011	51.638
JPY	112.620	125.960	17.326	14.518	159.512	0.097	31.444	1.668		1.686	86.107
INR	66.808	74.726	10.283	8.614	94.641	0.058	18.654	0.989	0.593		51.098
CAD	1.308	1.463	0.201	0.169	1.853	0.001	0.365	0.019	0.012	0.020	

Data provided by

Bloomberg

International Stock Markets				
	Daily Close	% Chg	YTD % Chg	
Hang Seng Index	20,615.23	-0.2		
Hang Seng China Ent Index	8,873.33	-0.3		
TAIEX Taiwan Stock Index	8,766.09	-0.2		
Nikkei 225	17,000.98	-0.3		
Sensex	25,255.97	-0.3		
KOSPI	1,995.12	-0.1		
S&P/ASX 200	5,142.27	-0.5		
New Zealand 50 Gross Index	6,668.87	0.0		
Straits Times Index STI	2,879.65	0.1		
Bangkok SET Index	1,399.66	0.2		
Bursa Malaysia KLCI Index	1,717.10	-0.4		
VN-Index	574.71	0.7		
Dow Jones	17,582.57	-0.2		
Commodities				
	Close	Daily % Chg	YTD % Chg	
Brent Crude Oil (USD/bbl.)	41.77	0.0		
Gold (USD/t oz.)	1248.60	0.4		
Silver (USD/t oz.)	15.89	0.2		
Copper (USD/lb.)	2.29	-0.1		
Aluminum (USD/MT)	1490.25	-0.6		
Corn (USD/bu.)	3.70	0.1		
Wheat (USD/bu.)	4.67	0.1		
Soybeans (USD/bu.)	9.10	0.9		
Coffee (USD/lb.)	1.35	2.4		
Sugar #11 (USD/lb.)	0.17	-0.2		
Palm Oil (MYR/MT)	2688.00	-0.9		
ETFS				
	Ticker	Close	Daily % Change	
EQUITY ETFs				
China 50	510050	2.17	0.09	
China AMC CSI 300 Index	510330	3.35	0.39	
China CSI 500	510500	6.35	0.95	
China SME	159902	3.23	1.64	
China Universal CSI Consumer Staples Index	159928	1.27	0.71	
E Fund ChiNext Price Index	159915	2.15	2.33	
E Fund CSI 300	510310	1.31	-0.15	
E Fund CSI 300 Financials ex Banks Index	512070	1.67	1.71	
E Fund Hang Seng China Enterprises Index	510900	0.90	-0.33	
E FUND SZSE100 INDEX FUND	159901	3.91	0.93	
Fortune SGAM Xianjin Tianyi Money Market	511990	100.00	0.01	
Guangfa CSI 500	510510	1.67	0.36	
Guotai Shanghai Stock Exchange 180 Financial Index	510230	4.94	0.37	
Harvest CSI 300 Index	159919	3.38	0.03	
Huatai-Pinebridge CSI 300	510300	3.22	0.19	
Shanghai SSE180	510180	2.79	0.07	
SSE Pledge Urban Investment Bond	511220	99.25	0.02	
Yinhua Traded Money Market Fund	511880	100.70	0.02	



捷豹路虎中国
青少年梦想基金
Jaguar Land Rover China
Children & Youth Dream Fund



JAGUAR



LAND
ROVER

INSPIRING THE DREAMS OF OUR FUTURE

Briefly

Baoneng donates to university

Baoneng Group, the Shenzhen property developer, has agreed to donate 1 billion yuan (\$15.42 million) to the South University of Science and Technology of China in Guangdong province, over the next decade. The two sides said a new research and industrial investment fund will be created to promote advanced technology research and accelerate scientific transformation.

Famous singer helps poor kids

Jeff Chang, a famous singer from Taiwan, has launched a musical education program tailored for young people in poverty-stricken areas. Chang has pledged 2 million yuan (\$308,000) to help build a music training facility, and organize various music-related activities. The first to benefit will be a choir from Changsha, Hunan province, with singers all suffering from hearing or visual impairments. The money will be used to fund their participation in an international choral festival in Russia.

\$2.3m donation for eye care

China's Eye Care Foundation is planning to donate 15 million yuan (\$2.3 million) over the next five years to improve the eyesight of students at primary and secondary schools in Hunan province. The cash will be managed by the local education bureau, and will be spent on promoting better eye care education, as well as establishing an online health records system.

Firm tackles expired drugs

Guangzhou Baiyunshan Pharmaceutical Holdings Co Ltd is donating cash to ongoing national efforts to collect expired drugs. The medicines will be collected from homes in Guangdong province, and then sent to specialist agencies to destroy, under the surveillance of the local drug administration officials in the mountainous area. Part of a nationwide effort, so far the program has collected 1,200 tons out-of-date drugs in 200 cities.

Meeting calls for lower tuition costs

A two-day student financial aid meeting held in Yantai, Shandong province earlier this month has called for various measures to ease education costs for poorer families. The meeting has suggested that for students from poor families in rural areas, preschool education costs should be exempted, and for students who cannot afford to repay the student loans, schools should help pay back the outstanding loans as long as the students meet certain requirements.

Elderly receive material support

Shengquan Group, a Shandong-based company specializing in resin and polymers, has donated material supplies worth tens of millions of yuan to elderly residents nationwide through the pension industry incubation center. According to the latest figures, there are now 222 million who are aged at or above 60 in China, accounting for 16.1 percent of the population.

INNOVATION



High school students discuss their research projects with tutors in Shanghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Applied Materials funds Shanghai talent program

Long-running project encourages scientific research and innovation among young people

By WU YIYAO in Shanghai
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Applied Materials Inc, one of world's largest engineering solutions providers for the semiconductor, display and solar photovoltaic industries, is to continue as sole sponsor of a groundbreaking program to support science talent development in Shanghai.

The program — Future Science Star — aims to encourage the younger generation to take an active part in scientific research and innovation.

Its organizer, Shanghai Science Education Development Foundation, is hosting the 2016 Shanghai International Youth Science and Technology Expo, and the accompanying Future Science Star International Invitational Competition in July, and then it plans to expand the idea globally, said its Chairwoman Zuo Huanchen.

As sole corporate sponsor, Applied Materials has donated more than 10 million yuan (\$1.55 million) to the program since 2003, during which 3,200 students with outstanding achievements in scientific research have been offered support.

The company earlier this month revealed plans to invest 4 billion yuan to expand in the Chinese market over the next few years. Last month it forecast higher-than-expected profit and revenue for the current quarter, helped by rising demand in China.

Zuo said the science program has benefited a long list of students and their teachers, as well as institutions in Shanghai, and is playing a major part in making sure a strong pipeline of new researchers and scientists is maintained in the city, across a variety of fields as diverse as architecture, engineering and zoology.

"About 80 percent of Shanghai middle-school students have participated in this program at some time since 2003," she said.

"In that time, 10 academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering have also worked as program consultants, and 100 other scholars have joined in, to guide student participants."

This close interaction between further education and schools is started to

“After joining the program and finishing the project, I decided to major in natural sciences.”

Cheng Shijie, a 22-year-old chemistry major from Fudan University

show real results.

In two international student assessment tests, for instance, organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Shanghai students ranked first in math, reading and science, of the 65 countries and regions assessed.

Cheng Shijie, a 22-year-old chemistry major from Fudan University, is typical of the type of student reaping the benefits of the ongoing effort.

She became interested in chemistry at the age of 16 when she and her schoolmates were first introduced to research by lectures delivered by university professors.

She decided to join the

Future Science Star program in 2011, and submitted a project plan focused on finding a chemical solution to purify pigment-tainted water.

"During the process, I learned a lot from researchers, teachers and lecturers and I quickly developed a passion for chemistry and scientific research.

"It helped me become familiar with laboratories, experiments and research methods, which improved my hands-on capabilities and logical thinking," said Cheng.

"After joining the program and finishing the project, I decided to major in natural sciences."

Now a senior at Fudan, she hopes to become a researcher in physical chemistry.

Gary Dickerson, Applied Materials' chief executive officer, said the company regards its support of China's science education and innovation as a pillar of its corporate responsibility efforts.

An engineer himself, Dickerson said he believes that true innovation is about combining technology and talent in new ways.

"Bringing technology and talent together is like combining fuel and air in an engine — this is the priority for China, to succeed in our industry."

ENVIRONMENT

Tree-planting drive in Minqin gets latest boost

By ZHENG XIN
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6,000

The Ginkgo Foundation and China's tourist information-sharing website Mafengwo have launched a joint campaign to continue efforts to save an area of previously fertile land in Minqin county of Northwest China's Gansu province, which continues to be threatened by desertification.

The two have launched Arbor Day on Mafengwo, an initiative calling on the public to either donate money or participate in tree planting in Minqin, which is described by local officials as an "ecological disaster area."

Desertification is a term used for land degradation in which relatively dry regions become increasingly arid, typically losing their main bodies of water, as well as vegetation and wildlife.

Minqin is located between the Tengger Desert and the Badain Jaran Desert, and is surrounded on three sides by desert.

The sacsaoul is native to the region, and can range in size from a large shrub to a small tree. There has been ongoing planting of the trees for several years, with large areas of afforestation already created.

According to Wang Jiamin, head of corporate social responsibility at Mafengwo, visitors to the site can sign up to take part in sacsaoul planting in Minqin, and donors and planters will have their names hung on the new trees in recognition of their efforts.

But the biggest thrust of the campaign is to encourage people to come and visit Minqin

the number of volunteers that have participated in efforts to fight against desertification in Minqin county of Gansu province over the past decade

for themselves, he said, to get a better understanding of the issues being faced there, which include people's homes and farmland being lost to the approaching desert.

The public can sign up to support the campaign on mafengwo.cn, with the next tree-planting trip to Mingqin on April 2-4.

According to the Ginkgo Foundation's Ma Junhe, more than 6,000 volunteers have participated over the past decade in efforts to fight against desertification in Minqin, planting some 560,000 sacsaouls on thousands of hectares of former-desert land.

A Minqin local himself, Ma said he has been devoted to the planting program for 10 years but insists much work still needs to be done.

"There are sandstorms during spring, which cause huge damage to properties and crops because of the disappearance of trees and the invading wasteland," he said, which has already forced many villagers to move away.

"This former oasis is shrinking and will eventually disappear if desertification continues. Already many sacsaoul trees have withering and died.

"Some experts forecast if the situation continues, Minqin will be swallowed by sand in 17 years," said Ma.



Time to protect the planet

Student volunteers from Jiangsu University have created a handmade model of the Earth with 2,016 plastic bottle caps they collected, in response to the worldwide Earth Hour campaign — an initiative started by World Wide Fund for Nature in 2007 to encourage people's commitment to the planet regarding environmental protection and resources saving. YANG YU / FOR CHINA DAILY

PROJECTS

Sony continues educational efforts in quake-hit schools

By WANG ZHUOQIONG
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New video equipment and other educational aids have been newly installed in classrooms in Minzu Primary School in Luquan County, Yunnan province by Sony China, under the company's ongoing "Dream Classroom" education-technology program.

It's the latest move by the company, which has been involved in bringing much-needed help to schools in the region, including running science classes, in many parts of the area affected by the huge earthquake there in 2014.

The company's latest Welfare Week saw Sony volunteers helping schools in Guanzhai and Xinlin village in Ludian county.



A customer shops in a Sony store in Yichang, Hubei province. LIU JIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

More than 600 teachers and students took part, with classes held in science, specialist art, history and culture.

In the former, pupils were taught the principle of sound, using the Sony equipment. The art classes focused on

encouraging children to paint scenes from their hometowns, while in the history and culture classes, volunteers

2 million yuan

Sony China's donation to Ludian county in Yunnan province after it was struck by an earthquake

offered vivid storytelling about the province.

The 2014 earthquake had a magnitude of 6.5, and rocked many parts of Yunnan province and the rest of Yunnan.

Sony stepped in to help soon after, along with many investment institutions and businesses.

The electronics firm and its employees have now donated equipment worth some 2 million yuan (\$307,000) to the area to improve teaching facilities and promote the education of disaster prevention and rescue work.

Last year, Sony's efforts in the region centered on the creation of 10 "Sony Dream Classrooms" and five "Safety Training Classroom", which are equipped with its own latest products to provide educational support.

Nationwide, the company has now created 81 dream classrooms in 51 cities, which feature electronic teaching aids, tablet computers, projectors and other hardware.

Sony also organizes student volunteer teams from 30 universities to help run the classes.

The company said so far 8,500 students have been taught 10,000 hours of courses, involving more than 4,000 teachers.

Officials said across China, the initiative is expected to have helped 210,000 students over the next five years.

STAR VISIT

DICAPRIO ON THE SPOT

The much-anticipated release of *The Revenant* on the Chinese mainland has not been without controversy, as Hollywood megastar Leonardo DiCaprio finds out. **Xu Fan** reports.

He has again become the target of Chinese tabloids and Internet users, thanks to a poorly organized film publicity event on Sunday.

One of Hollywood's most popular megastars in China, Leonardo DiCaprio is regarded as a reason why Chinese, even those who are not film enthusiasts, keenly followed the 88th Academy Awards.

His role in the 1997 disaster epic *Titanic*, the highest-grossing blockbuster of that year on the Chinese mainland, won him a generation of fans in China, the world's second-largest movie market since 2012.

But his long journey to collect a golden Oscar statuette, after being nominated four times in the past 22 years, inspired a lot of spoofs and online jokes on Chinese social media.

So when the 41-year-old star finally won the award, many Chinese said online that his willingness to suffer "abuse", rather than his acting talent, "touched the demanding Oscar voters".

In *The Revenant*, DiCaprio plays a 1820s fur trader who survives in the uncharted wildness by eating raw bison liver, wading through icy water and lying in a dead horse's bloody belly to survive a frozen night.

As for his second brush with the tabloids and social media, what seems to have provoked the clash is a series of missteps at the publicity show for *The Revenant*.

Given DiCaprio's celebrity status and the movie's Oscar awards, it is not hard to understand the frenzy DiCaprio's visit to Beijing created.

And local media reported that some die-hard fans spent up to 500 yuan (\$76) to purchase a pass for the Sunday event.

However, it turned out to be a disappointment for fans.

Even the plan for up to 15 pre-arranged questions during the event's interview section was modified and the number of questions was cut to four, drawing frowns from reporters.

Giving vent to their disappoint-



Top: DiCaprio plays a 1820s fur trader in *The Revenant*, which won him the best actor award at this year's Oscars. **Above left:** DiCaprio tries to write a Chinese character of his Chinese nickname during Sunday's film publicity event. **Above right:** Two fans present him a banner that reads, "Xiao Li, we love you." PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ment, a few hours after the event, more than a dozen satires went viral mainly on WeChat, China's most popular instant messaging app.

The slashes were based on the event's "clumsy" format.

Despite DiCaprio saying he is a bad learner of foreign languages, the Chinese host insisted on teaching him to say "*ni hao*" (hello), "*wo ai Beijing* (I love Beijing)", and "*wo ai Zhongguo* (I love China)".

The event, which expected to win over Chinese audiences, was

mocked online when it was broadcast on some streaming sites.

As Tian Ying, a Beijing freelancer and a Hollywood movie fan, says: "Making Hollywood stars speak Chinese is too stereotyped. We love them not because they can speak a little Chinese but due to their impressive performances on the big screen."

To add insult to injury, organizers revealed that some of the tickets for Sunday's opening ceremony — where DiCaprio was to show up on the red carpet — had been stolen.

Meanwhile, the meme and jokes on DiCaprio have done no harm to the survival epic's prospects in Chinese mainland theaters.

Since it was released here on March 18, the movie has grossed more than 268 million yuan on Wednesday to top current box-office charts.

Even industry watchers regard its commercial success as rare for a film from such a genre. This is because foreign big-action movies featuring giant explosions, lethal chases, and gun fights have typically enjoyed box-office success in China.

Speaking of his role in the movie, DiCaprio says: "Not many can understand how difficult it was. You really have to immerse yourself into all the elements, including the locations and the sub-zero temperatures."

"Very little CGI (computer-generated imagery) was used in the film. Most of the actors did the real stunts," says DiCaprio, who was in Beijing for the first time.

"The movie has really become a part of our life ... like it really happened to us," adds DiCaprio, who

“You really have to immerse yourself into all the elements, including the locations and the sub-zero temperatures.”

Leonardo DiCaprio, actor

had traveled to Hong Kong and Qingdao, in Shandong province, earlier.

"And despite all the difficulties ... at the end of the day, we loved the great piece of cinematography."

While DiCaprio's role in the film fetched him the best actor award, the movie also won Oscars for Alejandro Inarritu and Emmanuel Lubezki for best director and best cinematography, respectively.

The movie also bagged 64 awards and 149 nominations at other prestigious events, such as the Golden Globes and BAFTA Awards.

While the latest DiCaprio drama online may soon blow over as the next blockbuster rolls in, the saga of poorly organized film publicity events for Hollywood A-listers continues.

China's rapidly booming market has meant that in recent years scores of Hollywood stars have been making Beijing or Shanghai a priority during their Asia promotional tours.

However, similar embarrassing moments have also become a frequent phenomenon.

For example, Australian actor Hugh Jackman was embarrassed when he was asked to compare Chinese actress Fan Bingbing's figure with European actresses during his 2014 promotional tour in China.

And American actor Lee Pace was made to sit in a corner and sign autographs for fans who were charged high prices by the event organizers during his 2015 Guangzhou promotional tour.

So, could the latest incident prove to be a turning point?

Industry sources say that it is high time the local marketing companies treat world-famous stars with more consideration and respect instead of making a mockery of such events.

As for the answer, we just have to wait until the next star drops by.

Contact the writer at xufan@chinadaily.com.cn

NEW MOVIE

Drama follows woman's quest for reputation

By XU FAN

One of China's most commercially successful directors, Feng Xiaogang, once said his love for cinema was dying.

But that was probably just a passing thought, as Feng seems to have worked his passion into his latest venture, *I Am Not Madame Bovary*.

Adapted from best-selling novelist Liu Zhenyun's work *I Did Not Kill My Husband*, the movie is about a rural woman's 20-year struggle to earn society's respect after her former husband had tarnished her reputation.

The movie is set to open in Chinese mainland theaters during the Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on Sept 19.

Unlike full features that take up an entire screen when shown, in Feng's new movie the scenes can be seen in circular images, mimicking the shape of a lens.

While most directors prefer to

give their viewers an immersive experience, Feng says his "avant-garde" cinematography tends to remind audiences that they are outsiders spying on the joys and fears of characters in a fictional world.

He says that he does not care about offending audiences this time, after the many years he has spent catering to their tastes.

"I've directed many movies, with most of them being finished quickly. So why can I not spend three years on one film now? I want to focus on a worthy project," the 58-year-old Feng says.

Feng, who shot to prominence early in his career with a series of hit comedies, has often aspired to make cinematic breakthroughs in recent years.

This can be seen quite clearly in the disaster epic *1942*, which Feng filmed "seriously" but disappointingly ended as a big box-office flop.

The film was released in 2012. While Feng says that he has often



From left to right: Director Feng Xiaogang, actress Fan Bingbing and author Liu Zhenyun at a promotional event in Beijing for Feng's latest movie *I Am Not Madame Bovary*. JIANG DONG / CHINA DAILY

faced rejection because he refused to be "a slave to the market", he hopes his new movie will make him a pioneer of sorts.

"It will endure the test of history. It highlights the importance of laws and systems, and reflects China's unprecedented transition and the people who have experienced the changes," says Feng.

The movie brings together Feng, the novel's author and the movie's scriptwriter Liu, and veteran actress Fan Bingbing 12 years after they worked on the 2003 hit comedy *Cell Phone*, the box-office champion that year.

Fan, who has received much international attention for her elegance at global fashion shows, says



it's a big challenge to play the protagonist rural woman, whose cinematic image is quite the opposite of her glamorous persona.

"I had to change a lot for the movie, including my walking style and speech. And I also learned a dialect," she says at a promotional event for the movie in Beijing.

Liu, a winner of China's top liter-

ary prize, the Mao Dun Literature Award, says the 2012 novel was his first book to take on a female's perspective.

Liu says at the same event that the book has been translated into nearly 20 foreign languages, including an English version by Sinologist Howard Goldblatt.

Known for his dark humor and keen observations on contemporary China, Liu has also seen international interest in his early works, including the famine-themed novel *Remember 1942*.

Speaking of *I Am Not Madame Bovary*, Liu says: "The movie has a unique sense of humor rarely seen. It makes you laugh from the beginning to the end.

"But when you return home, you'll start to think and examine it in a more in-depth fashion."

Feng says comedy can be classified into three forms — language, narrative and tale. And he feels the movie represents the highest form of humor, for it reflects the absurdity of real life.

"It's a kind of mirror. Viewers will see the lifestyle and people they are familiar with through the movie. In some senses, the characters' struggles can exist only in China and be understood only by Chinese," says Feng.

BOX OFFICE



EPIC CLASH

If *Batman v Superman* does well in China, DC Comics would throw a challenge at Marvel in the world's second-largest movie market, **Xu Fan** reports.



Even for Chinese who aren't familiar with DC Comics or the American superhero characters they bring to the world, the movie *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* would be charming.

The cinematic adaptation, involving two of DC's most famous characters in its 80-year history, will debut on the Chinese mainland on Friday. It premiered in the United States on Sunday.

The title straightforwardly tells the story.

Concerned that Superman's unchecked powers may become a threat to the world, Batman, the billionaire crime-fighter from fictional Gotham City, prepares to confront Earth's protector, whose day job is that of a reporter. But in the end they instead join forces to fight Superman's arch enemy, Lex Luthor.

American actor Ben Affleck, known for his Oscar-winning political thriller *Argo*, plays Batman, while British actor Henry Cavill, whose *Man of Steel* (2013) is to date the highest-grossing Superman film, reprises his role as the ex-Krypton (fictional planet) being. The movie also raises the question of who is the bigger superhero.

In China, the question extends to DC and its main competitor Marvel Comics, another creator of superhero characters in the United States.

China became the world's second-largest movie market after the US in 2012, replacing Japan.

The Avengers movie, based on the Marvel series of the same name, was also that year's top blockbuster in China.

In 2015, the sequel, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, followed Hollywood's action-packed *Fast and Furious 7* to become the second highest-grossing foreign film on the mainland. It helped China's box-office profit climb 48 percent from the year before.

Lagging behind Marvel, DC is now seen as setting its hopes of capturing the Chinese market on *Batman v Superman*.

So promotional activities for the movie in China have been upscale.

Lead stars Affleck and Cavill and the movie's director Zack Snyder all came to Beijing. They made headlines in local media with interviews, selfies



Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice is being promoted in China with star-studded activities before its premiere on Friday. Lead actors Ben Affleck (left) and Henry Cavill (right), together with director Zack Snyder, attended the Beijing media event on March 11. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“You don't have to be a comics person. It's a classic story that revolves on the evergreen theme of 'good vs evil.'”

Ben Affleck, actor

with Chinese fans, and even transporting Batman's heavy and expensive car to a shopping mall in downtown Beijing. In the past, it used to be either Seoul or Tokyo for Hollywood launches of movies in Asia.

A number of foreign reporters, including from India, Indonesia, South Korea, Singapore and Vietnam, were seen at a Beijing media conference for the movie on March 11.

But to convince the Chinese to watch the movie, more needs to be done.

Unlike in the English-speaking world, where Superman first appeared in DC comics in 1938 and Batman the following year, Chinese children have not been raised on a similar diet.

China officially introduced the two superheroes' comic books in more recent times.

Beijing World Publishing

Corp has acquired the copyrights for 28 comic books from DC, and the books have been translated into Chinese since 2011. Some 17 more are expected in the future, according to the Chinese publishing house.

But the movie's stars believe the \$250 million project has a global appeal.

“You don't have to be a comics person,” Affleck tells China Daily. “It's a classic story that revolves on the evergreen theme of ‘good vs evil.’ It's about conquering your fear when something very powerful comes.”

Affleck, also a screenwriter, had won the Academy Award for best original screenplay with actor Matt Damon for *Good Will Hunting* (1997).

“A fact about the movie is the (*Batman v Superman*) writer hasn't read a lot of comic books, but he's produced a good tale,” Affleck says.

For director Snyder, the visuals and battle scenes provide the “basic elements for entertaining.”

Also, the heroes' inner struggles and the public's skepticism can easily be understood by viewers irrespective of the languages they speak, he says. Batman, for instance, struggles with his childhood nightmare of witnessing his parents being murdered.

“He (Batman) uses the playboy disguise to not think about the pain of losing his family, and it's a way to stop

reaching the woes in his soul,” Snyder adds.

In the comic-book series, Batman is billionaire Bruce Wayne, who keeps his city safe from the criminal underworld. Whenever he senses trouble, he puts on his costume and goes out to help his people.

Cavill, who has played Superman twice, reveals matching the changes is a significant element to attract modern viewers.

“The comic books have changed in an extraordinary way from the very beginning,” he says, adding that popular culture and readers' interests have also changed over time.

And now, the heroes' personality clash is what the audiences want to read and see, the British actor says.

For China, which allows only 34 foreign movies to be screened on the mainland annually, based on a box-office sharing system, visual spectacles tend to impress the average moviegoer.

By Monday, major online ticket-booking sites, such as Maoyan and Gwara, showed that nearly 30 percent of prime-time seats were sold out in downtown Beijing cinemas.

Wang Su, a Beijing-based fan of DC, says as Batman and Superman are comic-book icons, the movie is a must-see for fans.

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NEW REPORT

Poor subtitles mar prospects of Chinese cinema abroad

By WANG KAIHAO
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Chinese films are encountering some difficulties as they journey along the ancient Silk Road, a recent report suggests.

In its annual report on the global influence of Chinese cinema, the Academy for International Communication of Chinese Culture affiliated to Beijing Normal University says more than 30 percent of those interviewed for the survey considered “the thoughts and logic of Chinese films difficult to understand” and less than 40 percent shared values expressed in the films.

The report, released last week, says one-third of the interviewees said they generally weren't interested in Chinese films.

With China's film administrators not known to conduct similar research, the report has become an established source of information on the reception of Chinese cinema abroad.

This year's report includes studying 46 countries and six foreign regions along the Eurasian overland and marine routes that were once connected to China through trade and cultural ties.

Some 1,800 answer sheets from ordinary moviegoers in these places were collected in 31 languages for the survey.

Huang Huiling, head of the academy and the report's main author, says traditional surveys based on in-depth interviews are more suitable to spot problems as compared with the popular big data analysis of the recent times.

“The status quo isn't good,” Huang says. “To increase our influence overseas, the quality of Chinese films needs to improve.”

Only 30 percent of the

30 percent

of those interviewed for the survey considered “thoughts and logic of Chinese films difficult to understand”

70 percent

of those interviewed for the survey were unsatisfied with Chinese films' subtitles in their native languages

interviewees gave positive comments on “stories, performances and production of Chinese films”. But nearly half saw strong self-defining characteristics in Chinese cinema.

“It also tells Chinese filmmakers to stick to their own features to win broader attention,” says Huang.

There isn't enough in terms of promoting Chinese cinema abroad, especially in channels closer to people's daily lives, the report says.

Merely 7.8 percent of the interviewees noticed outdoor advertisements of Chinese films in their home countries; 36 percent never found any information on Chinese films in their community-level activities; and 70 percent were unsatisfied with subtitles in their native languages — poor subtitles are stopping Chinese films from reaching more foreign audiences.

Luo Jun, deputy head of the academy, says: “To have quality subtitles, one will need to understand both Chinese culture and the culture of the foreign country.”

“We need Chinese who know foreign cultures well and expats who have abundant knowledge of Chinese culture.”

But foreign participation in producing subtitles is usually not enough, which often

leaves Chinese films making literal translations without reflecting context. The situation is more embarrassing for lesser-spoken languages, he says.

Different regions along the ancient Silk Road vary greatly in terms of the understanding of Chinese films, Huang says of the survey.

While Southeast Asian countries showed easier understanding of Chinese films despite language barriers due to cultural proximity, those in the Middle and Eastern Europe showed lower acceptance of the films.

Dai Yuanchu, a media researcher, says: “When subtitles are generally imperfect, audiences with similar cultural backgrounds can fill the void using their own experiences.”

“However, people from a different region like Eastern Europe will probably not be able to catch nonverbal meanings in movies.”

Kung fu films remained the most popular genre, but its advantage over other genres wasn't obvious, according to the report.

Chinese films can no longer purely rely on martial arts to win foreign markets, Huang says.

There were some surprising discoveries that could give China's film industry new ideas.

Chinese documentaries were most welcomed in West Asia and North Africa.

Horror films from China that are often ignored by domestic moviegoers were popular in Japan and South Korea.

Sha Dan, an expert with China Film Archive, says: “Commercial packaging is necessary for Chinese films if they want to be better accepted, no matter what genre it is.”

He thinks coproduction is possibly one of the better ways to handle such issues.

REVIEW

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 offers disappointing fare

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
in New York

Ever been to a wedding where you don't know anyone very well? It's pretty deadly, no matter how good the food or the band might be. Everyone's laughing really hard at jokes you don't find funny, or even understand.

On the other hand, if you know and love everyone, you'll have fun even if the champagne is flat and the canapes soggy.

And that, dear moviegoer, is about as deep as we need to go in analyzing *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2*, an over-stuffed, underachieving sequel that took more than a decade to come to the screen.

If you've been dying for a reunion with those aggressively lovable folks known as the Portokalos family, maybe you'll be happy. But if you didn't miss them that much or, maybe didn't even know them in the first place, stay away from this wedding. Send a gift and call it a day.

The fact that the film took 14 years to arrive — Nia Vardalos is again the star and writer — is both a blessing and a curse. It may have stoked huge interest — the original was a ginormous sleeper hit — but it also implies that we're about to see something worth the wait.

Instead, the script is a tired pastiche of what seem like the same gags we heard the first time. Greek families are big and affectionate! Greek families get involved in each other's business! Greek families



Lead actresses Nia Vardalos (left) and Elena Kampouris attend the screening of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2* in New York City on March 18. AFP

smother you with love! And so on.

We begin in snowy Chicago, where Toula (Vardalos) is still married to her Waspy hunk of a husband, Ian (John Corbett, amiable but peripheral), now the high school principal. Her father, Gus (Michael Constantine), is still very much the patriarch, a man who swears he's related to Alexander the Great and believes that every word in the English language comes from Greek, even “Facebook.” The rest of the gang is back, too, including Lainie Kazan as Toula's mom, Maria, and the terrific Andrea Martin as Aunt Voula, who still likes to talk raunchy.

But 14 years have passed; Toula and Ian are now parents of a high school senior, pretty Paris (Elena Kampouris), who's aching to spread her wings.

This is a recurring problem

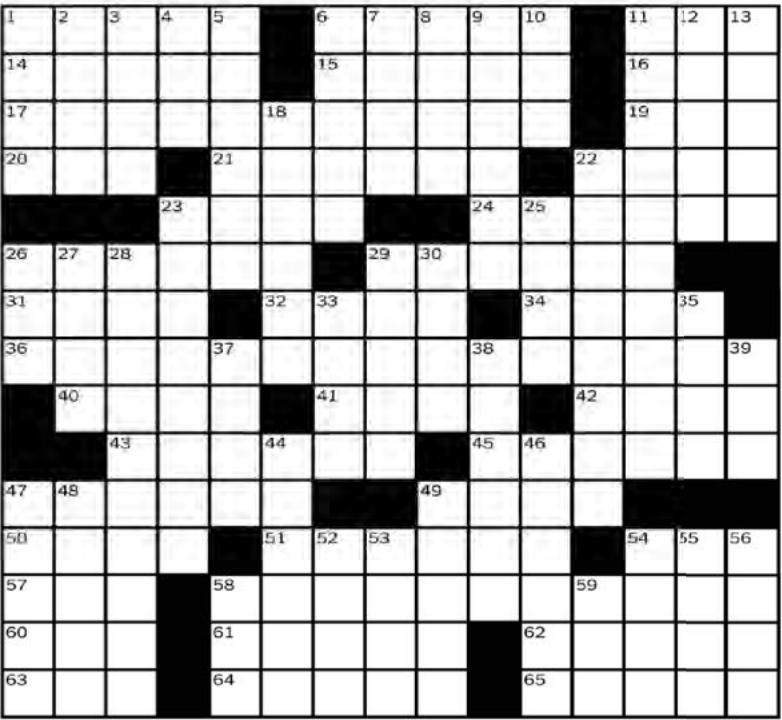
with the film, directed by Kirk Jones; what seemed quirky and funny in the original is exaggerated to unfunny extent here. It's as if Vardalos was trying to take things to a darker, more interesting place, but at every such turn, got scared and went for slapstick humor instead.

But OK, given the title, there's got to be ... a wedding, right? Well, Toula's already married, and Paris is too young. And so, we have a plot device whereby Gus discovers that his original marriage license from Greece was never signed.

Of course, there are a few obstacles along the way. But we all know that we'll get our happy wedding, some way, somehow. And you'll surely smile at a few points.

It's only when those credits roll that you'll likely find yourself thinking: 14 years, for this?

The New York Times crossword



- Across**

 - 1 Israeli city on the slopes of Mount Carmel
 - 6 Gossiped
 - 11 ___ *La La* (1964 hit)
 - 14 Visibly terrified
 - 15 Redolence
 - 16 Beldam
 - 17 12:05 to 12:20 pm, maybe
 - 19 Kind of dye
 - 20 Jazz (up)
 - 21 Bit of letter-shaped hardware on a door
 - 22 Nordic name meaning "young warrior"
 - 23 Approval indication
 - 24 Diner
 - 26 Electrician's tool
 - 29 Biddy
- 31 Caleb who wrote *The Italian Secretary*
 - 32 European river whose tributaries include the Wigger and the Emme
 - 34 Bit of misfortune
 - 36 A couple weeks off partying in Florida, say
 - 40 Any singer in the lead role of 41-Across
 - 41 Its final scene is set in a tomb
 - 42 *Casablanca* role
 - 43 Real go-getters
 - 45 Haunting presences
 - 47 The Bat-Signal, eg
 - 49 "Très ___"
 - 50 Start to fill a pot
- 51 Where Bethesda, Md, and Alexandria, Va, are
 - 54 One of the Bushes
 - 57 Prefix with code or color
 - 58 Series of ads on TV or radio
 - 60 The Black Keys of rock, eg
 - 61 Nestful
 - 62 Mouthwash instruction
 - 63 "Some rise by ___, and some by virtue fall": Shak
 - 64 Decaf option
 - 65 Under stress
- Down**

 - 1 Padlock holder
 - 2 Queens stadium eponym
 - 3 Chain with links
 - 4 Sword: Fr
 - 5 Flower part
 - 6 Daring escape
 - 7 Give ___ for one's money
 - 8 *The World of Suzie ___* (1957 novel)
 - 9 Like an awards ceremony
 - 10 Morse T
 - 11 Rookie officers, in slang
 - 12 One being rough on pebles
 - 13 Hell
 - 18 Like the Potala Palace of Tibet
 - 22 It might include the line "You're listening to WABC"
- 23 Turning point in a tennis match, maybe
 - 25 Group whose first US hit was *Waterloo*
 - 26 Windows can be found on them
 - 27 Pacific force, for short
 - 28 The pea, in *The Princess and the Pea*
 - 29 Big purveyor of fishing gear
 - 30 Heavy metal
 - 33 Chef's thickening agent
 - 35 What cometh after thou, maybe
 - 37 Plotter with Roderigo
 - 38 Displaying more craft
 - 39 *If I Ruled the World* rapper
 - 44 Witch on *Bewitched*
 - 46 Lover's hurt
 - 47 Transmission-related units
 - 48 Yawns might suggest this
 - 49 Dutch city where Charles II lived in exile
 - 52 "Hurry up!"
 - 53 Uncontrollably
 - 54 Saying "There's no way we can lose now," say
 - 55 No trouble
 - 56 Drained
 - 58 ___ Sports
 - 59 World Factbook publisher, for short

Yesterday's solution

B	U	T		M	A	Y		T	W	I	G		S	T	Y
U	N	O		A	R	E		O	H	N	O		E	R	E
R	P	M		M	R	S		P	A	N	G	O	L	I	N
M	I	A	S	M	A		J	E	T	S	O	F	F		
A	N	Y	W	A	Y		A	K	A		S	T	R	I	P
				T	I	M		O	M	A	H	A		E	P
G	L	O	R	I	O	U	S		O	P	T	S	F	O	R
O	U	T	L	A	S	T		T	O	E	H	O	L	D	S
L	A	O						A	W	A	I	T		A	L
F	U	M	E	D		I	L	L		S	T	A	C	H	E
				A	L	I	T	T	L	E		T	A	R	T
M	A	H	I	M	A	H	I		M	A	W		I	R	A
A	C	T		E	R	I	E		E	R	A		O	P	S
N	E	O		S	E	T	S		T	R	Y		N	Y	E

Dilbert

YOUR ANALYSIS DOES NOT CONFORM TO MY PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS.

SO MY GUT INSTINCT IS TELLING ME THAT YOU ARE WRONG.

WHEN YOUR GUT TALKS TO YOU, WHAT DOES IT USE FOR A MOUTH?

F-minus

OH GOOD, THEY'RE HERE! I MADE AN ORDER FOR SOME DAY-OLDS YESTERDAY.

Peanuts

WHEW I'M EXHAUSTED!

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN THROW ANOTHER BALL

YOU NEED A DRINK OF MY SPECIAL BALANCED ELECTROLYTE SOLUTION, CHARLIE BROWN...

THIS REPLACES THE BODY STORES AND PREVENTS ANY DIMINUTION OF VITALLY NEEDED ELECTROLYTES AND NUTRIENTS

THANK YOU...I FEEL BETTER ALREADY...

KEEP THE BALL LOW!

Drabble

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THE DUMBO RIDE IS LIKE AT DISNEYLAND!

SHOULD I SAY A PRAYER THAT I'LL REMEMBER IT?

SURE, PENNY! WHY NOT?

AMEN

WELL?

I THINK I BETTER GOOGLE IT INSTEAD!

horoscope

- Capricorn** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Don't give in to emotional instability. Stick close to home and take care of matters that will add to your personal security. Nurture important relationships and make home improvements.
- Aquarius** (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)

Observe how others respond to you. Protect your property and don't lend or borrow money or possessions. Look for professional opportunities that will increase your income or reputation.
- Pisces** (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)

Money matters must not be ignored. Overspending will lead to unnecessary stress. Back away from anyone asking for too much and offering too little. Moderation should be your goal.
- Aries** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Adapt your plans and proceed with them. If you get in the right frame of mind, you will receive positive results. Assess a relationship if you feel the other party is withholding information. Ask direct questions.
- Taurus** (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Don't make an impulsive move if your emotions are calling the shots. Focus on what you do best and how to use your attributes to get ahead. Your persuasiveness is an asset.
- Gemini** (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

Take part and reach out to help bring about positive change at home or in your community. Don't let uncertainty confuse you or stop you from doing your best. Set a good example.
- Cancer** (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Indecisiveness will work against you. Consider your options and move forward. Taking part in something that reunites you with old buddies or colleagues will lead to a window of opportunity.
- Leo** (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Stay busy. A day trip will motivate you to try something new. Do your part by contributing knowledge and solutions. A positive change at home will lighten the mood.
- Virgo** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Your entertaining, fun-to-be-with attitude will draw attention. Focus on love, romance and socializing. Relationships will be enhanced and self-improvement projects will pay off.
- Libra** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)

Expand your interests and friendships. What you learn from observing others will encourage you to be money smart. Do your best to complete contracts, settlements or legal issues.
- Scorpio** (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)

Recognize a problem and take action. Losing control of a personal situation will make it difficult to regain ground. Nurture what you have and eliminate what isn't working for you.
- Sagittarius** (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)

You should concentrate on your home, family and what you know and do best. Personal changes will enhance your relationship with loved ones and friends, and position you for greater popularity and success.

bridge

Jean Nidetch, a co-founder of Weight Watchers who died last year, said, "It's choice — not chance — that determines your destiny."

That is certainly true in this deal. South is faced with a choice of side suits to play on, and often it would not matter, but in this layout only the correct line will work.

South is in six spades. West leads the club king. South takes the trick and cashes his two top spades to learn that West will get a trump trick. How should declarer continue?

North's three-heart rebid was a transfer, and four clubs was a superaccept promising four-card spade support, a doubleton somewhere and the club ace. When North happily showed his diamond ace, South took a shot at slam.

Declarer is faced with two losers: one spade and one club. Somehow he has to discard one of dummy's clubs before West can ruff in and cash the club queen. If West ruffs as dummy's third club evaporates, that does not

matter. But should South start on hearts or diamonds?

It looks obvious to play on hearts because declarer has only five cards in that suit — but it is wrong. West must hold three diamonds for South to have any chance; and just in case he has four, declarer should cash three tricks in that suit first. If they split 3-3, South shifts immediately to hearts. Here, though, declarer takes the fourth diamond and pitches one of dummy's clubs. Then he plays off his hearts to jettison dummy's last club. West's ruff is too late for the defense.

North												
♠ J 9 7 4 3												
♥ 8 5												
♦ A K J												
♣ 6 5 2												
West									East			
♠ Q 10 2									♥ 8			
♥ J 6									♦ 10 9 7 4 3 2			
♦ 8 6 5 3									♣ 7 2			
♣ K Q 10 7									♠ 9 8 4 3			
South												
♠ A K 6 5												
♥ A K Q												
♦ Q 10 9 4												
♣ A J												
Dealer: South Vulnerable: East-West												
South			West			North			East			
♠			Pass			2♥			Pass			
2NT			Pass			3♥			Pass			
4♣			Pass			4♦			Pass			
6♣			Pass			Pass			Pass			
Opening lead: ♣ K												

kakuro

				22	23				10	16	
	8	4						7			9
10					5		22				
						11					
21									3		
									28		
	17					30					
			7			11		17			
			14				6			28	
	16								12		15
3								14			
					22						
				11							
19								30			
		9						9			

A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues". A number in the top right corner relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue. The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from one to nine into the white cells to total the clue associated with it. However, no digit can be duplicated in an entry.

			1	6	2		2	1	3	
	2	3	9	8		9	5	7	8	
	4	5							9	7
	1	2	4	5	3		8	2	9	
			2	6	1	3	4			
	4	3	1		4	8	9	2	7	
	2	9							1	9
	1	5	9	7		7	3	6	8	
	8	6	9			1	2	3		

Yesterday's solution

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

- 难关

nán guān

Knotty problem; barrier
- 例：我们一定要攻克一道道难关。

wǒ men yì dìng yào gōng kè yì dào dào nán guān.

We must surmount one barrier after another.
- 毛孩子

máo hái zi

Little child; suckling
- 例：十年前你还是一个不懂事的毛孩子呢！

shí nián qián nǐ hái shì yí gè bú dòng shì de máo hái zi ne!

Ten years ago you were still an ignorant suckling.
- 密密匝匝

mì mī zā zā

Packed; thick
- 例：车厢里的人挤得密密匝匝的。

chē xiāng lǐ de rén jǐ dé mì mī zā zā de.

The rail coaches are packed with passengers.
- 蜜月

mì yuè

Honeymoon
- 例：李雷和韩梅梅正在度蜜月。

lǐ léi hé hán méi méi zhèng zài dù mì yuè.

Li Lei and Han Meimei are on their honeymoon.
- 免得

miǎn dé

So as not to; so as to avoid

例：我再说明一下，免得引起误会。

wǒ zài shuō míng yí xià, miǎn dé yǐn qǐ wù huì.

Let me explain once again to avoid misunderstanding.

From *The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary*, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

BETTER ENGLISH

“网红经济”迎爆炸性增长

如今，自媒体极速发展，“网红经济”也随之发展得如火如荼。The overall size of the “Wanghong economy” is growing as cyber stars are going beyond the fashion industry and into online gaming, travel and baby products, according to a report.

近日一份报告指出，网络红人们不仅进军时尚业，也正向网络游戏、旅游、母婴产品等行业发 展，网红经济的整体规模正在不断扩大。

“网红经济”（Wanghong economy/Internet celebrity economy）是以“网红”为形象代表，在社交媒体（social media）聚集人气，依托庞大粉丝群体进行定向营销，将粉丝转化为购买力的现象。与粉丝经济（fan economy）存在一定相似的地方。

2015年12月，《咬文嚼字》杂志发布2015年度“十大流行语”，网红排第九，其解释是：“网红”（Internet celebrity）即“网络红人”，指被网民追捧而走红的人。

网红们通过在社交媒体上分享自己的生活方式（share their lifestyle）赢得大量粉丝，成为红人，他们每天需要花大量时间与粉丝进行互动（interacting with followers）。成名之后，他们不仅获得利润丰厚的产品代言（clinch lucrative product endorsements），还依托自己的名气建立了新型独有的吸金方式（ride their fame to establish a new type of money-spinning businesses of their own）。有的设计自己的品牌，开了淘宝店（online store on Taobao），进军时尚业，有的则进军旅游、网络游戏、母婴产品等行业，甚至成立了工作室。不过，并不是所有网红都可以轻易获取巨大的经济效益（economic benefits）。

这些网红跟明星们不同，他们更贴近草根（more linked to grassroots），也更能迎合年轻网民的口味（meet the tastes of young netizens）。

To learn more hot words, please log on to <http://language.chinadaily.com.cn/> Follow us on Weibo at <http://weibo.com/languagetips>.

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The Chinese stunt. New acrobatics party

中华绝技秀

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Priees: 280, 380, 580, 680, 880 yuan

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Website: www.bjcyj.com

Rory anxious to get out of rut

McIlroy wants to sharpen his game ahead of Masters

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
in Austin, Texas

The Masters is two weeks away, and all the best players are winning. Except for one. “I’d love to win before Augusta,” Rory McIlroy said. “And this is my last chance to do that.”

He is the defending champion at the Dell Match Play, which any other week would seem to be in his favor. The nature of that victory — not to mention it was at Harding Park in San Francisco and not Austin Country Club — would explain that is not the case.

McIlroy had to birdie his last three holes to force overtime with Billy Horschel and beat him in 20 holes.

Paul Casey had a birdie putt to beat him in the quarterfinals, missed, and McIlroy won in 22 holes. He had to finish birdie-birdie-eagle against Jim Furyk to reach the finals.

Winning has as much to do with good fortune as good form.

Whether it matters that McIlroy wins the first major of the year is up for debate.

Jordan Spieth last year won the Valspar Championship in a playoff, was runner-up in his next two events and went wire-to-wire to win the green jacket.

Phil Mickelson won the Bell-South Classic by 13 shots a week before he won the Masters in 2006.

But only two other Masters champions over the past 10 years — Bubba Watson in 2012 (Riviera) and Charl Schwartzel in 2011 (Joburg Open) won before Augusta.

Adam Scott never seriously contended before he won in 2013. This year, he has already won twice.

“Winning is very important,” Scott said. “It’s huge for the confidence. I think in ’13, I



Defending champion Rory McIlroy hits the sand during Tuesday’s practice ahead of the Dell Match Play Championship at the Austin County Club in Texas. ERIC GAY / AP

was just very content with where my game was going into the Masters.

“I didn’t win but I was very comfortable that everything was in the right place. Then, preparation was very good. I had a good idea of what I needed to do to get the stars to align in Augusta.

“You could see it happening in the practice rounds there, and it was just a matter of staying calm and executing. And I guess that’s what it’s all about when you’re on form.”

McIlroy surely is paying attention to what is going on around him.

Spieth opened the year with an eight-shot victory in Kapal-

ua, becoming only the second player in PGA Tour history to reach 30-under par in a 72-hole event.

Two weeks later, Rickie Fowler won in Abu Dhabi against a field that included Spieth, McIlroy and Henrik Stenson.

Watson won at Riviera and finished one shot behind at Doral. Last week, Jason Day emerged from a four-man race at Bay Hill by coming up with two clutch shots at the end to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational and move past McIlroy to No 2 in the world.

Your play, Rory. “Everyone is running into good form,” McIlroy said.

“And they’re all good champions — a few of them are Masters champions. Everyone is playing well, and that’s really what you want to do. You want your game rounding into form to play to the best of your abilities this time of year.”

McIlroy does not appear to be pressing, nor should be.

It helps to be playing well, though it is not mandatory. Angel Cabrera can attest to that. He missed two straight cuts and did not break par at either tournament, and then won the Masters in 2009.

Tiger Woods won at least once before all four of his Masters victories. That is never a good measure because Woods

was rarely ever playing anything but great.

Jack Nicklaus didn’t win in six tries before the 1965 Masters, which he won by nine shots over Gary Player and Arnold Palmer. It’s safe to say he was playing well, however. In those six tournaments, his worst finish was a tie for eighth in Phoenix.

The next year, Nicklaus did not win any of his four pre-Masters starts and then became the first player to win back-to-back at Augusta.

McIlroy only cares about playing well, and he at least has that going for him.

He lost a three-shot lead in the final round at Doral by

playing for pars until he found it difficult to make birdies. He looked great at Bay Hill except for those six double bogeys, the most he has ever made in a PGA Tour event. He also tied for third in Abu Dhabi.

“I’m probably not quite where they are, and I haven’t had the confidence of getting a win this year,” McIlroy said.

“But I feel like it’s close. And this would obviously be a great week to get that win, or at least get close to that win, if I can get a few really good matches under my belt and progress to the weekend and play some good golf. I feel that’s all I need confidence-wise going into Augusta.”

CHIP SHOTS

Ex-caddie suggests Tiger’s injuries self-inflicted

By AGENCIES

According to his former caddie Steve Williams, Tiger Woods’ long-term injuries might have been self-inflicted due to his intense training regimen.

“I don’t doubt Tiger will come back to the winner’s circle,” Williams said in an interview with the BBC.

“But whether he comes back and wins more major championships? That’s going to be a very difficult task,” said the New Zealander.

Williams was Woods’ right-hand man between 1999 and 2009, carrying his bag for 13 of the American’s 14 major victories and an astonishing 84 tournament wins in all.

“He has an incredible work ethic, when he can work hard, so I wouldn’t go as far as saying he won’t get back into the winner’s circle because one thing he does know how to do is win,” Williams said.

The former world No 1 has plummeted to 467th in the rankings having not picked up a club competitively after undergoing two back operations in September and October.

Williams agreed when his interviewer suggested Woods’ spate of injuries was “self-inflicted” by an intense training and strengthening program in his younger days.

“It’s very hard to pinpoint how he’s got to where he is now, but there’s a lot of merit in what you’ve just said,” Williams said.

“When he looks back he might question some of the activities he did, some of the gym work he might have done

that had all these injuries escalate.”

Williams now works part-time for Adam Scott and will carry for the Australian when the season’s first major, the US Masters, begins at Augusta in two weeks.

Masters dinner

Masters champions will have Texas barbecue on the menu at Augusta National.

The confusion was over what brand.

Ben Crenshaw, a two-time champion who leads the conversation at the dinner, said Monday night that Jordan Spieth had chosen Salt Lick Barbecue to be served.

Crenshaw called it a “great choice from right here in Austin, Texas”.

The state’s capital city is where Spieth went to college. But that’s not to say it’s where the barbecue is being prepared.

“I didn’t select Salt Lick. I don’t know where that was spread from,” Spieth said on Tuesday.

“Augusta National always makes the meals. So they asked, ‘What do you want to have for your meal?’ and I said I’d love to do some Texas barbecue. So they kind of go out and search for a way to make it based on popular places.

“I’m not sure what it’s exactly going to be, but I’m pretty excited about it.”

Wherever it is from, Crenshaw is sure to enjoy it. He hosted his first dinner in 1985 and said the food was based on what Augusta National had on the menu.

“I think it started very soon after that the champion got to



Jordan Spieth and Thomas Pieters chat during a practice round for the Dell Match Play Championship in Austin, Texas, on Tuesday. TOM PENNINGTON / GETTY IMAGES / AFP

pick his own menu,” Crenshaw said. “So it gave a real personality to the player.”

Mickelson’s return

Phil Mickelson is back in the Match Play for the first time in five years.

Part of it was because he was not a fan of the Arizona courses where the tournament was held for eight years. And there were times when the Match Play was the same week as spring break for his children.

But he can expect to stay longer than usual. Mickelson has played on Friday at Match



Phil Mickelson

Play only twice in the past 10 years. Now there is a round-robin format for group play, meaning he is guaranteed at least three matches.

“I think that’s a good thing for the field,” he said.

Mickelson played a practice round at Austin Country Club on Tuesday. He thinks his game is sharp. It is his course knowledge that is lacking.

“Nobody is going to be really sharp on the golf course,” Mickelson said. “But I don’t feel as prepared as I like heading into a tournament. But my game feels sharp, it’s the course knowledge that isn’t quite sharp.”

Spieth and Pieters

Jordan Spieth’s career took a brief detour thanks to Thomas Pieters.

They played a practice round late on Tuesday afternoon at the Match Play, and it brought to mind one of their many encounters as amateurs.

It was the first round of the US Amateur at Cherry Hills in 2012. Pieters holed out for a two on the opening hole and went on to win on the 18th hole. Pieters then was eliminated in the second round.

“I remember thinking that if I do well here, I’m turning pro,” Spieth said.

Because he lost, he called up University of Texas golf coach John Fields and asked if he could return to the Longhorns for the first semester of his sophomore year.

If he had turned pro, Spieth would have had four tournaments in the fall to try to get his card, and then Q-school.

He played one more semester, went to Q-school and did not get out of second stage.

Spieth still turned pro — and it’s worked out for him.

Masters field

This is the final week to get into the Masters as a top-50 in the world ranking, presenting a great opportunity for seven players at the Dell Match Play.

Those not yet eligible are Jacob van Zyl (52), Rafa Cabrera-Bello (54), Thomas Pieters (57), Marcus Fraser (62), Matt Jones (63), Patton Kizzire (65) and Thorbjorn Olesen (66).

It is not as simple as just winning their groups to get to the round of 16 because everyone else from the top 66 in the world also is at Austin.

The winner of the Puerto Rico Open does not get an invitation to the Masters, and the field is so weak that it would appear no one can move into the top 50.

The last chance for contenders after this week is to win the

“I feel like everyone gets upset at me when they play match play against me. I don’t give away too many putts.”

Jason Day, world No 2

Shell Houston Open.

Either way, this likely will be the smallest field at Augusta National since 90 players competed in 2006.

Divots

During his time away to rest a back injury, Ryo Ishikawa got married. Ishikawa has not played since the Phoenix Open. He says he is not sure when he will return to competition ... Rory McIlroy had a career-high six double bogeys at the Arnold Palmer Invitational ... Ben Crenshaw played the Masters for the final time last year. He said he might play nine holes of a practice round during the week. “I don’t know if I can play more than that,” he said ... New Zealand teenager Lydia Ko finished as runner-up on the LPGA Tour last week, allowing her to move into No 50 on the career money with \$5,248,957, moving past Michelle Wie.

This week’s events

ALL TIMES EASTERN

International Federation of PGA Tours: World Golf Championships Dell Match Play

- Site: Austin, Texas.
- Schedule: Wednesday-Sunday.
- Course: Austin Country Club (7,073 yards, par 71).
- Purse: \$9.5 million. Winner’s share: \$1,612,432.
- Television: Golf Channel (Wednesday-Friday, 2-8 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 10 am-2 pm) and NBC Sports (Saturday, 2-6 pm, Sunday 3-7 pm)
- Defending champion: Rory McIlroy.
- Last week: Jason Day won the Arnold Palmer Invitational by one shot over Kevin Chappell.
- Next week: Shell Houston Open.

•Notes: The tournament is for the top 64 players available from the world ranking on March 14. Henrik Stenson (scheduling) and Jim Furyk (wrist surgery) are not playing ... Ian Poulter, who won in 2010, is the first alternate ... The format is for 18 holes of match play. There are 16 groups of four players, and one from each group advances to the round of 16. Unlike last year, matches during group play can end in a halve. If two or more players are tied, it will be decided by a sudden-death playoff ... This is the final week for players to get into the top 50 and qualify for the Masters. Six players are not yet eligible — Jacob van Zyl, Rafa Cabrera-Bello, Thomas Pieters, Marcus Fraser, Matt Jones and Patton Kizzire ... Austin was the original site of the Legends of Golf from 1978 to 1994. It had a PGA Tour Champions event from 2003 to 2009 ... Jordan Spieth went to the University of Texas for three semesters.

PGA Tour:

Puerto Rico Open

- Site: Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Course: Coco Beach Golf & Country Club (7,579 yards, par 72).
- Purse: \$3 million. Winner’s share: \$540,000.
- Television: Golf Channel (Thursday-Friday, 10:30 am-1:30 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 9 pm-midnight).
- Defending champion: Alex Cejka.
- Notes: The tournament is opposite the Dell Match Play for the first time. It previously was opposite the Cadillac Championship at Doral ... Three former Match Play champions are in the field — Luke Donald, Ian Poulter and David Toms. Poulter is first alternate at Match Play. He plans to fly to Puerto Rico on Tuesday night if no one with draws from Match Play ... The past three Puerto Rico Open champions were first-time winners on the PGA Tour (Cejka, Chesson Hadley, Scott Brown) ... The field includes John Daly, making his first PGA Tour start since the PGA Championship last August. Daly will join the PGA Tour Champions in May.

LPGA Tour:

KIA Classic

- Site: Carlsbad, Calif.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Course: Aviara Golf Club (6,593 yards, par 72)
- Purse: \$1.7 million. Winner’s share: \$255,000.
- Television: Golf Channel (Thursday-Friday, 8-10 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 6-9 pm)
- Defending champion: Cristie Kerr.

• Last week: Kim Sei-young won the JTBC Founders Cup by five shots, tying Annika Sorenstam’s LPGA Tour record at 27-under par.

• Next week: ANA Inspiration.

• Notes: This is the final tournament before the LPGA’s first major of the year ... Brooke Henderson of Canada has four straight finishes in the top 10 and has moved up to No 8 in the Rolex Women’s World Ranking ... Stacy Lewis now has gone 44 starts on the LPGA Tour since her last victory ... With her runner-up finish last week, 18-year-old Lydia Ko moved past Michelle Wie into 50th place on the LPGA Tour’s career money list with \$5,248,957.

TENNIS

Djokovic backs off money remarks

World No 1 tries to clarify stand on pay equality

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Miami

World No 1 Novak Djokovic on Tuesday backed off comments that men's tennis players should make more than women as Serena Williams and Andy Murray led a stinging chorus of criticism at the remarks.

A furious row over the gender pay gap in tennis erupted over the weekend when Indian Wells tournament director Raymond Moore said women should get "on their knees" to thank male players for the

money in the sport.

Moore apologized before resigning late on Monday.

Djokovic fueled the controversy after stating he believes the pay gap is justified, adding women go through "hormones and different stuff".

Williams, who has won 21 Grand Slam singles crowns to 11 for Djokovic, condemned the Serbian superstar's remarks.

"It has been, I would say disappointing," Williams said on Tuesday.

"I wouldn't say my son deserved more money than my daughter because he's a man. It would be shocking."

Djokovic has a 17-month-old son, Stefan, but Williams openly wondered how he would explain himself to a future daughter.

"He's entitled to his opinion," Williams said. "If he had a daughter, he has a son right now, he should talk to his daughter and say, 'Your brother deserves more money than you.'

"I would never use sex to compare. We have so many great players, men and women, who have brought so much vision to the sport. Every athlete works extremely hard.

"If I had a son and a daughter, I would never tell them one deserves more because of their sex."

Britain's Murray said Djokovic's contention that men should receive less than women if their matches were less well attended, citing an example of how many would show up to watch if Williams and Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovski each had a match in a

ticketed session.

"I think there should be equal pay 100 percent," Murray said.

"The whole thing doesn't stand up. It depends on the matches day by day. The men's game has had some great rivalries for the past few years. The whole of tennis should strengthen from that, not just the men's game."

Djokovic later issued a statement on Facebook, offering a qualified apology for his comments, which he said had been made while he was affected by the "euphoria and adrenalin" of his triumph at Indian Wells.

"I've made some comments that are not the best articulation of my view, and I would like to clarify them," Djokovic said.

"We all have to fight for what we deserve. This was

never meant to be made into a fight between genders and differences in pay, but in the way all players are rewarded for their play and effort.

"This was my view all along, and I want to apologize to anyone who has taken this the wrong way."

'We don't deserve less'

Murray also said he was baffled to hear of Moore's outburst ahead of Sunday's final, that Victoria Azarenka beat Williams 6-4, 6-4.

"You had it before a great women's final with 16,000 people," Murray said.

"The whole thing was pretty strange and pretty disappointing coming right before a final like that. It didn't make sense."

Japan's Kei Nishikori also weighed in.

"You see great women's tennis too," he said.

"A lot of people want to see women's tennis, especially Serena."

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova called Djokovic's comments "very disappointing".

"We are training 100 percent the same as the men. We're more troubled with hormones and other things? He should not have said what he said."

Two-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka agreed, saying: "What Novak said was not right at all."

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska said: "We work so hard for this, spend so much time practicing.

"I don't think we do any less than the men. We don't deserve less prize money."



This was never meant to be made into a fight between genders and differences in pay."

Novak Djokovic

FIFA SCANDAL

Probe zooms in on Beckenbauer

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in Geneva

The FIFA ethics committee on Tuesday opened a bribery investigation into German soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer and other officials from the 2006 World Cup bid team.

Ethics prosecutors acted amid rising suspicion of wrongdoing linked to the winning of hosting rights in 2000, and irregular seven-figure payments years later.

Beckenbauer, current FIFA executive committee member Wolfgang Niersbach and other officials were targeted three weeks ago in an inquiry report by a law firm commissioned by the German soccer federation.

The new FIFA case picks up on that inquiry and relates to "the 2006 FIFA World Cup host selection and its associated funding", ethics prosecutors said in a statement.

Beckenbauer is among four officials linked to suspect payments and contracts during the bidding process.

Germany won by beating South Africa 12-11 in a vote of FIFA executive committee members.

"The investigatory chamber will investigate possible undue payments and contracts to gain an advantage in the 2006 FIFA World Cup host selection and the associated funding," the FIFA ethics committee said.

The other three German officials linked to possible bribery are: Theo Zwanziger, who replaced Beckenbauer on the FIFA executive committee in 2011; Horst Schmidt, vice-president of the World Cup organizing panel; and Stefan Hans, chief financial officer for the organizers.

Last month, a 361-page inquiry tried to explain a complex trail about payments of 6.7 million euros (\$7.3 million) and 10 million Swiss francs (\$10 million) that linked Beckenbauer, then-FIFA president Sepp Blatter, FIFA power-broker Mohamed bin Hammam and Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the late former adidas

executive and part owner of Swiss marketing agency Infront.

The report pointed to deeper involvement by Beckenbauer than had been suspected. The man known as 'Der Kaiser' is the only player to captain and coach World Cup-winning teams who then organized a successful tournament.

FIFA prosecutors have now put Niersbach and 2006 tournament director Helmut Sandrock under investigation for "possible failure to report" unethical conduct and conflicts of interest.

"The list of violations may be supplemented as additional information becomes available," FIFA ethics prosecutors said.

Investigations by German prosecutors and tax officials of suspected tax evasion by the German soccer federation led Niersbach and Sandrock to resign in recent months as its president and general secretary, respectively.

Niersbach said he will "cooperate in every aspect" with the ethics commission, according to German news agency dpa.

Swiss federal prosecutors are also investigating the 2006 World Cup allegations as part of a wider probe of FIFA's business.

The probe has already put Blatter under criminal investigation for two separate acts of suspected financial mismanagement.

Beckenbauer is back under suspicion at FIFA one month after its ethics judges sanctioned him in another case. He was warned and fined 7,000 Swiss francs for refusing to cooperate with a FIFA ethics investigation of the 2018-2022 World Cup bidding contests.

The former Bayern Munich and New York Cosmos great has denied wrongdoing or that hosting votes were bought.

Beckenbauer, now 70, resigned last week from a television analyst job with the Sky Germany channel.



Then FIFA president Sepp Blatter is flanked by former UEFA president Michel Platini (left) and German soccer legend Franz Beckenbauer at a youth tournament in Blatter's hometown of Ulrichen, Switzerland, in 2007.



Capital punishment

Mike Richards of the Washington Capitals beats Ottawa Senators goalie Craig Anderson in the first period of Tuesday's NHL clash at Canadian Tire Centre in Ottawa. Washington captain Alex Ovechkin later notched his league-leading 43rd goal of the season as the Capitals won 4-2 to clinch the Metropolitan Division title and top seed in the Eastern Conference for the Stanley Cup playoffs.

MARC DESROSIER /USA TODAY SPORTS

SOLIDARITY

Sports world quick to condemn terror attacks

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Brussels

The sporting world was quick to express solidarity with the victims of the deadly terror attacks in Brussels on Tuesday — violence that could throw the country's sports schedule into disarray.

"Horrificed and revolted. Innocent people paying the price again. My thoughts are with the families of the victims. #Brussels," tweeted Belgian soccer captain Vincent Kompany.

"I wish for Brussels to act with dignity. We are all hurting, yet we must reject hate and its preachers. As hard as it may be."

At least 35 people were killed and more than 200 injured after two blasts at Zaventem airport in Brussels and a third explosion at Maalbeek metro station, close to EU headquarters.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks that came just days after the arrest of Belgian-born Salah Abdeslam, implicated in a coordinated assault in Paris in November that left 130 people dead and more than 350 wounded.

The Belgium soccer team, preparing for a friendly against Portugal next week in the Belgian capital, is lodged in a hotel close to the airport. Its training on Tuesday afternoon was canceled.

"#touseensemble, our thoughts are with the victims. Football is not important today. Training cancelled," the soccer federation said via its Belgian Red Devils twitter account.

Coach Marc Wilmots urged that "we stay strong together. My thoughts go to the families of those killed or injured".

"Unbelievable!" tweeted Kevin de Bruyne.

"My thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by the horrific attacks on our city," said Divock Origi.

"I can't believe what happened this morning. My thoughts are with the victims, their family, friends and loved ones," said Thomas Vermaelen.

Friendlies in jeopardy

The federation has not indicated whether the March 29 friendly with Portugal will go ahead as planned.

A major security operation would have to be put in place

for what is expected to be a jam-packed 40,000-seat stadium.

At Sunday's Cup final between Standard Liege and Club Brugge at King Baudouin stadium, police banned fans from bringing bags and searches were carried out on entry.

A friendly between the Netherlands and France scheduled for Friday in Amsterdam is also under scrutiny, according to the Dutch soccer federation, which said it would leave the ultimate decision to the government.

The last time France played at home was on Nov 13, a 2-0 victory over Germany quickly overshadowed by the attacks in Paris including three suicide bombers blowing themselves up outside the Stade de France as the game was going on.

France defender Laurent Koscielny said the team is united in solidarity with the Belgians and "does not fear for our safety".

"It's always difficult when you watch television and see such events," Koscielny said.

"The French federation has put in place a heightened level of security. We're calm.

"All the French people are with the Belgian people, as they were with us on November 13."

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said security for the June-July Euro 2016 was already at a maximum and could not be increased further.

The Brussels attacks "remind us tragically of the high level of threat we are confronted with", Cazeneuve said.

"We cannot permanently raise what is already a very high level since January 2015, but we can strengthen the measures."

Cycling at risk

The cycling season in Belgium could also suffer at a time when thousands of people prepare to line the streets to watch their heroes compete in a raft of spring races.

The semi-classic 'Dwars door Vlaanderen' set for Wednesday was "provisionally" still set to be raced despite many riders having difficulties in reaching Belgium because of the closure of Zaventem International airport.

The E3 Harelbeke, a men's one-day race on the Interna-

tional Cycling Union's (UCI) World Tour, is due to be held on Friday, with the women's Gent-Wevelgem, scheduled for Sunday.

Like the soccer players, cyclists were quick to express solidarity. Former world champion Philippe Gilbert was racing the second stage of the Tour of Catalonia with a black armband.

"I feel for our dear friends in Belgium," tweeted UCI president Brian Cookson. "Our thoughts are with the families of the victims."

Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee, said: "The IOC strongly condemns these cowardly terrorist attacks.

"Our thoughts and our deep sympathies are with all the victims and their families and friends.

"Such odious attacks are directed against all human and Olympic values.

"We stand side by side with the Belgian and European people.

"These and other terrorist acts in different countries show that the Olympic values of understanding, respect and peace are more important than ever for our world."

Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

Results of NBA games on Tuesday (home teams in CAPS):

Charlotte 105 BROOKLYN 100

Miami 113 NEW ORLEANS 99

OKLAHOMA CITY 111 Houston 107

LA LAKERS 107 Memphis 100

CRICKET

Scoreboard of the World Twenty20 match between New Zealand and Pakistan at the Punjab Cricket Association ground in Mohali on Tuesday:

New Zealand:

M. Guptill b Sami 80

K. Williamson c Afridi b Irfan 17

C. Munro c Sharjeel b Afridi 7

C. Munro c Malik b Afridi 21

R. Taylor not out 36

L. Ronchi c Malik b Sami 11

G. Elliott not out 1

Extras (lb 4, w 3) 7

Total (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 180

Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Williamson), 2-75 (Munro), 3-127 (Guptill), 4-132 (Anderson), 5-164 (Ronchi)

Bowling: Amir 4-0-41-0, Irfan 4-0-46-1, Sami 4-0-23-2, Wasim 4-0-26-0, Afridi 4-0-40-2

Pakistan:

Sharjeel Khan c Guptill b Milne 47

Ahmed Shehzad c Guptill b Santner 30

Khalid Latif c Elliott b Santner 3

Umar Akmal c Guptill b Milne 24

Shahid Afridi c Anderson b Sodhi 19

Shoaib Malik not out 15

Sarfraz Ahmed not out 11

Extras (lb 5, w 4) 9

Total (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 158

Fall of wickets: 1-65 (Sharjeel), 2-79 (Latif), 3-96 (Shehzad), 4-123 (Afridi), 5-140 (Akmal)

Bowling: Santner 4-0-29-2, Anderson 2-0-14-0, Milne 4-0-26-2, McClenaghan 4-0-43-0, Elliott 2-0-16-0, Sodhi 4-0-25-1

New Zealand won by 22 runs

Toss: New Zealand

ICE HOCKEY

Results of NHL games on Tuesday (home

teams in CAPS):

Buffalo 3 CAROLINA 2

COLUMBUS 3 Philadelphia 2 (SO)

MONTREAL 4 Anaheim 3

Washington 4 OTTAWA 2

TAMPA BAY 6 Detroit 2

WINNIPEG 2 Vancouver 0

MINNESOTA 2 Los Angeles 1

Dallas 6 CHICAGO 2

ARIZONA 4 Edmonton 2

St. Louis 1 SAN JOSE 0

TENNIS

ATP/WTB Miami Open

Results on Tuesday (x-denotes seeding):

Women's 1st rd

Teliana Pereira (BRA) bt Beatriz Haddad Maia (BRA) 7-6 (2), 6-1;

Daria Kasatkina (RUS) bt Kateryna Bondarenko (UKR) 6-2, 1-6, 6-2;

Zhang Shuai (CHN) bt Sofya Zhuk (RUS) 6-1, 6-2;

Madison Brengle (USA) bt Camilla Giorgi (ITA) 6-4, 6-3;

Barbora Strycova (CZE) bt Anna-Lena Friedsam (GER) 6-2, 6-0;

Lesia Tsurenko (UKR) bt Alexandra Dulgheru (ROM) 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3;

Margarita Gasparyan (RUS) bt Annika Beck (GER) 6-3, 7-5;

Nicole Gibbs (USA) bt Yulia Putintseva (KAZ) 6-4, 6-2;

Danka Kovinic (MNE) bt Denisa Allertova (CZE) 7-6 (5), 6-4;

Peng Shuai (CHN) bt Alison Van Uytvanck (BEL) 6-3, 7-5;

Zarina Diyas (KAZ) bt Olga Govortsova (BLR) 6-0, 6-1;

Kirsten Flipkens (BEL) bt Laura Robson (GBR) 7-6 (4), 6-2.

SPORTS

中国日报 CHINA DAILY » CHINADAILY.COM.CN/SPORTS

BASKETBALL

LeBron shifting to playoff mode

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
in Cleveland

LeBron is locked in already. Now he's got to get the Cavs to, ahem, follow him.

Following a personal rite of spring he began several years ago, LeBron James has begun preparing for the upcoming NBA playoffs by limiting his access to social media in order to avoid outside distractions as he and the Cavaliers make another run at an NBA title.

James, who has coined his social media blackout "Zero Dark 23", took some early steps toward sharpening his focus by unfollowing the Cavaliers' account — and those of some media members — on Twitter.

That click, which coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the online social networking giant's launch, caused a seismic wave on the Internet at nearly the same time James and the Cavs were clinching their second straight Central Division title.

James recorded his 41st career triple-double in Cleveland's 124-91 victory over Denver and then fueled more speculation afterward by refusing to comment on the reason he unfollowed @cavs.

And while the four-time league MVP did not offer any

specifics on Wednesday, he did acknowledge he has shifted into playoff mode with several weeks still left in the season.

"I have, a little bit sooner than normal," he said following practice.

"But you know I understand that it's right around the corner and I want to start mentally preparing myself for the distance. So I'm just being a little more sharp-minded as of late, just gearing toward it."

Although he wants to engage less often on social media, James was back on Twitter twice on Wednesday. He first told his 29 million followers he might join Snapchat this week for "another way for my fans to ride with me throughout my journeys."

Later, James sent out prayers to TNT sideline reporter Craig Sager, who is battling cancer.

James' social media habits have come under greater scrutiny during his second season back in Cleveland after he posted several mysterious messages, some of which seemed aimed at teammates.

His Twitter cleansing came on the same day he declined to speak following the team's morning shootaround, and James was also more subdued before the game.

James usually plays music while he dresses at his corner locker, barking out lyrics along with some of his hip-hop favorites. He is the Cavs' in-house DJ.

But before Monday's game, James kept his headphones on, prompting teammate Channing Frye to ask him why he was "hogging" the tunes.

In his 13th season, James, who has been to the Finals in each of the past five years, knows how to motivate himself and his teammates. And although the Cavs have the best record in the Eastern Conference, they have been inconsistent. Cleveland was beaten at Utah last week and blown out Saturday night in Miami.

James, though, feels the team is beginning to hit its stride at the perfect time.

"At the end of the day, we're 9-3 in our last 12, so, I mean, we're playing some good ball," he said. "We just didn't play how we want to play in the Utah game and in Miami, but we're playing some good ball."

James' dream is to bring Cleveland its first pro sports championship since 1964.

He and the Cavs took the first step by winning their division, the eighth straight for James, who sandwiched two straight around the four he won with Miami.



King of triple-doubles

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook shoots as Houston Rockets center Dwight Howard defends during the fourth quarter of Tuesday's game in Oklahoma City. Westbrook had 21 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds to help the Thunder beat the Rockets 111-107. Westbrook has 15 triple-doubles this season and 34 in his career. It is the most triple-doubles by a player in a season since 1988-89, when Magic Johnson had 17 and Michael Jordan had 15.

All-Star Game gets Hollywood treatment

The NBA All-Star Game is returning to Los Angeles in 2018.

The 67th showdown between elite squads from the Eastern and Western conferences will be played on Feb. 18, 2018, at the Staples Center, home arena for the NBA Los Angeles Lakers and Los Angeles Clippers, NBA commissioner Adam Silver confirmed on Tuesday night.

Los Angeles also hosted the All-Stars in 2004 and 2011 at the same venue. The Los Angeles area will host for the sixth time overall in three arenas.

Silver and Staples Center officials made the announcement before the Los Angeles Lakers hosted Memphis T

The Lakers and Clippers essentially served as joint hosts of the 2011 game in which Blake Griffin won the dunk contest and Kobe Bryant earned his record fourth All-Star MVP award.

The Forum in Inglewood hosted the 1972 and 1983 All-Star games. The soon-to-be-demolished Los Angeles Sports Arena hosted the 1963 game.

The 2017 NBA All-Star Game will be staged in Charlotte, North Carolina.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Boasting big French windows and tidy open kitchen, this middle floor apartment located in the thriving Lufthansa area welcomes you with its spacious living room, cosy bedrooms as well as fully-equipped modern bathrooms, offering you a decent and comfortable urban life.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT IN BEIJING

Park Avenue - 公园大道
ID: 08353 186sqm, 3Br. 2Ba. ¥30,000
middle floor, nice balcony, good view

Palm Springs - 棕榈泉
ID: 06216 180sqm, 2+1Br. 2Ba. ¥25,000
high floor, lake view, value for money

Global Trade Mansion - 世贸国际公寓
ID: 08676 265sqm, 3Br. 2Ba. ¥30,000
high floor, garden view, open kitchen

Sanlitun SOHO - 三里屯SOHO
ID: 04788 250sqm, 3+1Br. 3Ba. ¥31,000
high floor, good sunlight, value for money

Central Park - 新城国际
ID: 17244 188sqm, 3Br. 2Ba. ¥30,000
high floor, south facing, value for money

Pop Moma - 当代 Moma
ID: 43485 280sqm, 4Br. 4Ba. ¥50,000
south facing, open kitchen, good sunlight

Xanadu Apartment - 橡树郡
ID: 13924 175sqm, 2+1Br. 2Ba. ¥24,000
middle floor, good view

Guangcai Int'l Apartment - 光彩国际公寓
ID: 43309 217sqm, 3Br. 2Ba. ¥24,000
high floor, open kitchen, good sunlight

Centrium Residence - 瑞安君汇
ID: 40997 210sqm, 3Br. 3Ba. ¥38,000
high floor, garden view, floor heating

Park Apartment - 天安豪园
ID: 43307 440sqm, 4Br. 3Ba. ¥60,000
penthouse, south facing, big balcony

VILLAS FOR RENT IN BEIJING

Yosemite(B7) - 优山美地
ID: 10274 522sqm, 4Br. 3Ba. ¥60,000
detached, big garden, floor heating

Cathay View - 观唐
ID: 04959 470sqm, 5Br. 4Ba. ¥48,000
detached, big garden, floor heating

Beijing Eurovillage - 欧陆苑
ID: 40443 250sqm, 3Br. 2Ba. ¥30,000
high ceiling living room, big garden

Beijing Riviera - 香江花园
ID: 03674 400sqm, 4+2Br. 4Ba. ¥55,000
detached, floor heating

Quan Fa Garden - 泉发别墅
ID: 05314 380sqm, 4Br. 4Ba. ¥28,000
detached, big garden and balcony

Grand Hills - 大湖山庄
ID: 09319 860sqm, 5Br. 4Ba. ¥70,000
detached, big garden, big balcony

Australian Garden - 澳景园
ID: 38783 400sqm, 4Br. 3Ba. ¥30,000
detached, big terrace, floor heating

River Garden Villa - 裕京花园
ID: 01693 360sqm, 4Br. 2Ba. ¥42,000
detached, big garden, floor heating

Orchid Garden - 卓锦万代
ID: 15952 390sqm, 5Br. 4Ba. ¥30,000
townhouse, big balcony, floor heating

Lane Bridge Villa - 长岛澜桥
ID: 03005 370sqm, 4Br. 4Ba. ¥38,000
semi-detached, nice garden, value for money

COURTYARDS FOR RENT IN BEIJING

Dongsu Courtyard
ID: 43437 150sqm, 2Br. 2Ba. ¥20,000
nice yard and terrace

Beixinqiao Courtyard
ID: 43277 280sqm, 7Br. 2Ba. ¥58,000
big yard, floor heating

Guibinlou Courtyard
ID: 40583 300sqm, 4Br. 2Ba. ¥100,000
sunroom, big terrace

Beixinqiao Courtyard
ID: 06966 520sqm, 3Br. 2Ba. ¥80,000
large yard, floor heating

Dongsu Courtyard
ID: 43389 600sqm, 4Br. 3Ba. ¥60,000
with an attic and basement

APARTMENTS	Fortune Plaza	Sanlitun Area	Lufthansa Area	Chaoyang Park Area	Lido Area	VILLAS	Lane Bridge Villa	Dragon Bay Villa
CBD Area								
Central Park								
1Br. 86sqm	¥ 15,000							
2Br. 138sqm	¥ 18,000							
3Br. 190sqm	¥ 26,000							
4Br. 220sqm	¥ 40,000							
4Br. 286sqm	¥ 45,000							
4Br. 391sqm	¥ 65,000							
CBD Private Castle								
2Br. 150sqm	¥ 15,000							
3Br. 170sqm	¥ 16,000							
3Br. 230sqm	¥ 25,000							
Global Trade Mansion								
3Br. 180sqm	¥ 20,000							
3Br. 256sqm	¥ 25,000							
Gemdale Int'l Garden								
3Br. 168sqm	¥ 18,000							
3Br. 200sqm	¥ 20,000							
4Br. 368sqm	¥ 33,000							
Xanadu Apartment								
1+1Br. 110sqm	¥ 15,000							
2+1Br. 170sqm	¥ 25,000							
Guangcai Int'l Apartment								
4Br. 270sqm	¥ 30,000							
5Br. 500sqm	¥ 60,000							
Sanlitun SOHO								
1Br. 115sqm	¥ 13,000							
2Br. 160sqm	¥ 19,000							
3Br. 209sqm	¥ 28,000							
3+1Br.250sqm	¥ 32,000							
Shimao Int'l Center								
Studio 78sqm	¥ 13,000							
1Br. 108sqm	¥ 15,000							
2Br. 143sqm	¥ 20,000							
Beijing SOHO Residences								
2+1Br.200sqm	¥ 27,000							
2+1Br.270sqm	¥ 33,000							
3+1Br.310sqm	¥ 40,000							
Four Seasons								
2+1Br.256sqm	¥ 44,000							
3Br. 321sqm	¥ 54,000							
United Apartment								
2Br. 168sqm	¥ 17,000							
3Br. 199sqm	¥ 20,000							
3+1Br.230sqm	¥ 22,000							
Beijing Golf Palace								
3Br. 270sqm	¥ 33,000							
4Br. 310sqm	¥ 54,000							
Palm Springs								
3Br. 180sqm	¥ 23,000							
3Br. 220sqm	¥ 28,000							
4Br. 370sqm	¥ 45,000							
Park Avenue								
3Br. 173sqm	¥ 22,000							
3Br. 250sqm	¥ 32,000							
4Br. 370sqm	¥ 48,000							
Park Apartment								
3+1Br.265sqm	¥ 30,000							
Upper East Side								
2Br. 131sqm	¥ 12,000							
2Br. 150sqm	¥ 15,000							
3Br. 200sqm	¥ 20,000							
3+1Br.220sqm	¥ 20,000							
4Br. 280sqm	¥ 28,000							
4Br. 325sqm	¥ 45,000							
Andersen Garden								
2Br. 150sqm	¥ 18,000							
3Br. 234sqm	¥ 26,000							
4Br. 288sqm	¥ 33,000							
Lido Serenity City								
2Br. 110sqm	¥ 12,000							
3Br. 170sqm	¥ 22,000							
4Br. 220sqm	¥ 24,000							
Richmond Park								
2Br. 140sqm	¥ 12,000							
3Br. 170sqm	¥ 20,000							
4Br. 230sqm	¥ 25,000							
4Br. 350sqm	¥ 40,000							
Dongzhimen Area								
Pop Moma								
3Br. 205sqm	¥ 26,000							
4Br. 275sqm	¥ 35,000							
4Br. 400sqm	¥ 53,000							
Seasons Park								
3Br. 150sqm	¥ 18,000							
3Br. 210sqm	¥ 24,000							
4Br. 250sqm	¥ 33,000							
Beijing Riviera								
4BrA.402sqm	¥ 45,000							
4BrB.405sqm	¥ 45,000							
4BrC.294sqm	¥ 40,000							
4BrD.251sqm	¥ 35,000							
River Garden Villa								
3BrA.230sqm	¥ 25,000							
4BrB.300sqm	¥ 33,000							
4BrC.300sqm	¥ 35,000							
4BrE.400sqm	¥ 45,000							
Rose and Ginkgo								
4Br. 350sqm	¥ 35,000							
Beijing Eurovillage								
4Br. 200sqm	¥ 25,000							
5Br. 500sqm	¥ 33,000							
Grand Hills								
4BrB.565sqm	¥ 60,000							
4BrN.550sqm	¥ 64,000							
5BrL.450sqm	¥ 52,000							
Orchid Garden								
4Br. 275sqm	¥ 27,000							
4Br. 350sqm	¥ 32,000							
4Br. 400sqm	¥ 40,000							
Beijing Eurovillage								
4Br. 200sqm	¥ 25,000							
5Br. 500sqm	¥ 33,000							
Lane Bridge Villa								
4Br. 370sqm	¥ 38,000							
6Br. 430sqm	¥ 48,000							
Dragon Bay Villa								
4Br. 370sqm	¥ 35,000							
4Br. 500sqm	¥ 50,000							
Dynasty Garden								
4Br. 385sqm	¥ 28,000							
4Br. 412sqm	¥ 32,000							
4Br. 600sqm	¥ 35,000							
Rits Garden								
4Br. 410sqm	¥ 40,000							
4Br. 500sqm	¥ 45,000							
Yosemite								
4BrB1.498sqm	¥ 50,000							
4BrB3.586sqm	¥ 55,000							
4BrC1.360sqm	¥ 38,000							