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The Nation

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Chinese president delivers keynote speech at second B&R forum

President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on Friday. Here are the highlights.

Belt and Road opens up new space for global economic growth

Joint building of the Belt and Road has opened up new space for the world's economic growth. It also created a new platform to boost international trade and investment, expanded new practices to optimize the global economic governance, and made new contributions to improving people's well-being of all countries.

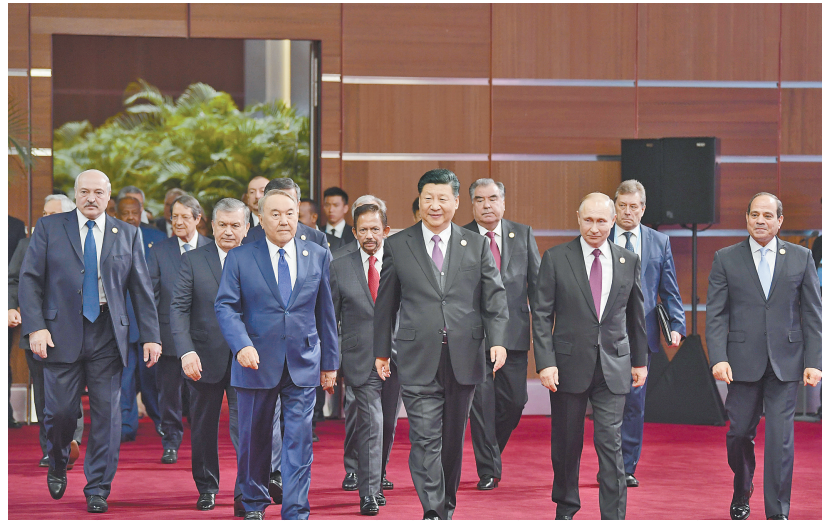
High-quality development of Belt and Road stressed

The principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits should be upheld. The open, green and clean approaches should be adhered to. The goals of high-standard, livelihood-improving and sustainable development should be achieved.

High-quality, sustainable infrastructure under BRI highlighted

Infrastructure is the cornerstone of connectivity and a bottleneck of development confronting many countries. Building infrastructure with such standards can help countries give full play to their advantages in resources and better integrate into the global supply, industry and value chains for interconnected development.

China to sign more high-standard free trade agreements



President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders enter the China National Convention Center to attend the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on April 26, 2019. [Photo/Xinhua]

China will negotiate and sign high-standard free trade agreements with more countries.

China to support 5,000 people for BRI innovation exchanges

China will support 5,000 people from innovation sector in Belt and Road countries in conducting exchanges, training programs and joint researches in the next five years.

Sustainable development under BRI stressed

China will work with other parties to promote a coalition of sustainable cities and an international coalition for green development under the Belt and Road Initiative.

China to invite 10,000 representatives of political parties, think tanks, NGOs from B&R countries

A total of 10,000 representatives of political parties, think tanks and non-governmental organizations from countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative will be invited to China for exchanges in the next five years.

China to allow foreign businesses in more sectors with controlling or full stake

China will allow foreign investors to operate businesses in more sectors with controlling or full stake. China will roll out a new batch of pilot free trade zones.

China prohibits forced technology transfer

China will step up protecting the

legitimate rights and interests of foreign owners of intellectual property rights, and prohibit the forced transfer of technology. China will create a business environment in which the value of knowledge is respected.

China to increase imports on larger scale

China will increase imports of goods and services on a larger scale. China will further lower its tariff rates.

China not to adopt beggar-thy-neighbor currency devaluation

China will continue to improve the exchange rate formation mechanism of its currency, the renminbi, and keep the exchange rate generally stable on a reasonable and balanced level.

China establishes mechanism for fulfilling international agreements

China attaches great importance to the establishment of a constraint mechanism for the fulfillment and implementation of international agreements, and the modification and improvement of laws and regulations in accordance with the need of further opening-up.

Fair treatment to Chinese enterprises, students, scholars abroad called for

All countries should create a sound investment environment, and treat Chinese enterprises, students and scholars abroad as equals. All countries should provide a fair and friendly environment for them to carry out normal international exchanges and cooperation. **By Chinadaily**

COOPERATION

Multimodal transport takes Thailand fruits to SW China via Guangxi



A train loaded with 200 tons of Thailand durians, coconuts and pineapples worth more than 1 million yuan (\$148,701) leaves Fangchenggang for Guang'an. [Photo by Zhang Guannian/gxnews.com.cn]

The first cold-chain sea-rail combined fruit transport route linking Thailand with Southwest China via Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region has been launched.

On April 23, an inaugural train, loaded with 200 tons of durians, coconuts and pineapples shipped from Thailand's Laem Chabang Port, left Fangchenggang for Guang'an. The fruits will be sold in local markets, or distributed to Chongqing and Chengdu.

Thailand is one of China's most important tropical fruit suppliers, especially for the popular durian and mangosteen. The fruit market in Guang'an, an inland city of Sichuan province, is strong. In 2018 alone

about 600,000 tons of Southeast Asia fruits were sold there.

According to an official of the Guang'an bureau of commerce, the frequency of the Fangchenggang-Guang'an cold-chain freight train is to be increased in the future. The return trips are expected to transport local agricultural products, motorcycles and auto spare parts to overseas markets via Guangxi.

To date, Fangchenggang has operated a number of cold-chain freight train routes to Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Jinan and Chongqing, while more will be launched to Chengdu and Yibin.

From en.gxzf.gov.cn

ECOLOGY

Meet gibbons in Mt. Wuliang

Editor's Note: On April 9th, Yunnan Daily Press Group and Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Bureau jointly launched a large-scale convergence media interview in Jingdong Yi Autonomous County in south Yunnan province. With the theme of "Beautiful Yunnan - Passing through Natural Reserves", the interview focus on the environmental protection in the Wuliang Mountain and the Ailao Mountain. The interview will fully showcase the incomparable biodiversity in Yunnan.

When we arrived at the Dazhai Monitoring Station in Wuliang Mountain National Nature Reserve, the station staff told us that a few minutes' walk would bring us to the western black crested gibbons. We quickened our paces so as not to waste the opportunity.

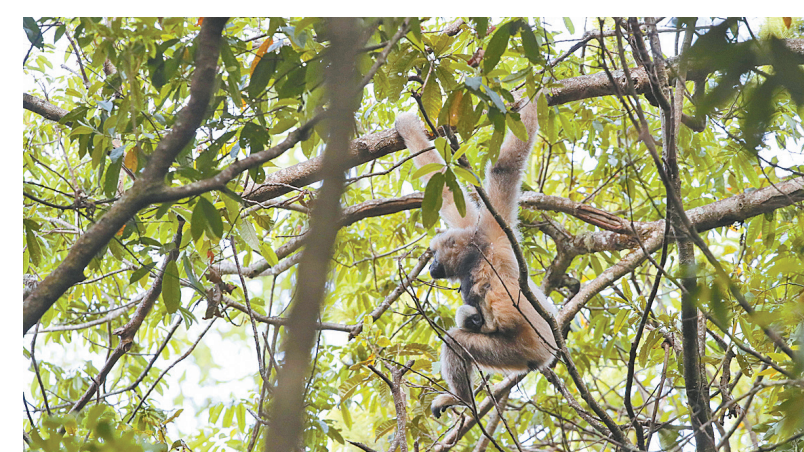
After walking for about 500 meters, we heard the gibbon calls. A black gibbon came into sight, and soon after, a golden one appeared, swinging swiftly from tree to tree.

"We wouldn't be able to get so close to them without years of efforts," said Niu Xiaowei, a doctoral candidate at the Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In 2003, the primate researcher Fan Pengfei came to Mt. Wuliang for a four-year field study. In order to better study and protect gibbons, he decided to track them without disturbing them. He followed the gibbons every day from dawn to dusk, regardless of wind or rain. Gradually, the gibbons got used to his presence. Today, humans can observe gibbons at close range - as close as five to a dozen meters.

"It used to be impossible to find any photos of gibbons, but now we have not only a clear grasp of their behavior, but also an accurate understanding of their populations and living conditions," said Niu Xiaowei, adding that the monitoring has helped people enhance awareness of protection and helped the gibbons survive better.

(By Shen Hao, Chen Fei)



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Life gets better in Hetaoqing

"By planting walnut trees, our family can earn 60,000 yuan (\$ 8966) a year. In addition, we have plenty of time to do what we want after the harvest," said Lv Zhenglin from Hetaoqing Village, Binchuan County in west Yunnan's Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture.

Hetaoqing is a village of Yi people and boasts fine ecological environment and colorful ethnic culture. In recent years, the villager's life gets better as infrastructure was improved and income increases. They also have access to more public services and enjoy good relations between neighbors. Now, the poverty headcount ratio of the village has dropped to zero

percent from 27.75% in 2013.

With the support of Binchuan county government, facilities have been built in Hetaoqing to boost tourism development, including a square, Yi ethnic culture exhibition hall and plank road. Every year, when Yi ethnic festivals fall, the village becomes a hot tourism destination as local culture is integrated into the development of tourism.

Bearing in mind the philosophy that "lucid water and green mountains are valuable assets", Hetaoqing villagers are laying more stress on eco protection in their pursuit of common prosperity.

(By Bo Da)

REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

20,000 4G base stations will be built

Editor's note: The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past seven decades, China has developed from a poor, weak country to the second largest economy in the world. This issue, we continue the column called "Remarkable 70 years" to help you understand the great changes that have taken place in New China.

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and Ministry of Finance jointly issued the Guidelines for Pilot Application of Universal Telecommunications Services in 2019, proposing to speed up 4G network coverage in remote and border areas.

About 20,000 base stations are to be built.

Since new China was founded, especially after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the overall development trend of China's information and communication industry has been positive. Information consumption and mobile payment transactions are showing a trend of rapid growth. The information and communication industry has been full of bright spots with development fruits benefiting more and more people. Last year, roaming charges for mobile traffic were abolished in China resulting in a drop of 60 percent in the average charges for mobile traffic.



An exhibition of allium, a plant genus which includes garlic and onions, has been opened to the public on April 17 at the Global Allium Garden(Kunming Center), the Kunming Botanical Garden. As the first of its kind in China, the exhibition will last to May 7 and has attracted many visitors.

The Global Allium Garden(Kunming Center)

was co-constructed by the Kunming Institute of Botany under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Institute of Botany at the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

In the future, the garden will join hands with countries along the Belt and Road to conduct technological cooperation and to build institute, promoting allium research. **(By Yang Zheng)**

Yunnan develops the western Yunnan tourist loop

When presiding over a meeting on the building of the western Yunnan tourist loop on April 16, Yunnan provincial governor Ruan Chengfa vowed to strengthen and optimize planning of the undertaking, and to

promote the construction of transportation infrastructure and create a more integrated tourism service system. These efforts aim to build the province into a unique tourist destination in the world.

The western Yunnan tourist loop to be built includes Deqin, Shangri-la, Lijiang, Dali, Baoshan, Ruili, Tengchong, Lushui and Gongshan. By building this tourist loop, the province aims to promote the overall

upgrade and restructuring of tourism in its western part, while speeding up the poverty alleviation in Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture and Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. **(From Yunnan Daily news app)**

5-day Thai Festival stages in Kunming

The 5-day Thai Festival kicked off at the Dianchi tourist resort park 1903 in Kunming, Yunnan Province on April 27, featuring a gallery of fruits, sights and stars from the ASEAN country.

With the theme of "authentic Thailand," this year's event is held as one of the activities to mark the 25th anniversary of setting the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Thailand in Kunming.

"Thai food shows, cultural performances, and tourism promotions are staged at the festival to make Thailand better known to Chinese people, especially Yunnan tourists," said Nitivadee Manikul, Consul General of Thailand in Kunming. At the event, a diversity of Thai fruits are sold by vendors with zest, who also offered the WeChat and Alipay

QR codes to Chinese buyers for on-line payment.

"Thanks to fast customs clearance, Thai fruits like durians, pineapples and coconuts, which are favored by Kunming locals, can reach Kunming in 5 to 8 days," said Nui, a Thai sales girl at the festival.

To attract more Chinese tourists to Thailand, four Thai policemen were invited to the event to boost confidence in safety measures in the Thai tourism. The Thai policemen used Chinese to talk with Kunming locals, saying they are willing to help Chinese tourists in Thailand.

The Thai festival is also highlighted by Thai pop stars Aum Atichart and a miniature of the Hua Hin Railway Station, which is turned into a tourist attraction in Thailand. **By Feng Yaxin**

