

Soaring start

China's CH-7 high-altitude, high-speed drone makes maiden flight **CHINA, PAGE 5**

Campus pride fuels sales of winter wear

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Cultural emblem

'Beijing Gifts' program revives traditions with modern design

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XI'S VISION | CULTURAL HERITAGE

Shandong gives new life to traditions

Province leveraging rich history to help Chinese culture thrive in modern times

By **ZHAO RUIXUE** in Qufu, Shandong and **WANG KAIHAO** in Beijing

More than 2,000 years since the great Chinese philosopher Confucius (551-479 BC) worked relentlessly to nurture people through culture, a similar endeavor thrives today. In his birthplace in Shandong province, ancient traditions are not just mere words in textbooks, but are instead vibrant and tangible experiences.

Elizova Elizaveta, 23, a student from Russia who is studying Chinese in Qufu, Shandong, recently took part in one such experience. As she carefully smoothed a sheet of paper over a stone and evenly sprinkled it with water, she experienced the magic of the age-old technique of rubbings for the first time.

"There is no such thing in Russia.

This is what makes Chinese culture interesting," she said, tracing the emerging image with her fingers.

Not too far away in Luyuan village in Qufu, tourists get the opportunity to be not just spectators, but actual participants in myriad traditional experiences. They can try their hand at weaving intricate *lujin*, or Lu brocade, and watch thrilling acrobatic performances from up close.

These examples of intangible cultural heritage, once at risk of becoming a distant memory, are finding new vitality by integrating with modern tourism, epitomizing Shandong's push for creative transformation and innovative development of fine traditional Chinese culture.

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WORKFORCE RIDES AI WAVE AS NEW ROLES EMERGE

Fast-moving technology pushes employees toward more creative, high-value jobs

By **HOU CHENCHEN** *houchench@chinadaily.com.cn*

Hua Yilian, a 28-year-old based in Beijing, witnessed the full force of technology's impact on the employment market after securing a job in the AI industry in 2024.

As a business developer at a large model company, she had overseen the launch of an artificial intelligence translation system. But the celebration ended almost instantly. A language expert who had worked beside her day after day to train the system was laid off the moment it went live.

"I understand it will happen that AI will take over many jobs. But it's a shock when you experience it yourself. You see a dedicated and meticulous colleague you've spent every day with suddenly become a victim of the very project

they helped to succeed," Hua said. Her experience reflects the sharp edges of China's shifting AI job market — tremendous opportunity on one side, and the rapid erosion of traditional roles on the other. Many workers are anxious to find their place in the changing job landscape, yet what is emerging holds both promise and uncertainty.

According to a report by consulting firm McKinsey&Company, China will need up to 6 million AI professionals by 2030, but the domestic talent pool is projected to fill only about a third of those roles — leaving a shortfall of roughly 4 million workers.

See **AI**, page 2

Sydney in mourning



Councillor Will Nemesh, mayor of Waverley, lays a wreath to pay tribute to victims of the Bondi Beach shooting in Sydney, Australia, on Monday. Two gunmen — father and son — shot dead at least 15 people and wounded scores of others as crowds gathered at the beach to celebrate the first day of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights. **MARK BAKER / AP** See story, page 11

Xi stresses importance of raising minors' moral standards

By **CAO DESHENG** *caodesheng@chinadaily.com.cn*

President Xi Jinping has underlined the strategic importance of intellectual and moral development for minors, and called for joint efforts to create a sound social environment conducive to the healthy growth of young people.

Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction on work to raise minors' moral standards.

He noted that since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, the CPC Central Committee has attached great importance to the intellectual and moral development of minors and implemented various measures to advance related work, achieving new progress and outcomes.

On the new journey, work to raise minors' moral standards should be carried out as a strategic and fundamental task, Xi said, adding that it is essential to persistently use the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to nurture and shape young minds.

He called for improving the col-

laborative educational mechanism involving schools, families and society to guide minors in fostering lofty ideals, practicing core socialist values, and developing a good moral character and behavior in order to nurture a new generation of capable young people with an all-around moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic grounding and a hardworking spirit, who will fully develop socialism and carry forward the socialist cause.

Xi urged Party committees and governments at all levels, as well as relevant departments and organizations, to work together to foster a

sound social environment for the healthy growth of minors.

Xi's instruction was conveyed at a symposium on work regarding the intellectual and moral development of minors, which was held in Beijing on Monday.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, attended the symposium and delivered a speech.

Li Shulei, head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, chaired the symposium.

Light of hope



Devotees light butter lamps on Sunday evening at the Kumbum Monastery in Xining, Northwest China's Qinghai province, to pray for happiness and good health through the night. The Butter Lamp Festival commemorates Tsong Khapa, a master of Tibetan Buddhism. The annual festival is observed on the 25th day of the 10th month in the Tibetan calendar. **MA MINGYAN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE**

Hainan FTP launches intl services portal

By **CHEN BOWEN** in Haikou *chenbowen@chinadaily.com.cn*

The Hainan Free Trade Port launched an international services portal on Monday, three days before the launch of its landmark island-wide special customs operations. The portal, en.hainan.gov.cn, centralizes information and streamlines services for expatriates and foreign-invested enterprises.

The timing coincides with the island province's push to increase accessibility as it reaches a key juncture in its development. The island-wide special customs operations, set to begin on Thursday, mark a significant phase in China's wider opening-up policy.

For the international community in Hainan, the portal addresses a long-standing need for consolidated, reliable information.

"I believe it represents the culmination of the many efforts to make Hainan more accessible for foreign nationals," said David Adrian Janke, an entrepreneur and translator from the United Kingdom. "I am glad that there is now a reliable platform that puts the breadth and depth of various aspects of living, working and doing business in Hainan at users' fingertips."

The multilingual portal features seven primary sections, including Dynamic Hainan, an introduction to the island province; Do Business, serving the FTP's goal of building a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment; and Online Services. It offers 44 high-demand service categories and 95 specific international service items, each with bilingual Chinese-English guides. Services



Zeeshan Qasim Khan, a Pakistani entrepreneur, takes photos of a board listing an array of official social media accounts of the Hainan Free Trade Port International Services portal at its launch event on Monday in Haikou, Hainan province.

FU SHIHONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

accessible through a single login range from accommodation registration, work permits and medical appointments to visa-free policy details and driving services.

The portal was initially launched in English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. It integrates 29 provincial foreign-related business systems and links directly with Hainan's main e-governance platform, Haiyiban.

The portal's practical value quickly gained recognition among businesspeople. Jan Kerekes, a Slovak-Canadian working in international trade, noted a dramatic improvement in convenience. "Now, all procedures are centralized on the portal, and frequently used services such as enterprise registration and consular authentication can be completed through the portal," he said.

Kerekes added that easy access to updated policies and industrial park information saves a substan-

tial amount of time and strengthens confidence for foreign investors.

Other international users pointed to its potential for deepening business engagement. South African entrepreneur Lara Netherlands, founder of an economic consulting firm, said she hopes to use the portal to gain detailed policy insights and "facilitate clients with tailored business plans and a soft landing in the Hainan FTP." She also anticipates efficient feedback from the portal's online email channels.

Zeeshan Qasim Khan, a Pakistani businessman, praised the portal. "This platform is of significant importance and is useful in our daily life. ... It's an exciting step forward in our shared vision for a more connected, responsive and inclusive future," he said.

The Hainan Provincial Department of Business Environment Development developed the portal in coordination with multiple provincial departments and China Daily.

At its launch event in Haikou, Liu Weiling, deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily, said that China Daily will commit to supporting the portal's development to set "a new benchmark for foreign-related services".

Local officials said the portal demonstrates China's commitment to wider economic openness. They said it will continue to be enhanced with a user-centered approach to attract more global talent and resources to the FTP.



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Jimmy Lai found guilty of violating security law

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

Hong Kong's High Court on Monday found Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, founder of the now-defunct tabloid Apple Daily, guilty of violating the Hong Kong SAR National Security Law, including on two counts of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces.

Inside The central authorities, the special administrative region government, and several political heavyweights welcomed the verdict, adding that Lai's actions endangering national security, proved by irrefutable evidence, must face legal consequences.

The defendants included Lai and three companies — Apple Daily, Apple Daily Printing and Apple Daily Internet. All faced charges of conspiracy to publish seditious materials and conspiracy to collude with external forces. Lai faced a separate charge of conspiring to collude with external forces.

See **Verdict**, page 3

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