China released a white paper titled “Development of China’s High-speed Rail” on Thursday, said Jing Xiubin, the director of China National Railway Co, the shareholder of China’s high-speed rail. The white paper said the high-speed rail has greatly improved the efficiency of transport, shortened the travel time, increased the transport capacity, and strengthened the country’s competitive edge.


**TOP NEWS**

**China to invest $500 billion to boost high-speed rail plan**

Goals include rejuvenating western China and country’s economy, transportation official says.

By ZHANG XIAOZHI

The recent mass media attention toward the high-speed rail project is becoming a natural trend.

China will provide about $39 billion in loans for the high-speed rail project, said on Thursday. “It is a project that will contribute to the success of the project,” said Yang Hao, a professor of rail transport at Beijing Jiaotong University.

The high-speed rail network in China will be able to cover all major cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, according to the white paper.

The Chinese government is also taking steps to boost the high-speed rail project in the western regions of the country.

**The world's highest bridge, 562 meters, opened on Thursday at the border of Southwest China's Guizhou and Yunnan provinces.**

By WANG YUNFENG

The new railway will accelerate the economic development of the region, and all other forms of transportation will be improved.

The eastern route, where most of the major cities are located, has not yet been able to offer all the benefits of high-speed rail.

The investment in high-speed rail is expected to bring about a new era of connectivity and economic growth in China.

**WILDLIFE**

**Report on Zimbabwe elephants ‘nonsense’**

By MO YINGZI

China rebutted a recent report that Zimbabwe had sent wild animals, including 30 elephants, to China for a military payoff, saying it is not “in exchange with an olive branch.”

The report was published in the London Times newspaper on Monday following a visit by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to China. The report said the wild animals were sent to China as a gesture of goodwill.

However, the Chinese government has said that the animals were sent to China as part of a broader effort to protect the wildlife in Africa.

The report also said that China was sending more wild animals to other countries.

China rebutted the suggestion that the animals were being sent to China as a military maneuver, saying it is not “in exchange with an olive branch.”

China has a long history of conservation and protection of wildlife, and it has also provided financial aid to countries such as Zimbabwe to help protect their wildlife.

China has also said that the animals were sent to China for conservation and research purposes.

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