



## Comeback win

Snooker champ O'Sullivan secures victory after false start **SPORTS, PAGE 23**

## Guangzhou airport adds new terminal

**CHINA, PAGE 4**



## Living the digital life

Technology will be integrated more with the real economy

**BUSINESS, PAGE 13**

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## Xi urges SCO to expand cooperation

Meetings include senior diplomats, defense ministers

By **AN BALJIE**  
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President Xi Jinping called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members on Monday to remain true to their original aspiration and push cooperation in all areas.

Xi made the remark while meeting with senior diplomats of the members of the SCO at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. After the meeting, Xi also met with defense ministers of those countries.

It was the first formal meeting of SCO foreign ministers since the organization accepted Pakistan and India as its new members last year.

Since its establishment 17 years ago, the SCO has stood the test of the time and developed into a comprehensive regional organization with wide influence, Xi said.

The SCO has set a model for a new type of international relations with the characteristics of mutual respect, justice and win-win cooperation, he added.

Saying the SCO summit to be held in Qingdao, Shandong province, in June will be the



**President Xi Jinping**, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, meets with all Shanghai Cooperation Organization defense ministers in Beijing at the Great Hall of the People on Monday. **FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY**

first of its kind since the increase in SCO members, Xi told the senior diplomats that he hopes all sides will cooperate for its success.

China has successfully hosted more than 120 activities of the SCO since it assumed the rotating presidency of the organization, Xi said.

The current global and

### Inside

Related story > **p3**

regional situation is complex, he said, with unstable and uncertain factors, and SCO members should make real efforts to meet the expectations of all nations.

China would like to make joint efforts with all SCO members to continue to support each other and offer SCO wisdom and SCO solutions, safeguard regional security cooperation, deepen Belt and Road cooperation and expand people-to-people exchanges, Xi said.

During the meeting, the foreign

ministers of Russia, Kyrgyzstan, India and Pakistan made speeches. They spoke positively of the efforts that China has made to prepare the SCO summit.

The SCO should enhance coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs, the senior diplomats said.

## Fast opening-up pushed at session led by president

By **XIN ZHIMING**  
and **WANG YANFEI**

China will implement “as soon as possible” major economic opening-up measures that have been decided on while going all-out to fight the “three tough battles” — prevention of major risks, targeted poverty alleviation and pollution control — China’s top leadership said at a high-profile Party meeting on Monday.

“China will push reform and opening-up more actively, and deepen State-owned enterprise and asset as well as fiscal and financial reforms to implement major opening-up measures previously fixed,” said a statement released after a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, presided over by Xi Jinping, general secretary of CPC Central Committee.

Xi said on April 10 that China will expand market access, create a more favorable investment environment, strengthen protection of intellectual property rights and increase imports. He spoke at the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan province. On April 13, Xi announced a decision by the Central Committee to support building Hainan into a pilot free trade zone and steadily into a free trade port.

The moves “send a strong message of China deepening reform and opening-up”, the statement said.

The nation also will push the healthy development of credit, stock, bond, exchange rate and real estate markets and strengthen supervision in a timely manner to forestall hidden risks.

“Before it further opens its economy up, it needs to maintain domestic financial system security,” said Liang Haiming, chief economist at China Silk Road iValley Research Insti-

tute, a Beijing-based think tank. “It must improve its domestic financial markets to lay a solid foundation for further participating in international financial operations and rule-making.”

China needs to put risk prevention atop its agenda, said Xu Hongcai, an economist at China Center for International Economic Exchanges. “The financial markets still more or less have some risks, and the Party meeting is reiterating the importance of forestalling systemic risks.”

The country will also devise guidelines for directing high-quality development and encourage local governments to explore ways to push high-quality development, the statement said. China will accelerate economic restructuring while steadily expanding domestic demand, it said.

“For such a big economy as China, it is a reasonable choice to rely on domestic demand” to develop the economy, Xu said.

The statement from Monday’s meeting said China has seen a good start to its high-quality development after it maintained steady growth momentum in the first quarter of this year, with its GDP expanding by 6.8 percent year-on-year. Other major economic indicators also pointed to stronger domestic demand and good coordination between industrial growth and service sectors, meeting participants agreed.

Economic restructuring has played a bigger role in supporting growth as good progress was made in developing new industries and upgrading traditional sectors, the statement said.

*Xinhua contributed to this story.*

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## Fugitive used forgers to produce ‘revelations’, police say

By **TAN YINGZI** in Chongqing and **CUI JIA** in Beijing

Guo Wengui, one of China’s most wanted fugitives, is alleged to have put two people up to forging national-level official documents that were used in so-called revelations online as a way to seek political asylum in the United States, Chinese police said on Monday.

Guo, 51, fled China after being accused of multiple crimes in 2014. He is currently in the US and listed on an Interpol red notice, a high-level alert for

those wanted for extradition.

Since August 2017, Guo incited suspects Chen Zhiyu, 41, and his twin brother, Chen Zhiheng, to forge over 30 national-level official documents containing “top-secret” and “confidential” materials claimed to be issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the State Council and relevant ministries and commissions, Chongqing Public Security Bureau said in a case briefing in Chongqing on Monday afternoon.

The twins were arrested in China on Feb 18 and have confessed to the crimes of forging the documents, the police said. Police have now begun criminal proceedings against them on the charges of forging State government documents.

What Guo and the twins did significantly undermines China’s national security, police said. By spreading the documents on overseas media platforms, they deliberately damaged China’s image, misled the public and caused extremely negative effects, officials said.

On Oct 5, 2017, Guo unveiled a “secret Chinese government document” on secretly dispatching Chinese police officers to the US on field duty in Washington, DC, that he claimed to have been verified “genuine” by US government agencies.

On Jan 2, a US-based website called the Washington Free Beacon revealed a document on China’s decision on in-depth solutions to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s nuclear issue. The website claimed the document was an “internal Chinese government

document”. The documents attracted keen interest in the media and the close attention of the US State Department, according to the police.

Governmental departments in China have evaluated and identified all those documents as forgeries. The Ministry of Public Security assigned the Chongqing Public Security Bureau to investigate.

According to that investigation, the twins saw an opportunity for profit after Guo

See **Forgers**, page 3

## Safety stressed after DPRK crash kills 32 Chinese

By **ZHANG YUNBI**  
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President Xi Jinping has urged maximizing safety precautions to protect the lives and assets of the public in an instruction on handling Sunday’s fatal bus accident in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

On Sunday night, the accident in North Hwanghae province, in the southwest of the DPRK, killed 32 Chinese tourists and four

DPRK citizens, and left two other Chinese in critical condition.

Xi quickly issued the instruction after the accident to require the Foreign Ministry and embassy in the DPRK to take all necessary measures to coordinate with DPRK authorities and effectively handle any issues or needs that arise.

No effort should be spared to assist the injured and deal with the aftermath involving the victims, and localities

involved should take the initiative to console their family members, Xi said in the instruction.

Xi said great attention should be paid to the recent frequency of accidents, and with the May 1 holidays approaching, localities and departments should fully honor their safety-related duties, rule out hidden risks, boost precautions and ramp up emergency responses.

Premier Li Keqiang also called for an early verification

of the accident’s details and effective rescue and treatment.

China solemnly mourns the Chinese compatriots and DPRK citizens, and offers condolences to the family members of those killed and injured, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily news conference in Beijing on Monday.

In a release earlier on

See **Crash**, page 3

## Cadets mark Navy’s 69th anniversary



The Dalian Naval Academy holds a parade to celebrate the 69th anniversary of the PLA Navy on Monday. Over 1,000 cadets marched in the parade. **YANG YI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE**

## NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The number of people heading overseas in search of work is falling as economic stability boosts wages and conditions

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With a population of 944,000, which barely makes it a fourth-tier city in China, Qingzhou in Shandong province is almost unknown to the outside world.

Still, its downtown roads are named for some of the best-known cities in the

world, including Tokyo, Paris and New York. That’s not because of a false sense of globalization; instead, the names reflect the fact that a large number of local residents have traveled overseas, including to African nations and the United States, to find work.

Nanzhanglou, a village in Qingzhou, was a center of the trend in the 1990s, and about 600 of the settlement’s 4,200

residents have worked or are working overseas in sectors that include construction, electronics, farming and retail business.

“There is no need to pay for interpreters if foreign guests visit our village,” said Yuan Xiangsheng, the village head. “We have residents who speak foreign languages fluently, including French, Japanese, English and Portuguese. You name it, we speak it.”

However, since the years of heavy job-related emigration in the 1990s and early 2000s, the number of people heading overseas has declined.

The Wangfu Shopping Plaza in Qingzhou is home to the largest number of agencies in the city that provide services, advice and contacts to workers hoping to gain employment overseas. At one time, more than 40 agencies were located at the three-story

center, but now only a quarter of them remain in operation.

“The market is not booming as it was in the 2000s,” said Zhang Yumei, a consultant at the Guolian Labor Force Exportation Service Center, adding that the average age of those seeking work overseas is older than before.

See **Work**, page 6

INSIDE

Nature provides spring gifts to cooks and diners

Life, p19