Looking ahead

Events and stories coming up in the next few days

Book fair in exhibition center opens in Beijing on Thursday

The Beijing Book Fair will be held at the China International Exhibition Center in the capital from Thursday to Saturday. More than 700 publishers and representatives from 3,000 bookstores and libraries will attend the event. Various activities including forums, reading clubs and lectures will be held during the fair.

Electronic games' regional finals set for Shandong

The World Electronic Sports Games Asia Pacific Finals will kick off on Thursday in Jiaozhou, Shandong province. The tournament offers a $92,500 prize pool distributed among the top eight teams out of 20 in the region. It will run until Sunday. The event is an international eSports championship tournament organized by AliSports, the sports arm of e-commerce behemoth Alibaba. It is touted as the world's highest paying e-sports series, with 1,200 events planned across 15 cities and offering a total prize purse of $5.5 million.

Latest *Jumanji* franchise to hit screens on Friday

Sony's action adventure comedy film *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* will hit Chinese theaters on Friday. The film continues the franchise that first hit the screens in the 1995 movie starring Robin Williams in an adaptation of the popular children's book. In the latest installment, four misfit high-school kids get sucked into a vintage video game and become the characters they've logged on as.

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People: Master *guqin* maker sets the tune for success

Guqin, or the Chinese zither, (a stringed instrument where the strings are the same length as the soundboard), has a history spanning more than 3,000 years. Wang Bing in Zunyi, Guizhou province, learned the intricate skills of zither-making when he was 10 and has been making the instrument for more than 30 years. It takes more than 100 steps to make a zither, Wang said. His products have been cherished by fans from home and abroad. The *guqin* and its music has been included by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Trend: Foreigners believe food is best 'taste' of culture

Foreigners believe Chinese cuisine is the factor that best represents Chinese culture, according to the 2016-2017 China National Image Global Survey released last week. Conducted by the Center for International Communication Studies at the China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration and global research agency Kantar Millward Brown and Lightspeed, the survey interviewed people in 22 countries, with 500 respondents from each country. Chinese medicine and martial arts also stood out as significant representatives of culture.

Photos: 'Basketball Granny', 82, holds court on the internet

An 82-year-old woman in Hefei, Anhui province, has astonished netizens with her skill on the basketball court. Photos of her playing went viral on social media recently, helping her earn the nickname of "Basketball Granny". Yue Jingxia, who was born in Liaoning province in 1936, has lived in Anhui for nearly 60 years. She fell in love with basketball in grade four in primary school. Apart from basketball, she's also good at yoga, which she started to learn 17 years ago.

Society: 1,500 contestants take part in festival ski races

The 2018 Changchun Ice and Snow Festival and the Jingyuetan Vasa International Skiing Festival recently kicked off in Changchun, Jilin province, last week. More than 1,500 contestants from 35 countries and regions will take part in the ski races. Various activities to promote snow and ice sports will be held during the event, which will last until March 2. To meet the demands of tourists and better promote the ice and snow tourism industry in Jilin, 41 venues for winter sports and entertainment have been constructed and there will plenty of opportunities to learn about Jilin culture, including its hot springs and villages.

Travel: Winter wonderland takes shape outside capital

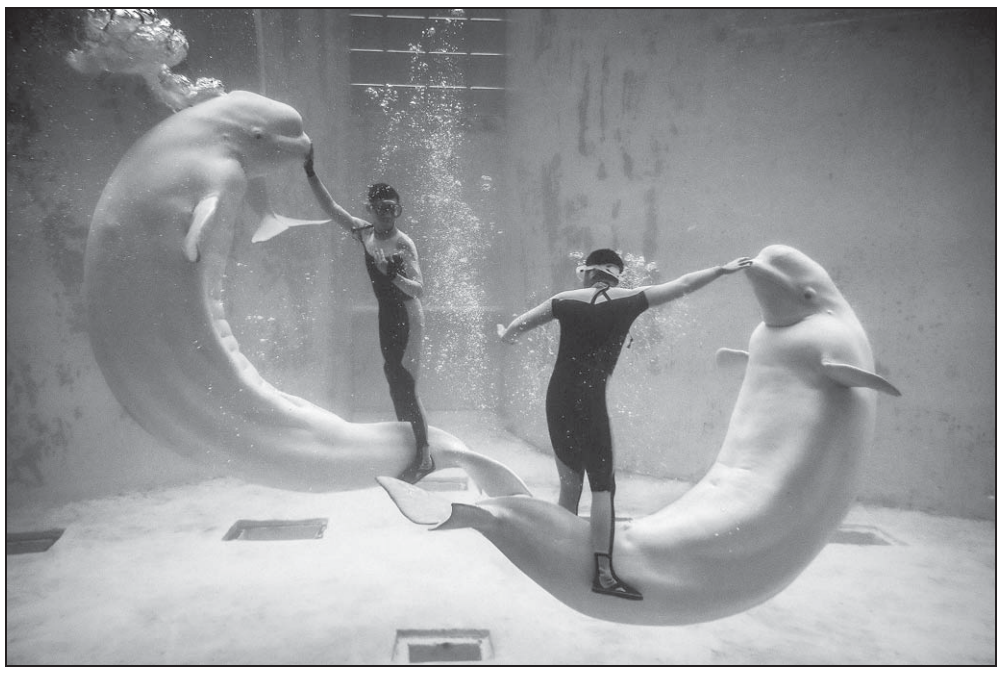
Plunging temperatures can provide a perfect setting for nature to work its magic. With snow yet to fall in the capital, people in Beijing have been going to the city's outskirts to view an ice cascade. Located at the Shenquan Valley in Mentougou, the scenic spot is 45 kilometers from downtown Beijing. Those who feel energetic can climb, or rest with a picnic and sightseeing. Visit our website to view the amazing winter scenes.

Art: Beijing exhibition aims to create urban dialogue

An art exhibition featuring paintings, sculptures and installations is showcasing the creative vitality of 15 contemporary Chinese artists. Organized by the Topred Gallery, it aims to initiate a dialogue between urban residents and contemporary art forms. Going beyond the bold experimentation of color and light, artists integrate the flavor of traditional culture into their works, such as Zen and nostalgia for one's motherland. The exhibit will run through to Feb 28.

Scan it! Read more on chinadaily.com.cn

Candid camera: Whale of a time



White whales and their trainers entertain visitors to an aqua park in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Monday. WANG HUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Dealing with disability to beat poverty

Erik Nilsson
Second Thoughts

They said there was a secret behind their house.

So, I left the couple shoveling corn into a wooden roasting barrel to investigate.

It turned out to be a cave containing buried treasure — liquor.

The couple uses the cavern hidden behind their home to store large ceramic urns in which their corn liquor ferments. I sniffed the finished product. It smelled … potent.

Deng Zaiquan and his wife haven't yet relocated from Guizhou province's underdeveloped Yikoudao village to Tongren city like most of their neighbors. He's concerned about getting a job, since he has a disabled arm.

So, they've spent the past four years brewing spirits to support their three children in high school in Tongren.

"Disabled people are worried there are no jobs for them in the city," said Xiao Han, a public servant in Tongren, who helped relocated villagers to adapt to urban life.

"There's no specialized training for them."

Deng's family owns a 120-square-meter modern apartment in Tongren. But the couple only visits it about five times a year.

"I want to find a job in the city to stay with our kids," Deng said, shoveling corn in front of his rustic house.

The kernels flew from the blade like sparks as he spoke.

"But most of my family's income comes from alcohol. I can do that here."

They earn 40,000 yuan to 50,000 yuan ($6,000-7,700) a year selling booze.

I've focused on covering poverty alleviation during my 11 years in China.

No society in human history has lifted so many people out of poverty so quickly.

The relocation program in Tongren and the construction of infrastructure in Guizhou serves as a microcosm for what's happening nationwide, as China has declared it'll eliminate extreme poverty by 2020.

Everyone knows China is a huge country with a huge population.

But fewer people appreciate the role of geography, which has largely conspired against the 1.4 billion people who inhabit the country's terrain.

China is crowded not only with people but also with geological hazards.

Its inhabitants dwell among an inordinate density of fault lines, mountains, deserts and plateaus.

Guizhou has long remained one of China's poorest provinces because of its mountainous terrain. It's diced by karst peaks that make agriculture, industry, transportation — basically, you name it — difficult to develop.

The country has made great strides in overcoming such roadblocks as mountains to enhance transportation in such tricky terrains.

Urban centralization in places like Tongren provide advanced, accessible public services and modern, private amenities in homes.

A growing number of programs provide job training to former farmers and herders that offer better livelihoods.

Deng is an outlier.

One of the final steps to eliminating poverty is to provide new opportunities for people like him.

I've noticed that when people remain poor in places where the government has generally brought prosperity, it's often linked to illness or disability. Deng's family is doing OK, financially.

But if he could work in the city, he could live there, too.

And he could enjoy its advantages — including being with his kids.

Contact the writer at erik_nilsson@chinadaily.com.cn

Online
Scan the code to hear an audio version.

This Day, That Year

40 years on

Editor's Note: *This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up policy.*

On Jan 10, 2001, Shenzhou 2, the country's second experimental unmanned spacecraft, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu province.

The Shenzhou series has carried out 11 flights.

In 2016, the Shenzhou XI manned spacecraft carried two astronauts into space to dock with the Tiangong II space lab. The astronauts worked in the lab for 30 days before returning to Earth.

Since November 1999, when Shenzhou 1 was launched, China has made major breakthroughs in its ambitious space program which envisions a space station and sending a probe to Mars at the start of the next decade.

China launched its first space lab, Tiangong I, in September 2011. It ended the data service in 2016.

Tiangong II space lab blasted off in 2016, which bodes well for the final phase of the country's three-step manned space program.

The first step, to send a man into space and return safely, was fulfilled by Yang Liwei in Shenzhou V in 2003.

The second step is to develop advanced space flight techniques and technologies including extravehicular activity and orbital docking.

The final step will be to assemble and operate a permanent manned space station.

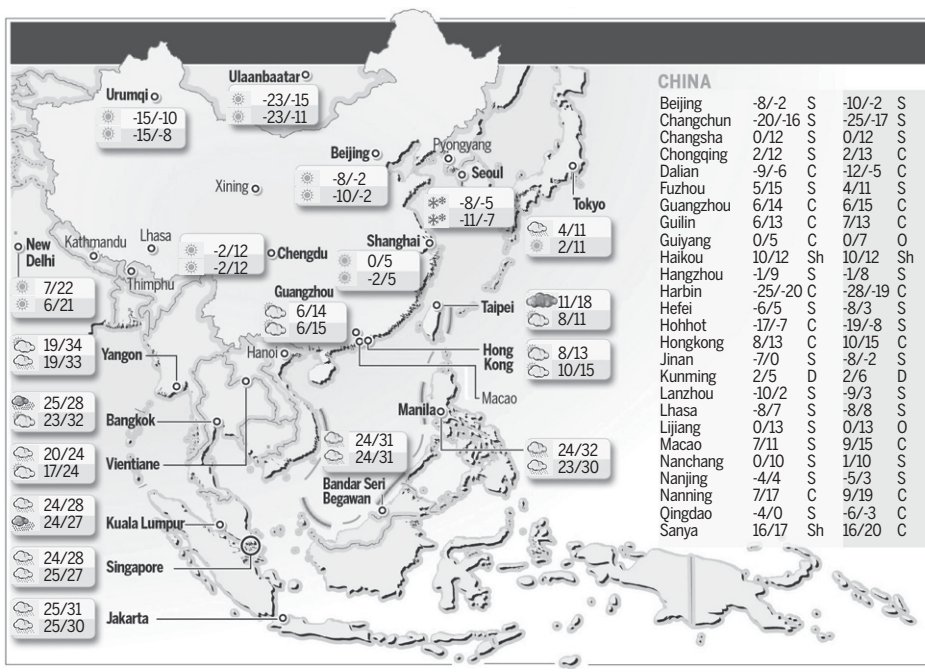
Shenzhou II lifts off

Construction of the station is planned for completion by 2020. It will enter into service around 2022, with an initial designed life of at least 10 years.

WED - THU JAN 10-11 weather

TRAVELER'S FORECAST

LOW/HIGH TEMPERATURES, IN DEGREES CELSIUS, AND EXPECTED CONDITIONS



CHINA				
Beijing	-8/-2	S	-10/-2	S
Changchun	-20/-16	S	-25/-17	S
Changsha	0/12	S	0/12	S
Chongqing	2/12	S	2/13	C
Dalian	-9/-6	C	-12/-5	C
Fuzhou	5/15	S	4/11	S
Guangzhou	6/14	C	6/15	C
Guilin	6/13	C	7/13	C
Guiyang	0/5	C	0/7	O
Haikou	10/12	Sh	10/12	Sh
Hangzhou	-1/9	S	-1/8	S
Harbin	-25/-20	C	-28/-19	C
Hefei	-6/5	S	-8/3	S
Hohhot	-17/-7	C	-19/-8	S
Hongkong	8/13	C	10/15	C
Jinan	-7/0	S	-8/-2	S
Kunming	2/5	D	2/6	D
Lanzhou	-10/2	S	-9/3	S
Lhasa	-8/7	S	-8/8	S
Lijiang	0/13	S	0/13	O
Macao	7/11	S	9/15	C
Nanchang	0/10	S	1/10	S
Nanjing	-4/4	S	-5/3	S
Nanning	7/17	C	9/19	C
Qingdao	-4/0	S	-6/-3	C
Sanya	16/17	Sh	16/20	C

CHINA				
Shanghai	0/5	S	-2/5	S
Shenyang	-17/-9	C	-22/-12	S
Shenzhen	7/13	C	9/13	C
Shijiazhuang	-4/3	S	-7/1	S
Suzhou	-2/6	S	-2/6	S
Taipei	11/18	O	8/11	C
Taiyuan	-13/0	C	-13/-2	S
Tianjin	-9/-2	S	-11/-3	S
Urumqi	-15/-10	S	-15/-8	S
Wuhan	-6/9	S	-6/10	S
Xi'an	-7/4	S	-7/4	S
Xiamen	8/15	S	7/13	S
Xining	-19/2	S	-19/1	C
Yantai	-4/-3	Sn	-6/-5	Sn
Yinchuan	-12/-1	S	-13/0	S
Zhengzhou	-4/3	S	-8/2	S
Zhuhai	7/11	S	9/15	C

EUROPE				
Athens	3/13	D	5/15	R
Berlin	-4/-1	Sn	-3/-3	O
Brussels	0/5	R/Sn	0/6	R/Sn
Geneva	-3/0	Sn	-5/-1	Sn
Istanbul	6/14	O	8/15	O
London	3/9	D	2/2	C
Madrid	-2/0	Sn	-1/5	R/Sn
Moscow	-8/-3	Sn	-4/-3	Sn
Paris	0/7	R/Sn	0/0	R/Sn
Rome	9/11	D	8/8	D
Vienna	4/6	D	2/3	D

C Cloudy
D Drizzle
Du Dust
F Fog
H Haze
O Overcast
R Rain
Sh Shower
S Sunny
Sn Snow
St Storm
T Thunderstorms

WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY

ASIA-PACIFIC-MIDDLE EAST				
Abu Dhabi	15/25	C	15/24	S
Bangkok	25/28	R	23/32	C
Colombo	21/31	D	23/30	D
Dubai	18/25	S	19/26	S
Hanoi	5/16	O	11/16	O
Islamabad	4/20	S	5/23	O
Jakarta	25/31	D	25/30	D
Karachi	12/28	S	14/28	C
Kuala Lumpur	24/28	D	24/27	R
Manila	24/32	D	23/30	D
Mumbai	16/33	S	18/33	S
New Delhi	7/22	S	6/21	S
Pyongyang	-9/-7	Sn	-14/-9	C
Riyadh	-1/15	S	-2/15	S
Seoul	-8/-5	Sn	-11/-7	Sn
Singapore	24/28	D	25/27	D
Sydney	20/24	O	19/26	C
Teheran	-3/2	S	-2/3	S
Tokyo	4/11	D	2/11	S
Wellington	18/20	D	16/20	D
Yangon	19/34	C	19/33	D

AMERICAS				
BuenosAires	21/32	S	21/33	C
Caracas	24/25	D	23/24	S
Chicago	0/6	D	4/10	D
Houston	8/13	C	10/13	C
Las Vegas	10/10	C	6/9	S
Los Angeles	11/13	S	9/15	S
Mexico city	4/9	S	7/9	D
New York	1/2	S	-1/9	C
Ottawa	-4/-4	C	-10/5	Sn
Rio De Janeiro	27/29	D	25/26	D
San Francisco	10/11	D	10/12	D
Sao Paulo	19/23	D	17/21	D
Vancouver	2/2	D	2/2	D
Washington	0/2	C	-2/6	O

AFRICA				
Cairo	11/23	O	12/22	O
CapeTown	15/29	S	16/30	S
Johannesburg	9/26	D	14/25	C
Lagos	20/24	S	20/26	S
Nairobi	13/27	D	15/26	D