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Xi's climate speech wins global acclaim

President pledges firm measures to reach carbon neutrality goal by 2060

By CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels, REN QI in Moscow, and ANGUS MCNEICE in London

President Xi Jinping's speech on Thursday at the Leaders Summit on Climate, where he set out China's ambitious vision, has won praise from world leaders and experts.

In the speech, Xi talked about how man and nature should build a community of life together and vowed the country will take aggressive measures to reach carbon neutrality by 2060, including to begin phasing out coal.

"I think what President Xi had to say about the harmony with nature was absolutely vital," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a speech shortly after Xi's.

"If we're going to tackle climate change sustainably, we have to deal with the disaster of habitat loss and species loss across our planet and we want to see even more examples of government and private industry working hand in hand as with the newly launched LEAF Coalition to reduce deforestation and the multi-trillion dollar Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero," said Johnson, referring to global initiatives to protect tropical forests and speed up net zero transition.

The United Kingdom will host COP26 in Glasgow in November while China will host the UN Biodiversity Conference in October.

In his speech, Gaston Browne,

prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, praised China and the US for their pledges at the virtual meeting, which was hosted by the US and drew 40 world leaders.

"We are grateful that the United States and China have pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and we look forward to swift action in their transitioning into carbon neutral economies," Browne said.

Nicholas Stern, chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science, said that Xi repeated China's commitment to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, but also added for the first time that China will strictly limit the increase in coal consumption during the period of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and will phase down coal during the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30).

"This suggests that China could reach its peak emissions by 2025, or soon after, which would be a significant advance in ambition," said Stern, a British economist.

Hegge Fjellheim, head of Norway-based Carbon Research at Refinitiv, said that Xi's speech "adds to the positive momentum for global climate change mitigation in the year of COP26".

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Official's video propels her to social media stardom

By CUI JIA
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Riding a horse at a high speed on stunning grassland covered with snow while dressed in a red cloak and a white fur hat isn't something people would normally see in Chinese government official do. So it's no surprise that He Jiaolong, a female official from the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, almost instantly became a social media celebrity after she posted such a video.

He, 41, the former deputy head of Zhaosu county, came up with the idea to make the video when she was thinking about new ways to let more people know about the famous breed of the county in Ili Kazak autonomous prefecture known as "heavenly horses".

Since she posted the 16-second video on short-video platform Douyin on Nov 23, it has been viewed more than 520 million times. Also, the number of followers of her account soared to almost 2.92 million after she posted a series of videos of her on horseback. Furthermore, the county has seen a significant increase in the number of tourists shortly after the video went viral.

Recently, she became even more famous after she announced in a video that she had been promoted to deputy head of the prefecture's culture and tourism bureau on April 13. In the video, she was on horseback again, roaming the prefecture's famous Naar grassland when apricot flowers were in full bloom.

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He Jiaolong, a former deputy head of Zhaosu county, rides a horse to promote the county in Ili Kazak autonomous prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, in December. (DING LEI / XINHUA)



The combination of Tianhe, the core module of China's space station, and the Long March 5B Y2 rocket is transported to the launching area of the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan province on Friday. SU DONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Nation's next space flight imminent

By ZHAO LEI
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The Long March 5B carrier rocket tasked with launching the core capsule of China's space station was moved on Friday morning to the launch tower at the Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan province.

The China Manned Space Agency said that the rocket with the core capsule inside will begin pre-launch examinations. Currently, equipment at the coastal launch center is in good condition and personnel involved in the launch mission are making preparations, it noted.

The launch mission, the second flight for the Long March 5B, is scheduled to take place in the coming days, sources close to the mission said.

China's most sophisticated space endeavor, the multimodule space station, named Tangong, or Heav-

enly Palace, will mainly be composed of three components — a core capsule attached to two space laboratories — with a combined weight of more than 90 metric tons.

The station is expected to become fully operational next year and is set to operate for about 15 years, the program's planners have said.

The core capsule, named Tianhe, or Harmony of Heavens, is 16.6 meters long with a diameter of 4.2 meters. It will be central to the space station's operations, given that astronauts will live there and control the entire station from inside. The module will also be capable of hosting scientific experiments.

The capsule will have three parts — a connecting section, a life-support and control section, and a resources section.

After the capsule is launched, astronauts on the Shenzhou XII and XIII missions and two cargo

ships will be launched within a few months to prepare the module for docking with other parts of the station.

Tiangong's two space labs will then be launched in separate Long March 5B missions and two more manned missions and two robotic cargo flights will be made to continue construction of the station.

The Long March 5B is the most powerful Chinese rocket when it comes to carrying capacity in a low-Earth orbit. It is essential to the space station program because it is now the only Chinese launch vehicle capable of carrying large space station parts into orbit. The Long March 5B is 53.7 meters long, with a core-stage diameter of five meters. The rocket is propelled by liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen and kerosene and has a lift-off weight of about 849 tons.

It conducted its maiden flight in May 2020 from the Wenchang space complex.

Diplomat: China never engages in geopolitics

By ZHOU JIN and ZHAO JIA

A senior Chinese diplomat has said that the nation never engages in geopolitics and has no interest in playing the climate change card, and called for global action and cooperation to deal with the common challenge.

Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaomou made the remark at a news briefing late on Thursday after President Xi Jinping joined world leaders at a virtual climate summit.

The response to climate change shouldn't become a geopolitical bargaining chip, a means of attacking other nations or an excuse for imposing trade barriers, Ma said.

Xi's participation in the summit showed the great importance China attaches to climate change, as well as China's responsibility as a major country in global environmental governance, Ma said.

Economic recovery, environmental protection and climate change response have become common concerns as well as key issues for the international community, Ma said, adding that it was meaningful for Xi to attend the summit and deliver a speech at such a critical moment.

Xi said in his speech that it requires "extraordinarily hard efforts" for China to fulfill its commitment to moving from carbon peak to carbon neutrality, which is in a much shorter time span than what might take many developed countries.

Ma said the two goals were a reflection of China's firm determination to tackle climate change.

China will achieve the transition from carbon peak to carbon neutral in just 30 years, meaning that the country needs to complete the world's highest reduction in carbon emissions, Ma said.

He said that this decision requires enormous efforts to make extensive, profound and practical changes in economic and social spheres.

Xie Zhenhua, China's special envoy for climate change affairs, said that the two goals proposed amid a depressed world economy greatly boosted the confidence of the international community, when many countries were challenged by the raging pandemic and had less confidence to implement the Paris agreement.

According to Xie, during his talks with his US counterpart John Kerry in Shanghai last week, China and the US reached a preliminary agreement on taking practical actions domestically regarding climate change as well as jointly making contributions to global climate governance.

Xie said that their agreements aren't empty talk and require concrete actions.

"We will establish an official cooperation channel in appropriate time and do not rule out setting up a joint working group on climate change," he said.

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Opening to spur service sector growth

By ZHONG NAN
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China's move to expand the opening up of the service industry in four regions will accelerate the growth of the modern service sector, and create new competitive edges in international cooperation and

competition, government officials and business leaders said on Friday.

They made the remarks after the State Council approved the launch earlier this month of comprehensive pilot programs to further open up the service sector in Hainan province, as well as in Tianjin, Shanghai and Chongqing municipalities in

order to develop new systems for a higher-standard open economy.

According to an approval statement released on Tuesday, the three municipalities, together with the southern island province of Hainan, can proceed with 203 comprehensive opening-up trials in the service sector in the next three years.

Zong Changqing, director-general of the department of foreign investment administration at the Ministry of Commerce, said the local governments will be urged to serve major national strategies and carry out differentiated exploration under the premise of securing risk control, with the goal of creating replicable practices in the development of a modern industrial system as well as

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'Space Day' celebrates Chinese achievements in lunar exploration



View of the central business district of Jiangning district in Nanjing. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Jiangning hosts nation's key event due to its research strength, large talent pool and aerospace industry cluster

By YUAN SHENGGAO

China celebrates its sixth National Space Day in Nanjing on April 24, the capital city of eastern China's Jiangsu province. The celebrations follow recent milestones in lunar exploration and the upcoming landing of its Mars probe.

In 2016, China set April 24 as the country's Space Day to mark the launch of its first satellite Dongfanghong-1 into space on April 24, 1970. This year marks the 65th anniversary of China's aerospace development and about 300 activities will be held nationwide with the slogan of "Yoursing into Space, Pursuing Dreams".

The name of China's first Mars rover, a series of awards and an innovation competition will be announced at the opening ceremony at Jiangning district in Nanjing.

The district is holding the China Space Conference from April 23-26, comprising more than 30 activities such as international academic forums, keynote speeches, educational events, and exhibitions.

Jiang Jun, director of the Chinese Society of Astronautics' technology communication department, said this year is crucial for China's aerospace development.

The aerospace industry is listed as a national strategic emerging industry, according to the outline of the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for national economic and social development and the long-range objectives through 2035.



The Nanjing Science and Technology City is the venue for the National Space Day in Jiangning district, Nanjing.

China will vigorously promote the development of the aerospace industry, formulate a comprehensive development plan, and issue a new version of China's aeronautic and astronautic white paper during the 14th Five-Year Plan.

About 50 scholars will deliver reports, including Ye Feifan, a leading scientist in deep-space exploration at the China Academy of Space Technology, and Wang Chi, director-general of the National Space Science Center of CAS, as well as Hu Hao, director of the National Lunar Exploration Center.

Key spacecraft models and some original devices will be on display from April 24 to May 5.

The first-ever exhibition of lunar samples, Chang's 5 return capsule and parachute outside of Beijing drew the most attention.

A group of cooperation projects will be signed at the conference. Jiangning district in particular is expected to welcome projects with over 10 billion yuan (\$1.54 billion) in investments.

When asked how Jiangning district is able to organize the national

level activity, Li Qiang, vice-director of the Industry and Information Technology Department of Jiangsu province, said the advantages of the district are in its research strength, large talent pool and an aerospace industry cluster.

"We are home to 26 colleges, about 100 research institutions and more than 1,000 high-tech companies," he said.

In 2021, the district has set up six key aerospace projects with a total investment of 6.27 billion yuan.

The planned investment for the year was 1.52 billion yuan. As of the end of March, over 300 million yuan has been poured in.

The projects cover the research and development of aviation electro-mechanical systems, new aviation materials, high-end equipment, intelligent production assembly lines, aircraft engines and control systems.

Moreover, the Nanjing Airport Economic Development Zone, set up in 2019, was approved as the 14th National Airport Economic Demonstration Zone.

It has drawn more than 400 projects from 15 countries and regions,

of which 14 projects are being conducted by the world's top 500 companies.

Together, they form a hub of aviation manufacturing, air transportation services, and airport high-tech industries.

The zone's regional GDP last year increased by 13.7 percent year-on-year and the output value of large-sized enterprises rose 14 percent, even under the effects of the coronavirus outbreak. It signed about 33 projects with a total investment value of 33.9 billion yuan.

The zone's administration has been actively encouraging companies to strive for independent technology innovation.

In 2020, the average annual growth rate of core innovation indicators, such as high-tech enterprises' output value and the number of applications filed via the Patent Cooperation Treaty, exceeded 25 percent on a yearly basis.

"In the aviation manufacturing arena, we focus on the high-quality production of aircraft engines, operating systems and large-sized aircraft components and parts,"

said Li Junjie, deputy director of the zone's administrative committee.

The air transportation industry has gathered more than 60 aviation logistics companies and a number of all-cargo airlines, such as SF Express, as well as many e-commerce retailers such as Tmall and e-commerce giant Alibaba's grocery chain Hema Fresh. Retail heavyweights are also setting up their regional headquarters for warehouses and logistic networks in the zone, transforming it into an important air cargo and express delivery center in the Yangtze River Delta.

Jiangning district in Nanjing has lured an array of high-tech and high-quality aerospace innovation enterprises and a rich pool of industry experts.

Aerospace Technophilia Lot Academy (Nanjing) was established by Gao Baolong, an engineer of a Beijing-based research institution, in 2018.

It is the first privately-controlled company funded by the State-owned enterprise China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

It has developed more than 30 products, including intelligent sensors, smart production and testing equipment for aerospace devices, an internet-of-things supervision system and a channel intelligent detecting system.

Its annual output value rose to more than 21 million yuan in 2020, up 67 times that from 2018. Its revenue is estimated to reach 50 million yuan this year.

It has also been in close cooperation with local universities. In November, it teamed up with the Nanjing University of Science and Technology to develop a semi-physical system for simulating the control and flight of carrier rockets.

In the development process of the launch vehicle control system, flight testing is essential to obtain-

ing various data in real situations, but the flight test is expensive, an executive of the startup said. It's also difficult to obtain data.

"Our semi-physical simulation technology can capture a large amount of effective data with the least financial input," he added.

He is confident that the test result delivered by their technology can be as equal as realistically possible to an actual situation, when conditions permit. It replaces the corresponding part of the mathematical model to obtain more accurate information.

Nanjing ACME was set up in the district in 2013 through Nanjing's leading technology talent scheme. It focuses on world-leading electronic cooling solutions and products.

"We renovated the world's first aluminum alloy-based cooling material which could substantially decrease weight and extend working time," said the company's Chairman Xu Dehao.

Taking an energy storage panel the startup developed for a space vehicle as an example, Xu said they doubled the device's working period and cut 40 percent of its weight.

They are also exploring various business applications. In major data centers, their technology can also cut their energy consumption half and Xu said a demonstration project is in the pipeline.

"Our output value doubles every year and the goal this year is 200 million yuan," the executive said.

He said the aerospace industry ecosystem in Jiangning assists the company's fast development. Many of his clients are located in the district and the local universities also provides the talents they needed.

Higher education in Nanjing takes center stage at conference

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Higher education institutions have become the backbone of the development of the aerospace domain in Jiangning district in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province. The institutions have also taken center stage at the China Space Conference, a key event of the China Space Day celebration starting on Saturday.

About 26 colleges and 100 research institutions are located in the district, and many of them focus on aviation and space science, exporting plenty of top talents for both state projects and private aerospace technology development.

The forum will witness the initiation of a national aerospace science popularization activity for youth as well as a national aerospace school project.

Nanjing University of Science and Technology also cultivated more than 3,000 top-notch aerospace technology talents since its

founding in 1953. During the China Space Day celebration, the school will carry out a forum centered on the coordinative development between the economy and national defense.

It has invited more than 30 academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering, as well as entrepreneurs and well-known alumni, to discuss cutting-edge technologies such as quantum information perception technology, space on-orbit service and control technology, and aerospace propulsion and special material.

It will also demonstrate more than 30 key technology breakthroughs in six aspects: on-orbit service, advanced detection, advanced power, advanced manufacturing, cutting-edge basic research, and aerospace science education.

To popularize aerospace science, the school intends to give full play of its Qian Xuesen education base and organize a series of educational activities.

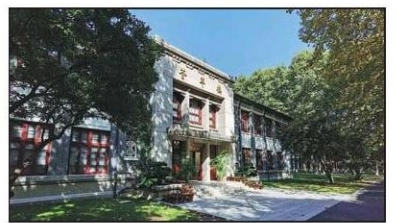
Academy and industry heavyweights will give about 20 lectures to local students, helping the students to expand their horizons and develop the next generation of aerospace aficionados.

It has also undertaken relevant research and development tasks in major national aerospace projects such as the Tianwen 1 Mars probe, manned moon landing, space station construction, asteroid exploration demonstration, and dark matter detection satellites.

It is also designed to encourage the exploration of education content in primary and middle schools and establish a long-term training model for aerospace professionals.

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Clockwise from left: A model of a Long March 5 carrier rocket is displayed at Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. The Huicui Building at the university. A retired airliner is exhibited in Jiangning. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY