

Masters magic

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Xi urges Peaceful China efforts

Initiative should constantly enhance sense of fulfillment, happiness, security

By **CAO YIN**
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President Xi Jinping has called for efforts to build a more secure China by comprehensively promoting the implementation of the Peaceful China initiative.

Efforts should be made to constantly enhance people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security, said Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China

Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission. Xi made the call in an instruction on the implementation of the initiative.

He called for a greater focus on prominent problems affecting national security, social stability and people's tranquillity on the basis of pursuing collaboration, participation and common interests.

Xi stressed efforts to make implementation of the initiative more scientific and raise its levels

of public participation, rule of law and intelligence.

"Security" has also become a watchword in the proposals for China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and long-range objectives, adopted at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee at the end of last month. The proposals called for developing a more secure China in a comprehensive way amid changes in the world and society.

With years of effort, China has become one of the safest countries in the world. The 2020 Global Law and Order report, released by the

Washington-based organization Gallup last month, shows that China ranked third in the latest global poll on people's perceptions of their personal security.

From January to September of this year, criminal cases across China saw a 4.5-percent decline, and the number of cases involving eight types of violent crimes, including intentional homicide, rape and robbery, saw an 11.6-percent drop over the same period, according to the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Central Committee.

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President's speech to SCO resonates, diplomat says

By **ZHANG YUNBI**
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President Xi Jinping's speech at the 20th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Tuesday helps chart a course for the next phase of the group's development and won positive feedback from various parties, a senior diplomat said.

Xi's speech made via video has put forward a "China plan" for promoting the organization's moves, Vice-Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said in a news briefing on Wednesday.

The speech further enriched the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, Le said, adding that the president, for the first time, proposed the major initiative of building a community of health, a community of security, a community of development and a community of cultures within the SCO framework.

At the gathering, Xi and fellow leaders exchanged views on priority tasks for further strengthening SCO cooperation amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as major international and regional issues.

Leaders discussed new ideas and measures to jointly address risks and challenges and to promote security and development, reaching consensus, planning cooperation in detail and providing a clear direction for the SCO's growth in the next phase, which Le said will exert "key, positive influence on regional and world peace and development".

Le said leaders at the summit congratulated China on its major strategic results in the fight against the pandemic and thanked the country for its strong support to countries in the virus fight.

Leaders said that China taking the lead in resuming domestic production and regular operations provides a key impetus for regional

and global economic recovery, and they spoke highly of a range of cooperation initiatives China has put forward, he said.

Based on China's proposal, the summit issued a special statement on dealing with the pandemic.

The statement said all parties agreed that they will support each other in fighting COVID-19, work together to build a stronger world health system, boost the potential of the World Health Organization and protect people's lives and health.

The leaders of member states signed and issued a summit declaration and issued five other statements, about the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II; cracking down on the use of the internet to spread support for terrorism, separatism and extremism; international information security; dealing with the threat of drugs; and cooperation about digital economy.

Leaders also approved a slew of cooperative documents in such areas as medical services and health, growth of communities and exchanges among countries, Le said.

Xu Bu, president of the China Institute of International Studies, said the summit "bolsters confidence and provides a needed driving force" for SCO members in their virus fight and efforts to revitalize the economy.

The summit was held as the pandemic affects public health and safety of the SCO countries and challenges society, the economy and the region's stability, Xu said, adding that countries should endorse a new type of international relations that seek fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, and they should work for building the community with a shared future for mankind.

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Workers at the China Post Group Corp branch in Nanchong, Sichuan province, sort packages on Tuesday amid booming online sales generated by the Singles Day shopping event on Wednesday. LI TAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

Consumers spend big for Singles Day shopping gala

By **HE WEI** in Shanghai and **FAN FEIFEI** in Beijing

A buying frenzy kicked up a notch in China as the annual Nov 11, Singles Day sales event saw brands ringing up billions of yuan in online sales and customers snapping up imported items via e-commerce.

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The shopping gala, entering its final stretch at midnight on Wednesday, is a sign of consumer vibrancy and economic strength in China, with the COVID-19 pandemic accelerating the shift to e-commerce among consumers across all income levels, experts said.

Tmall, Alibaba's business-to-customer platform, saw 342 brands hit

100 million yuan (\$15 million) in sales between Nov 1 and the first 35 minutes of Nov 11. Among these, 13 brands, including Apple, Huawei and Midea, achieved 1 billion yuan.

For its twelfth edition, the traditionally 24-hour bonanza, a brainchild of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, has been prolonged for the first time. Alibaba added a new shopping window from Nov 1 to Nov 3, posting preferential offers in a bid to spur consumer buying that had been hampered by the pandemic.

The shopping festival, expected to draw over 800 million consumers and 5 million businesses, is set to become "the barometer of China's continued economic recovery", said Jennifer Ye, PwC

consumer markets leader for the Chinese mainland.

"A 'revenge buying' spree following COVID, and new consumption patterns such as direct sales via live-streaming and private domain operations, have driven demand and sales," she said. "We expect the sales to grow further this year with more intense competition among sellers."

Key data points confirmed such forecasts: Alibaba reported gross merchandise volume on its platform reaching 486.9 billion yuan from Nov 1 to 11 pm on Wednesday.

While the merchandise volume for Nov 11, 2019, was 268.4 billion yuan, an apples-to-apples comparison is unlikely, given the event's extension this year.

Over at JD, another major

e-commerce player posting sales offers, accumulated sales from Nov 1 through to 2:26 pm on Wednesday topped 243.1 billion yuan, surpassing total sales of 204.4 billion yuan last year.

With COVID hindering transnational travel, digital vehicles are quickly becoming the primary way for foreign merchants to tap into the Chinese consumer market.

The sales of JD Worldwide, the company's cross-border commerce unit, surged by over 120 percent on a yearly basis in the first 10 minutes, while JD's imported goods supermarket saw sales rise by 2.5 times month-on-month within 30 minutes.

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Top legislature disqualifies four HK LegCo members

By **ZHANG YANGFEI** in Beijing and **GANG WEN** in Hong Kong

China's top legislature on Wednesday decided to require members of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to uphold the Basic Law and honor the pledge of allegiance to the HKSAR or face disqualification.

The decision was reached at the 23rd session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress after lawmakers deliberated a motion proposed by the State Council at the request of SAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor. The session concluded on Wednesday in Beijing.

Shortly after the decision, the SAR government announced that four members of the sixth-term

LegCo — Alvin Yeung, Dennis Kwok, Kwok Ka-ki and Kenneth Leung — were disqualified.

The decision lists circumstances deemed failures to meet the legal requirements of upholding the HKSAR Basic Law and honoring the pledge of allegiance to the HKSAR. They include advocating for or supporting "Hong Kong independence", refusing to recognize the State's sovereignty and its exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, seeking external forces' interference in Hong Kong affairs or other acts that endanger national security.

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BUGS RAISED TO DINE ON FOOD WASTE

Innovative solutions found for worldwide problem

By **YANG WANLI**
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Any mention of cockroaches in the same breath as food will provoke a reaction of disgust among most people, but not from Li Yanrong.

The 53-year-old entrepreneur from Shandong province raises cockroaches to consume kitchen waste, with his business earning millions of yuan annually.

At Li's company, which occupies a 1,800-square-meter plot 2 kilometers from Shawan, a village in the outskirts of Jinan, the provincial capital, some 1 billion cockroaches



chew through at least 50 metric tons of food waste a day.

"We spent six years researching the use of cockroaches, finding they can feed on kitchen waste and create no pollutants. Cockroaches should not just be seen as pests, they can be beneficial to society," said Li, general manager of Qiaobin Agricultural Technology.

At one of the company's workshops, where simple equipment is used to process kitchen waste, a

foul smell hangs in the air. Here, food waste is crushed, shredded and ground up before being transferred to a feeding system through a spiral tunnel.

"The cockroaches live for up to 11 months on average and their bodies, in turn, are eaten by chickens. They are very helpful, aren't they?" Li said.

Insects are being used worldwide to solve major problems, he added. "The most successful example of this is in Australia, where dung beetles are dealing with cow dung. This prompted us to think of using cockroaches to tackle kitchen waste."

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High-flying birthday



The Bayi Aerobatics Team of the People's Liberation Army Air Force performs in Xinzhou, Shanxi province, on Sunday to mark the 71st anniversary of the Air Force's founding on Wednesday. ZHOU GUOQIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY