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Vital US oil pipeline shut down by cyberextortionists' attack

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## Legislation on external affairs to be beefed up

Move a crucial step in advancing overall law-based governance, professor says

By CAO YIN  
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High-quality laws and adherence to China's opening-up policy must be top priorities as officials look to improve legislation related to external affairs, legal professionals said.

Their remarks came after the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, clarified in its annual work report issued in March that it would upgrade China's legal tool kit to meet challenges and guard against risks in its efforts to oppose foreign sanctions, interference and long-arm jurisdiction.

Ma Yide, a law professor at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, said accelerating legislation is key in the development of the nation's legal system regarding external affairs, especially in the face of complex international situations, and is also a crucial step in the advancement of overall law-based governance raised by the central leadership.

In November, President Xi Jinping stressed taking a coordinated approach to promoting the rule of law domestically and in matters involving foreign parties, and called for efforts to better safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests.

Ma said, "Ensuring legislative quality through sufficient research and in-depth studies is significant, because it strongly relates to national sovereignty and security and other interests."

As a deputy to the NPC, Ma proposed formulating a foreign state immunity law last year following litigation filed in countries like the United States against China over COVID-19 control and prevention.

Along with the deepening of international exchanges and the acceleration of globalization, there are a growing number of lawsuits against other countries and their governments, "but our nation doesn't have a specific law in this sector," he said.

"So it's hard for Chinese parties to sue other countries in Chinese courts to claim rights and interests, and there is no law to follow when our courts handle cases concerning sovereign immunity," he said.

"I made the proposal because the problem has become particularly acute during the pandemic," he added. "It will facilitate equal protection of Chinese and foreign investors' legitimate rights and interests."

Ma said he was invited by the Foreign Ministry and the NPC Standing Committee's Legislative Affairs Commission to participate in research efforts and seminars to push forward his proposal.

Huang Jin, a law professor at China University of Political Science and Law, also welcomed the promotion of a legal toolbox against sanctions and interference, emphasizing that the opening-up policy and peaceful development must be highlighted in such legislation.

Huang suggested that the legislature respect and abide by international laws, rules and treaties China has entered into while making laws in this regard, underscoring that the legislative priority is to build a community of a shared future for humanity.

“Our ultimate goal is to solve issues and problems involving external contents by rule of law.”

Huang Jin, law professor at China University of Political Science and Law

Compared with drafting specific laws related to external affairs, he said it is more urgent for the country to make a law regarding external relations.

"Our ultimate goal is to solve issues and problems involving external contents by rule of law, so we need to make clear what basic principles we have to uphold at first in a law as a framework," Huang added.

China has made greater efforts in developing a legal system involving external affairs in recent years. For instance, it has added foreign-related articles or content to several laws, including those concerning national security and against monopolies, according to Huang.

It has also strengthened legislation to resolve conflicts and contradictions in economic and trade sectors over the past few years, he said, citing the Foreign Investment Law adopted by the NPC in 2019 as an example.

Both Ma and Huang called for more universities and colleges to set up international law schools to deeply study legal issues related to global affairs and develop more judicial talent.

## Xi calls for innovative growth of traditional culture

By XU WEI  
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President Xi Jinping has underlined the key role of workers devoted to the study of philosophy and social sciences in instilling courage and confidence in the Chinese people and enabling the world to better learn about China.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remark when writing back on Sunday to editors of the Journal of Chinese Humanities.

In the letter, Xi commended the editors of the journal for making great efforts to amplify Chinese civilization and make academic research better developed, saying that the journal has won acclaim in China as well as overseas.

He highlighted the need to attain deeper understanding of Chinese civilization and offer a more in-depth interpretation of how to better adhere to the Chinese path, give play to the Chinese spirit and forge Chinese strength from perspectives that combine history and reality, theories and practice.

He called for joint efforts from

workers devoted to the study of philosophy and social sciences to promote the innovative transformation and development of fine traditional Chinese culture under the new circumstances.

Xi said that high-quality academic journals should remain true to their original aspirations, take the lead in innovation, exhibit high-level research outcomes, support the growth of high-caliber academic talent and promote academic exchanges between China and the world.

He expressed hope that the editors will carry on their efforts and make the journal even more successful.

The Journal of Chinese Humanities, launched by Shandong University in May 1951, is the first academic journal in the area of liberal arts initiated by a higher-education institution since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the country's oldest comprehensive academic journal in humanities and social sciences.

The editors of the journal recently wrote to Xi to share their achievements over the past seven decades and express their determination to live up to their mission, enhance the journal's role and contribute to national rejuvenation.

## Brand Day takes off



Visitors admire a model of the Y-20 aircraft, China's largest and most advanced domestically developed transport aircraft, at the opening of the 2021 China Brand Day exhibition in Shanghai on Monday. The exhibition runs through Wednesday. GAO EQIANG / CHINA DAILY See story, page 3

## TRAMS KEEP DALIAN ON RIGHT TRACK

Vehicles play important cultural role in city

By ZHANG XIAOMIN  
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The first tram of the day sounds its bell at 4:10 am in Dalian, Liaoning province, where the vehicles have been operating for nearly 112 years.

More than 19 hours later, at 11:50 pm, the streets of the northeastern port city fall silent as the last tram run is completed.

Jiang Ye, director of the Dalian Museum, who also researches industrial heritage, said, "For Dalian, trams are no longer just a



means of transportation, they are also part of the city's diverse culture and development history."

Sixteen tramcars manufactured in the 1930s are still operating on one route in the city.

"They are like living sculptures and have witnessed many changes in Dalian during the past 100 years," Jiang said.

During the five-day May Day holiday, many tourists visited

Dalian to take the trams and gain a sense of their history.

A group of enthusiasts said in a social media post, "When the setting sun shines on a tram as it makes its way slowly along the tracks surrounded by skyscrapers and heavy traffic, it is as if people are taking a journey through the past and present."

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## Ex-general: Better if US sees China as 'friend'

By MAY ZHOU in Houston  
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While this year marks the 50th anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy, which was started by table tennis players from the United States and China and led to sports and cultural exchanges between the two nations, retired US Army Major General Bernard Loeffke remembers how things were before that breakthrough.

During the Vietnam War, the 1957 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point was wounded by Vietnamese forces, who were trained and equipped by China.

His first indirect contact with China caused a physical wound, but his subsequent contacts with China changed his views of the country and led him on a path of promoting friendship and understanding between the two peoples.

In 1973, as director of the White House Fellows, Loeffke visited China for the first time. During that trip, he shook hands with Chinese General Xu Xin, who was wounded by US fire as the commander of Chinese volunteers in the war on the Korean Peninsula between 1950 and 1953.

In 1982, Loeffke became the first US Army general assigned to the US embassy in China as defense attache. In three years, he made some Chinese friends and learned Mandarin.

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## Digital RMB trial expands to include first private bank

By CHEN JIA  
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China's digital RMB trial has for the first time included a privately owned bank, indicating a further expansion of applications and the country's firm attitude in driving the pilot program, analysts said.

Zhejiang E-Commerce Bank Co Ltd, which is based in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, became the seventh bank in China to offer the testing of central bank digital currency, or e-CNY. Users can now download a digital wallet through a designated app.

The Ant Group, e-commerce giant Alibaba's financial technology arm, has the largest share in the bank, at 30 percent, and owns the third-party payment platform Alipay.

The inclusion of the privately owned bank marks a new step in the e-CNY trial, said analysts, and the tested scenarios are continually increasing.

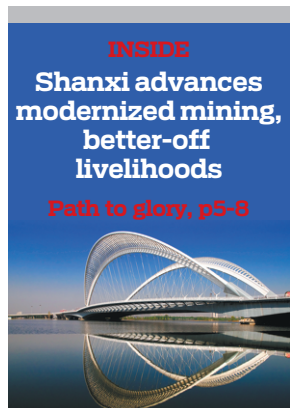
Since Zhejiang E-Commerce Bank has advantages in e-commerce, mobile payment and fintech services, it will facilitate the expansion of the testing and the broader usage of digital RMB, said Liu Bin, director of the Shanghai Pudong Reform and Development Research Institute's finance research office.

By the end of 2020, the total assets of the bank reached 311.26 billion yuan (\$48.5 billion), and its capital adequacy ratio was 11.89 percent, according to the bank's 2020 annual report.

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A payment terminal for digital RMB is exhibited at the China International Consumer Products Expo in Haikou, Hainan province, on Saturday. GUO CHENG / XINHUA



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