

## Enduring voyage

It took decades for archaeologists to recover treasures from ancient ship

LIFE, PAGE 14



## Ningxia's goji revenue growing amid boom in health products

70 YEARS ON, PAGE 5



## Firm commitment

Flexibility of RMB exchange rate to be enhanced, says PBOC official

BUSINESS, PAGE 8

# CHINA DAILY

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中國日報

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## HK violence showing signs of 'terrorism'

Central government strongly condemns attacks on police officers as 'sinister'

Radical protesters in Hong Kong who attacked police officers with gasoline bombs on Sunday were strongly condemned on Monday, with China's top authority on the city's affairs warning that the violence is moving toward "terrorism".

Over the weekend, illegal protests took place in a "flash mob" style in various districts, causing severe damage to public property and disruptions of many public services. On Sunday night, a police officer was hit by a gasoline bomb thrown by a radical protester in Tsim Sha Tsui and suffered burns to his legs, according to the Hong Kong Police Force.

"We express our strong indignation and condemnation of this sinister, reckless and serious crime," Yang Guang, a spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, told a media briefing on Monday afternoon in Beijing.

He said Hong Kong's radical protesters who repeatedly attacked police officers in the past few days have committed serious violent crimes and have begun to show "signs of terrorism".

To date, a total of 12 police officers have been injured by laser beams pointed at them by radicals using laser pens, according to the Hong Kong police. So far, about 700 people have been arrested since mid-June in connection with the illegal protests.

Yang said such violence should be "resolutely cracked down on" in accordance with the law, and the office firmly supports Hong Kong police enforcing the law and bringing criminals to justice as soon as possible.

The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region also condemned the violent acts on Monday, after the Hong Kong government expressed similar outrage.

"There is no place in the world that would tolerate such atrocious, violent acts. Hong Kong will slide into the abyss if such acts of terror are allowed," the office said in a statement.

Hong Kong police have exercised restraint and professionalism while handling the violent and illegal protests that began in mid-June, the statement said.

Yang said Hong Kong has reached a "critical juncture", calling all those who care about Hong Kong's future to step up firmly to stop the violence and restore order.

On Monday afternoon, a protest at Hong Kong International Airport, which Hong Kong police said involved more than 5,000 participants, forced the airport authority to cancel all flights in and out of the special administrative region.

The Airport Authority Hong Kong said it had set up an emergency management center in the airport and was keeping close contact with airlines to try to resume operations as soon as possible.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong government said early Monday that due to the persistent and large-scale illegal and violent acts, some public facilities were closed early and emergency services and commercial activities were obstructed. The spokesman emphasized that ordinary people had been deprived of their right to carry on their daily lives.

"We appeal to all members of the public to say no to violence to help the community to restore order as soon as possible," the spokesman said.

CHINA DAILY

### Inside

Editorial, page 11

## Stability is foundation of reform, development

Among the topics I think I know well, I do not count Hong Kong. Although I visit Hong Kong, have friends in Hong Kong and research Hong Kong for my writings — for example, its repatriation to China and the Asian financial crisis, both in 1997, and the recent Greater Bay Area coordinated development plan — I do not know Hong Kong like I know Beijing.

That's why, when the protest movement began, I was reluctant, at least initially, to accept interview requests from the international media. If I could not speak authoritatively, I should not speak at all.

But as the situation continued

deteriorating and the requests kept coming, I began to consider what I do know. In writing my book *How China's Leaders Think*, I spoke with dozens of Chinese leaders and officials, including then Zhejiang Party Secretary Xi Jinping, who advised me to think of China both horizontally in its great geographic diversity and vertically in its long history of civilization.

See *Hong Kong*, page 3



Illegal firearms confiscated across the country since last year are displayed before being destroyed on Monday in Wuhan, Hubei province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Illegal firearms destroyed in crackdown

By LIU KUN in Wuhan and ZHANG YAN in Beijing

Police in 154 cities across the country have destroyed a total of 107,000 illegal firearms, explosives and detonators that were confiscated since last year, the Ministry of Public Security said on Monday.

On Monday morning, police in Wuhan, Hubei province, destroyed a number of air guns, shotguns and replica firearms as well as explosives and detonators by melting them at a steel plant, with the furnace reaching temperatures of up to 1,600 C.

"Gun- and explosive-related cases endanger people's lives, public security and the country's long-term stability," Sun Lijun, vice-minister of public security, said on Monday.

"We will take effective measures to curb gun- and explosive-related

crimes and eliminate major hidden dangers to create a safe social environment," he said.

In recent years, although such crimes have declined significantly due to police efforts, some cases have occurred sporadically around the country posing serious threats to public safety and security, said ministry spokeswoman Guo Lin.

In order to tackle the issue, the ministry, together with 23 other authorities, set up a ministerial-level meeting mechanism under which they will share intelligence in a timely manner and take required action. In February last year, they launched a two-year campaign to crack down on such crimes.

Last year, police nationwide dealt with more than 30,000 gun- and explosive-related cases, uncovered 416 criminal gangs and detained more than 40,000 suspects. From

January to November last year, the number of such cases fell by around 28 percent, the ministry said.

Since January, police across the country dealt with 16,000 gun- and explosive-related cases, uncovered 163 organized crime operations and detained 17,000 suspects. Between January and July, such crimes decreased by 20 percent compared with a year earlier, the ministry said.

One typical case occurred in February when police in Yichang, Hubei province, uncovered a major online firearms and ammunition trafficking ring. Police detained 29 suspects and confiscated 41 illegal firearms and 1,300 rounds of ammunition, said Qian Xiongfei, deputy director of the ministry's Public Security Management Bureau.

Moreover, police seized 13 devices used in the illegal manufacture of

firearms and ammunition. They processed 1,100 tips that involved 20 provinces and cities, Qian said.

"China is one of the countries with the lowest number of gun crimes and one of the safest countries in the world. We will keep on striking out against guns and explosives to enhance people's sense of safety and security," Sun said.

He said police will work closely with relevant authorities to fight such crimes, tighten the management of guns and explosives and set up a preventive mechanism to greatly curb such crimes at their source.

Moreover, they will motivate and reward the public to report more clues and strengthen publicity and education, he said.

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## TYPHOON PUTS SCIENTISTS, RESIDENTS TO THE TEST

Shanghai and southeastern areas rise to challenge



By MA ZHENHUAN in Hangzhou, XING YI and WANG YING in Shanghai and CANG WEI in Nanjing

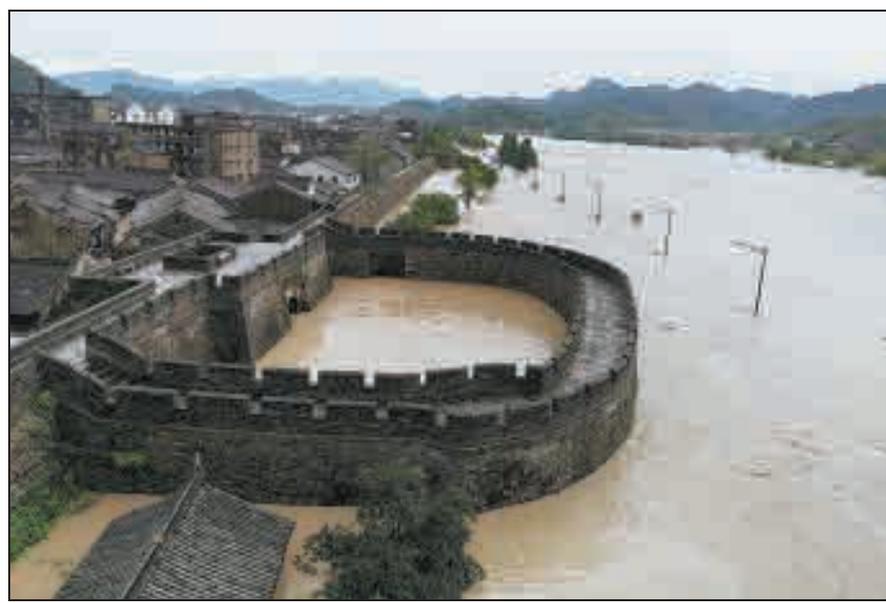
At 2 pm on Sunday, nearly all the residents and business owners on a street in the city of Linhai, Zhejiang province, were busy with the same task.

They were cleaning up their homes and shops on Ziyang Old Street after a frightening night of heavy winds, rain and flooding caused by Typhoon Lekima.

Some people pulled their wooden beds, complete with sodden mattresses, into the street to dry in the afternoon sun, while others were busy tending to their walls or wooden floors.

The owner of a noodle shop on the street said, "We made some preparations before the typhoon made landfall, such as moving the refrigerator and other electrical appliances to higher places, but we never expected the amount of rainfall it brought."

Linhai is about a four-hour drive from Shanghai, and Ziyang Old Street has long been known for its cobblestone sidewalks that wind their way past two-story buildings from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)



The ancient city of Linhai, Zhejiang province, is inundated by flooding caused by Typhoon Lekima on Saturday. XINHUA

and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) as well as homes decorated with stone carvings and gray tiles.

The street is a must-visit attraction for tourists to the old part of Linhai, which sits near the Lingjiang River.

On Saturday night, residents battled floodwaters that breached the

1,500-year-old city wall and rose to a height of 1.5 meters.

The flooding was so severe that the police and rescue authorities issued an online emergency appeal for boats to be used to evacuate those who were affected.

See *Lekima*, page 2



INSIDE  
Driven by market demand  
Global Views, page 13



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# TOP NEWS

## Ping-pong diplomacy gets reboot

Chinese table tennis players arrive in US for 2-week training with Team USA

By LIU YINMENG in Los Angeles  
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A delegation consisting of star table tennis players and coaches from China has landed in the United States for a two-week training session with top players from Team USA, an event that organizers said will further enhance communication and friendship between athletes from the two countries.

"Pingpong diplomacy has played a pivotal role in #ChinaUS relations. I wish our national #tabletennis team a good visit to the US to further the spirit of friendship and cooperation," Cui Tiankai, Chinese ambassador to the US, said on Twitter.

The 58-member delegation, led by Liu Guoliang, a Chinese table tennis legend and chairperson of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, includes many distinguished players such as Olympic gold medalists Ma Long and Ding Ning, as well as former Olympic and world champions Ma Lin, Chen Qi, Wang Hao and Guo Yan.

The Chinese team and the US players will practice in a joint training camp at the University of California in Los Angeles, said Bruce Liu, a member of the board of directors of USA Table Tennis. The camp, which began on Aug 11, will run until Aug 25.

Team members from the US likely will include players such as Lily Zhang, Wu Yue, Amy Wang, Nikhil Kumar, Kanak Jha and Nicholas Tio.

"Table tennis plays a pivotal role in the establishment of Sino-US diplomatic relationships. We hope to enhance the friendship between the two countries through the joint practice," Liu said.

According to Liu, the idea for a joint training camp came about after the US city of Houston, Texas, and the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, learned they will be hosting the 2021 and 2022 World Table Tennis Championships, respective-

ly, during the International Table Tennis Federation's annual general meeting in Budapest, Hungary, in April.

The fact that the US and China will host the World Table Tennis Championships in successive years is significant because 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

In 1971, a chance encounter between an American player and Chinese player, Glenn Cowan and Zhuang Zedong, during the 31st World Table Tennis Championships in Nagoya, Japan, led to an unexpected thaw in the long-stalled US-China relationship.

As they were preparing to leave Nagoya, the US table tennis team received an all-expenses paid invitation to visit China, where they would play a series of friendly matches. In response to the Americans' visit, the Chinese national table tennis team, led by Zhuang Zedong, embarked on an eight-city tour of the US in April 1972.

What became known as Ping-Pong Diplomacy paved the way for US president Richard Nixon's historic visit to Beijing in February 1972.

It also led to the signing of the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping and US president Jimmy Carter in 1979, which formally established official relations between the two countries.

"This is the first time the Chinese team will bring the entire team and will present a great opportunity for the US players to learn, to build friendship with the Chinese players, and also to build a great partnership between our two associations," said USA Table Tennis CEO Virginia Sung.

"We hope to make this joint training camp an annual event leading up to the Houston and Chengdu World Championships and the 2028 LA Olympic Games," she added.

## Clashes at holy site



Israeli security forces fire sound grenades inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem on Sunday, as clashes broke out during the overlapping Jewish and Muslim holidays of Eid al-Adha and the Tisha B'av holiday inside the historic compound which is considered the third holiest site in Islam and the most sacred for Jews. AHMAD GHARABLI / AFP

## Hong Kong: Securing robust stability will be key

From page 1

When I am interviewed on Hong Kong, I begin with basics: Why is Hong Kong so important to China? I offer five reasons — two economic, three political.

The first is that Hong Kong has been the gateway for doing business in China, facilitating reform and opening-up and catalyzing the country's economic miracle. But with the rise of mainland markets, exemplified by Shanghai and Shenzhen, this role has diminished.

The second economic reason is the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, a vital strategy for transforming China's economy via coordinated development. The Greater Bay Area's GDP is around \$1.7 trillion, or 12 percent of China's GDP, and is projected to reach around \$3.5 trillion by 2030. If the Greater Bay Area were a country, its GDP would rank almost in the world's top 10.

The first political reason of Hong Kong's importance to China is that it exemplifies the "one country, two systems" policy that enables Hong Kong's special status. The second is that Hong Kong represents China's historic recla-

mation, after more than a century of oppression and humiliation, of global presence and importance. The third is that Hong Kong reflects China's international image and soft power.

The central government seeks the best for Hong Kong, stressing social stability, essential for economic development, and rule of law, essential for social development. Beijing will defer to the local Hong Kong government as much as possible and as long as possible, thus sustaining the "one country, two systems" policy.

But three red lines cannot be crossed: movement toward Hong Kong independence or even quasi-independence, which includes one-person-one vote elections for local leaders; using Hong Kong to undermine the mainland's Party-led political system; and unending chaos such that Hong Kong's economic viability would be threatened.

The central government will make the absolute minimum interventions necessary to safeguard these three red lines, but it will, under all circumstances, safeguard them. In a recent news conference, Zhang Xiaoming, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, said the

central authorities will never sit by if the situation in Hong Kong worsens to a level of turmoil that the SAR government cannot control.

Given interconnectedness, the turmoil in Hong Kong cannot be much quarantined from all China, where stability has been the foundation for reform and development. In his domestic policy, President Xi pledges to win the "three tough battles" — preventing financial risks, reducing poverty and tackling pollution.

If social turmoil in Hong Kong seems unrelated to, say, poverty alleviation on the mainland, this is the crux of the matter, as seen by China's leaders.

China's economic growth has lifted over 750 million Chinese out of poverty, the greatest success story in human history. In late 2012, when Xi became China's senior leader, there were about 100 million Chinese who would remain intractably poor. Xi asserts that China cannot be a "moderately prosperous society" by 2021 — China's first national goal — if any of its citizens live below the line of absolute poverty. Hence, Xi mobilized the Party and the country to fight poverty.

Who can deny that China's astounding success in poverty alle-

vation is related to political stability and Party leadership?

All forms of governance systems have trade-offs, and only collective human wisdom can discern what is optimum for each social group under its own conditions at its own times. But I'm rather confident that, under China's conditions, the vast majority of those hundreds of millions of Chinese who have been lifted out of poverty would be pleased that political stability enabled economic development and Party leadership delivered poverty alleviation.

Looking forward, Hong Kong is China and will remain China. While no doubt some radicals favor violence, and some Western politicians encourage protests, the challenge for Chinese wisdom is to see what it will take, in the long term, to secure the kind of robust stability that empowers creative, dynamic, knowledge-based development for the benefit of all.

*The author is host and writer of the feature documentary Voices From the Frontline: China's War on Poverty and a 2018 recipient of the China Reform Friendship Medal. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*

## Chinese kids groomed for studies abroad via overseas summer camps

By ZHAO XINYING  
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Zhou Xiaodong, a deputy general manager of an enterprise in Wuhan, Hubei province, has been thinking about sending his son Zhou Zixuan to an overseas university since he was just a seventh-grade student.

In order to help his son get accustomed to life and studies overseas in advance, Zhou last year enrolled him in a summer camp in the United States, which Zhou said "changed his son greatly".

His son was initially reluctant to study abroad. However, after returning from the summer camp, he told Zhou that he hoped to attend a foreign university in the future.

"He gained a lot of knowledge about the lifestyle of his peers overseas, such as how they play and learn. He made some foreign friends and improved his ability to interact with people," Zhou said.

As Chinese children are heading abroad for studies at a very young age, participating in summer camps overseas before formally starting their studies there has become a common way for Chinese students to get academically or mentally prepared, according to Shao Yuan, marketing director of KnowledgeLink Group Inc, a US-based education and consulting company.

The ongoing summer vacation has so far seen at least 500 Chinese students taking part in summer camps organized by the company overseas. The camps are themed on science, technology, engineering, arts and

math, or project-based learning.

"By familiarizing young students with the international study and living environment in advance, summer camps are deemed by many Chinese parents as a good way to gear up their children for overseas study in the future," she said.

Kevin Wang, marketing director of Global Tour Study at New Oriental Education & Technology Group, said such overseas summer camps, usually costing at least 30,000 yuan (\$4,250) each trip, have been well-received by some wealthy parents.

Students participating in these programs are mostly aged between 10 and 18.

The younger ones — primary school students — usually choose camps in nearer destinations like Japan and Singapore, while those in middle school who are more linguistically capable and can better take care of themselves, take part in programs in farther countries like the United Kingdom and the US, Wang said.

"Generally speaking, a majority of parents choosing summer camps overseas have a long-term plan, such as study or even emigrating overseas, for their children. They hope the children could improve language proficiency and enrich travel experience by participating in such summer camps," he added.

Shao said by immersing in an authentically exotic environment for one week or up to one month, students are able to get an all-round experience on what overseas study is like. It also helps students identify

whether they are suitable for the study.

Earlier this month, Zhang Xin, a resident of Zhengzhou, Henan province, sent her 16-year-old daughter to St. Mary's School, Oregon, US, for a one-week summer camp themed on robotics and programming.

There, together with peers from different countries and backgrounds, Zhang's daughter, Ma Saiyudi, engaged herself in a wide range of courses and activities, including making robots, climbing mountains and hiking through jungles.

Zhang said before setting out for the summer camp, her daughter hadn't been very sure whether to pursue studies abroad in the future because she doubted whether she could well adapt to life and study in a foreign country.

After the weeklong trip, she was quite determined. She loved the teaching approach and the atmosphere there.

"Moreover, with such an experience, an educational institution overseas is no longer a completely new environment for my daughter," Zhang said. "I believe she will get used to her new life faster in the future."

Compared with the longer distance and more expensive travel to a foreign country, many parents, especially of children aged under 10, preferred domestic trips for their children.

These trips, organized mostly by travel agencies or education companies, cover themes such as improving children's artistic or cultural competence, training their physical or men-



Students from Pinghu Middle School in Zhejiang province attend a summer camp on advanced robotics at St. Mary's School in the US state of Oregon in July. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tal strengths and so on, according to EF Education First China, a Sweden-based education company.

Kevin Wang from New Oriental said the domestic summer camps seem to be more relaxing, as many parents treat such trips during summer holidays as an opportunity for their overburdened children to have a break at an affordable cost.

"In the eyes of this group of parents, entertainment is of equal importance to learning and an ideal program is one that combines the

two and finds balance between the two," he said, adding that summer camps that expose children to history and culture and those engaging children in nature have been particularly popular in recent years.

Yu Xiaotian, a mother of a seventh-grader in Beijing, has been enrolling her son in domestic summer camps almost every summer vacation in the past few years. Through these trips, Yu's son has been to grasslands in North China's Inner Mongolia auton-

omous region, Erhai Lake in Southwest China's Yunnan province and Baiyangdian in Hebei province.

"During the trips, my son was asked to do some 'mini-research', which I think helped him gain knowledge on and deepen understanding of the places he visited. For kids of his age, such summer camps are more meaningful than just traveling somewhere as a tourist," she said, adding that she's looking for a program for her son this summer.