

## TOP NEWS

## EU urged to seal deal on investment

Li says agreement will benefit both sides, lead global economic recovery

By CAO DESHENG  
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Premier Li Keqiang has called for concerted efforts from both China and the European Union to advance the signing of the bilateral investment agreement to make it take effect as soon as possible, saying China-EU cooperation is conducive to the global economic recovery.

Li made the call in a telephone conversation with his Italian counterpart Mario Draghi on Monday.

Noting China considers its relationship with the EU greatly important, Li said a united and prosperous EU is a significant force to safeguard world peace, uphold multilateralism and promote free trade.

Both sides should work together to enhance pragmatic cooperation with openness, and strive to resolve their differences through dialogue and consultation on the basis of mutual respect, he said.

Li expressed hope that Italy, as an important EU member, could continue to play a positive role in promoting the healthy and stable development of China-EU ties.

In response, Draghi said the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment is an important consensus and Italy supports advancing the follow-up process through dialogue at an early date.

At the end of last year, China and the EU announced conclusion of negotiations on the bilateral investment agreement, which is expected to come into force after both parties complete their respective legal procedures.

In late March, the European

Parliament decided to cancel a review meeting of the investment agreement over China's sanctions on some individuals and entities on the EU side who severely harmed China's sovereignty and interests and maliciously spread lies and disinformation.

The Chinese sanctions came after the EU imposed sanctions on related Chinese individuals and entities on March 22, citing so-called human rights issues in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

China has said the investment agreement is mutually beneficial, and it is ready to communicate and coordinate with the EU on the early implementation of the deal for the benefit of both sides and the world.

On China-Italy relations, Li said both countries are comprehensive strategic partners and share deep historical bonds and a strong convergence of interests.

He mentioned the countries' joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and said China is willing to work with Italy to promote bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, energy and climate change, expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges and strengthen collaboration within the framework of the Group of 20.

Hailing the bilateral ties, Draghi said Italy stands ready to intensify economic cooperation as well as communication and coordination on multilateral issues, jointly advance international cooperation to fight the pandemic, promote global economic recovery and cope with the challenges of climate change.

## Threads to the past



People of the Miao ethnic group display their traditional clothes on Sunday as part of activities to mark the second China Danzhai intangible cultural heritage week. During the event, which kicked off on Saturday in Danzhai, Guizhou province, inheritors of intangible cultural heritage are displaying traditional skills such as batik and papermaking. HUANG XIAOHAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Jimmy Lai, 9 HK activists plead guilty

By GANG WEN in Hong Kong  
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Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai Chee-ying and nine other activists pleaded guilty on Monday to organizing an unauthorized assembly on Oct 1, 2019.

The 10 defendants include former lawmakers of the special administrative region and veteran activists Albert Ho Chun-yan, Lee Cheuk-yan, Leung Kwok-hung and convener of the Civil Human Rights Front — an organization that initiated major protests during the city's 2019 social unrest — Figo Chan Ho-wun.

The unauthorized assembly on China's National Day two years ago descended into violence between radical anti-government protesters and police. Some rioters threw gasoline bombs and sprayed corrosive liquid at the police and set fires on the streets.

In court, Chan, Ho, Lee and Leung also admitted guilt in a further offense associated with inciting others to join in an unlawful assembly on Sept 30, 2019.

Under the Public Order Ordinance, any person who organizes an unauthorized assembly or attempts to direct others to take part in it has committed a crime that is punishable by imprisonment of up to five years.

Judge Amanda Woodcock, who is presiding over the case, will hear defendants' mitigation plea on May 24 and pass sentence on May 28.

Before the hearing, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange suspended trading in shares of Next Digital Ltd, after the Security Bureau of Hong Kong announced on Friday it was freezing the assets of Jimmy Lai, the company's founder and major shareholder.

Lai's assets were frozen in

accordance with the city's National Security Law. Article 43 (Implementation Rules) of the law stipulates that "relevant persons and organizations must not, directly or indirectly, deal with certain property which is reasonably suspected to be related to offenses endangering national security."

Lai now faces three charges under the National Security Law for Hong Kong, including colluding with a foreign country or external elements to endanger national security. He is currently serving a 14-month prison sentence he received in April for taking part in unauthorized assemblies in August 2019.

Next Digital disclosed in a statement that the trading in its shares will remain halted before an announcement is released in relation to the freeze on Lai's assets and shareholdings in the company.

## More measures needed to ensure employment stability

By ZOU SHUO  
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Minister of Education Chen Baosheng called on local authorities and universities on Monday to make greater efforts to ensure new college graduates can find employment as soon as possible.

With less than two months until fresh graduates leave campus, all sectors should make every attempt to ensure that more graduates can find jobs to keep the employment situation stable, he said.

Employment for college graduates concerns the livelihoods of millions of families, as well as social and economic development and social stability, Chen said at the opening ceremony of college graduate recruitment week in Beijing.

Ensuring stable employment requires concerted efforts from education authorities, universities and enterprises, he added.

The recruitment week, which opened on Monday at China Agricultural University, aims to provide college graduates with job opportunities and to help universities and employers better align



As graduation nears, university students look at company profiles and available positions at a job fair in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on Sunday. YANG SUPING / FOR CHINA DAILY

graduates and available positions.

Each provincial-level region will organize at least two large-scale job fairs during the week.

An offline job fair for college graduates in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei province was held at the

university on Monday, offering 23,000 posts to graduates. In addition, an online job fair is expected to provide almost 70,000 posts to graduates in the regions during the week.

The pressure for college gradu-

ates to find employment has increased in recent years, and the difficulty of landing jobs has become a hot social issue, Chen said. The employment situation remains complex and challenging, and it should be viewed from a long-term perspective, he added.

China is expected to see a record 9.09 million college graduates this year — 350,000 more than last year, according to the Education Ministry.

As universities are expected to have a larger number of graduates in the coming years, there will be more pressure to ensure stable employment, he said.

The development of the digital economy has created many new jobs and will offer new channels for college graduates to find employment, Chen said.

Chen Xue'er, 22, a senior at Beijing Jiaotong University, attended the job fair on Monday and submitted a dozen resumes to employers.

She said she prefers State-owned enterprises or work for government institutions, as the COVID-19 pandemic has made her realize the

importance of job stability.

Yin Jianshu, who works for the career center at Central South University in Changsha, Hunan province, said an increasing number of graduates show a strong willingness to become government officials or work for SOEs, as they believe the jobs are less vulnerable to risks.

The number of graduates who want to pursue higher degrees has also increased significantly in recent years for self-improvement and better chances to land good jobs, he said.

China's surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 5.1 percent in April. That is lower by 0.9 of a percentage point than the same period last year and 0.2 of a percentage point lower than that of March, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Monday.

In the first four months of this year, 4.37 million new urban jobs were created. The surveyed unemployment rate among those between the ages of 25 and 59 — the majority of the labor market — stood at 4.6 percent last month, the bureau said.

## Study: New paper offers 'important clues,' says scientist

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"A photon in the PeV energy range is an extremely rare find — typically a detector the size of one square kilometer can only pick up one or two every year from a source like the Crab Nebula — and they are mixed in over hundreds of thousands of other cosmic ray signals," Cao said, adding that LHAASO's colossal size and unmatched sensitivity are what made the discovery possible.

Karl Ziemelis, the chief physical sciences editor at Nature, said cosmic rays are charged particles, such as protons and atomic nuclei, flying through space with velocities close to the speed of light.

Since their discovery in 1912, scientists have been struggling to understand how these speedy space bullets are created. The question of how cosmic accelerators work was listed by the United States National Research Council as one of the top 11 science questions of the 21st century.

Scientists have long hypothesized that supernova remnants, star-forming regions in the universe or supermassive black holes at the galactic center are PeVatron candidates. With the new discovery, clusters of young but very massive stars should also be considered.

"Where and what they are remains an open question, but this new paper provides some important clues," Ziemelis said. "Tracing the origin of these high-energy cosmic rays is not a straightforward task, as magnetic fields in space can cause their paths to twist and bend when they travel."

"So when we detect such a cosmic ray arriving at Earth, we may be able to determine the direction it arrived from, but this is not necessarily the same direction it started from."

One way to tackle this problem is by observing gamma rays, the most energetic type of wave in the electromagnetic spectrum, produced when ultrahigh cosmic rays from PeVatrons interact with the thin gas of the interstellar medium around them. These gamma rays can carry roughly 10 percent of the energy of the original cosmic rays.

Gamma rays are electrically neutral and thus are unaffected by magnetic fields. Scientists believe they can tell where PeVatrons are in the universe by studying these high energy gamma rays, which act as footprints for the cosmic rays produced by the accelerator.

Felix Aharonian, a professor of astrophysics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, said LHAASO will dominate in the field of ultrahigh-energy gamma-ray astronomy and play a major role in its development, and "the results reported in the Nature article reveal only the tip of the iceberg."

"In the coming years, we anticipate breakthrough discoveries by LHAASO that could dramatically change the current concepts about the most energetic and extreme phenomena in the nonthermal universe," he said.

Benedetto Piazzoli, a professor of astrophysics at the University of Naples Federico II, said LHAASO will explore in depth a wide energy range where the transition from galactic to extragalactic cosmic ray origins is expected.

"Many of LHAASO's discoveries will no doubt bring surprises. Thus there is a good chance that the cosmic-ray mystery could be unveiled," he said. "There are exciting times ahead."

## Cases: Resurgence of virus triggers run on vaccinations

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The governments have also called attention to possible common shortcomings in local disease control work.

According to a circular released on Sunday evening by health authorities in Lu'an, Anhui, a medical practitioner at a community-level health clinic, surnamed Ou, violated rules and received the first reported case of the current outbreak at a toy store managed by his wife. Local public security officials have taken over the case.

Later, a private hospital treating the case failed to implement standard pre-examination and assessment

procedures, as well as proper isolation and testing measures, which resulted in "the severe consequence of virus spreading", the circular said.

The hospital and the health clinic have been ordered to cease operating and medical workers involved have been barred from practicing for a year. Local officials responsible for the incident have been suspended or required to reflect deeply on their mistakes, it said.

Since the initial wave of the epidemic was brought under control earlier last year in China, the National Health Commission has urged community-level health institutions to

remain cautious to prevent flare-ups of the virus. They have required grassroots doctors to meticulously register patients with fever, report them to local health authorities within an hour and to promptly guide suspicious cases to designated fever clinics.

Wang Wensong, vice-mayor of Hefei, Anhui's capital, said at a news conference on Monday that the city has stepped up efforts to guarantee all patients visiting fever clinics are given nucleic acid tests, and to forbid medical facilities that lack designated fever clinics — especially community-level, rural and private clinics — from receiving patients with fever.

## 407 million

Number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered by China as of Sunday

Meanwhile, Liaoning's disease control task force said on Sunday that an investigation into the outbreak has exposed weak supervision and poor enforcement of treatment protocols.

Information released by the Liaoning government shows that one of the earliest cases involved a

patient who visited a private clinic in Yingkou's Bayuquan district complaining of a sore throat on May 3. Over the next few days, the patient was given an intravenous drip four times, but the clinic failed to report any of this to higher authorities.

The patient traveled to Anhui on May 9 and was confirmed on May 13 to be infected with the virus.

The Liaoning government said the clinic has been shut down and its manager's license to practice has been revoked. A number of officials were warned about their negligence.

All private clinics in Bayuquan were temporarily closed from Sunday in order to prevent cross infection between patients with fever and to cut off transmission of the virus.

The resurgence of the virus also triggered a run on vaccinations. Anhui vaccinated about 1.19 million people on Sunday, and about one in five people there had received at least one dose, Dong Mingpei, deputy director of provincial health commission, said on Monday.

He added that the province is now able to give nearly 1.3 million vaccinations a day.

As of Sunday, China had administered nearly 407 million doses of the vaccine, the National Health Commission said.

Wu Yong in Shenyang contributed to this story.

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