





TOP NEWS

Coffee on the cliff



Visitors make a beeline for a cliffside cafe at the Fangdong scenic area in Yandang Mountain in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, on Sunday. The Yandang Mountain scenic area has leveraged the natural beauty of the place to create unique experiences for visitors, enabling the historical site to remain a tourist magnet. ZHU HAIWEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Conflict: Peace talks urged for ceasefire

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He said that Israel's military campaign in Gaza is unlikely to ease in the short term, with operations expected to continue until its stated objectives are met. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise, and the humanitarian crisis is likely to deepen. "Prospects for a ceasefire in Gaza remain slim, with the pace of the conflict largely shaped by Israel's domestic politics and regional ambitions," Ding said, adding that he believes that even if Hamas signaled readiness for a truce, Israel would be unlikely to agree. On Thursday, the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan were among 21 countries that condemned Israel's plan to build a settlement in the occupied West Bank, warning that the move undermines prospects for a two-state solution. Ding said that an increasing number of Western countries are shifting their stance on the conflict in Gaza, openly criticizing Israel and voicing support for Palestinian statehood. "Israel, however, with firm backing from the US, has shown little regard for international opinion and continues its campaign to eliminate Hamas and reassert control over Gaza," he said. "The immediate priority is to de-escalate the conflict and work toward a ceasefire," Ding said, adding that peace talks can help bring the matter back to the path of a two-state solution, he said.

Agencies contributed to this story.

Innovation: Foreign firms bullish on Chinese market

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Pan Helin, a member of the Expert Committee for Information and Communication Economy, which is part of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said, "The integrated advancements in sci-tech innovation and industrial innovation are crucial for promoting social and economic development, advancing Chinese modernization and cultivating fresh driving forces." According to Pan, China's sharpened focus on nurturing new quality productive forces is conducive to speeding up the establishment of a modern industrial system, enhancing the stability and resilience of industrial and supply chains, and boosting the country's core competitiveness on

Nursery rooms help fathers take part in parenting duties with more ease

By CHEN MEILING in Beijing and CHEN HONG in Shenzhen, Guangdong province

There is good news for fathers on a day out with small children. Shopping malls in Chinese cities have begun introducing family restrooms and changing areas for babies that can be used by both men and women, reflecting an emphasis on optimizing public service infrastructure as more couples share parenting duties equally. At a shopping mall in Beijing's Chaoyang district, what was once a mother-and-baby room has been renovated into a nursery room for both fathers and mothers. Outside, a board reads "A room that not only belongs to her" and another says "Co-parenting". Inside, there are changing tables, a feeding bottle heater, parent-child toilets, sofas and washbasins. Behind a glass door, there are several cubicles with curtains exclusively for breast-feeding mothers. At the Huiduo Mall in Chaoyang, a Super Dads' Spot has been in operation for the past few months from 10 am to 10 pm daily. According to a staff member, the facility was created in response to a number of requests from customers. A man surnamed Wu, who had taken his 3-year-old daughter to the mall on Friday, praised the dads' spot, which basically offers baby rooms complete with hot water dispenser, bottle warmers, training pants and disinfectant wipes for the convenience of men visiting the mall with their children. "It was not convenient for us (fathers) to enter the mother-and-baby rooms," he said. In Shenzhen, Guangdong province, the Rainbow Shopping Center in Bao'an district has set up a father-and-baby room next to the mother-and-baby room on two floors. According to mall manager Li Yinfen, the mall was renovated in 2021,

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Zhang Hongchuan, an associate professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics

and the father-and-baby rooms were built in response to customer needs. "Since there are breastfeeding mothers in the nursing room, it was inconvenient for men who are alone with their children to enter, so setting up a father-and-baby room was very necessary," she said. In Shanghai, a mall offers separate family restrooms for men and women equipped with changing tables for the convenience of parents. It has received widespread praise since opening in October last year. The topic "shopping malls having father-and-baby rooms" had received about 5.91 million views on hot search lists of Sina Weibo as of Sunday. A netizen, who's also a father, commented that every time he took his little daughter out, it would be very inconvenient using restrooms, as it was awkward entering the men's restroom with his daughter or accompanying her to the women's restroom. Zhang Hongchuan, an associate professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics' School of Sociology and Psychology in Beijing, said that while traditional perceptions often assign mothers a greater role in child rearing, research has

recognized the importance of men's participation, since the absence of either parent in a child's development is far from ideal. "Father-and-baby rooms provide essential infrastructure to support fathers in their parenting duties. Through slogans and thoughtfully designed spaces, public perception and behavior can be nudged, encouraging men to step into the parenting sphere, establishing social norms, and reinforcing the idea that it is perfectly normal for men to take an active role in child-rearing," he said. As birth rates continue to decline year by year, it's necessary to build a childbirth-friendly society, and actions like these can cumulatively help this process, he added. Zhou Yunging, a professor at Wuhan University's School of Sociology in Hubei province, believes that the emergence of father-and-baby rooms is an important step in improving family and life services. This development shows that public spaces are being created with the needs of people's livelihoods in mind and is a mark of civilizational progress. Huang Lei, who has often spent time alone with his high school-age daughter since childhood, said that such measures show that the stereotype of women dominating parenting is changing, and are helpful for fathers to develop a stronger sense of responsibility. "Besides, I think most fathers want to and are capable of taking care of babies, but sometimes mothers worry whether they can do it well," he said. "Such father-and-baby rooms give fathers the chance to prove themselves, while mothers get the opportunity to use the free time on themselves."

Yang Che contributed to this story.

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Typhoon Kajiki brings heavy rain in Hainan

Sanya authorities had evacuated more than 30,000 people to safety

By CHEN BOWEN in Haikou and ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan, Shandong province

Strong winds and heavy rain whipped South China's Hainan province and parts of Guangdong province on Sunday, as Typhoon Kajiki passed over open waters to the south of Hainan and headed toward Vietnam's central coast. A short video posted online by Guangdong Radio and Television showed winds snapping off tree branches, and heavily rocking a docked boat and sending waves sliding over the pier. Kajiki gained strength as it moved westward over the sea with maximum sustained winds of 162 kilometers per hour, China's National Meteorological Center said. Rainfall of 25 to 40 centimeters was forecast for southern parts of Hainan Island, including Sanya, a popular beach resort. Hainan took extensive measures to prepare for Typhoon Kajiki, amid fears that it could be the strongest typhoon to hit the region in the past 40 years. As Typhoon Kajiki approached, the province raised its emergency response to the highest level. The typhoon, the 13th of the year, intensified from a severe tropical storm to a full typhoon at 2 am on Sunday. It gained strength and headed toward Hainan's southern coast, with landfall or a close pass expected on Sunday evening, said Cai Qinbo, spokesperson for the Hainan provincial meteorological bureau. Authorities in Sanya evacuated 31,843 people from potentially vulnerable areas to safety by 3 pm on Sunday, according to the city's publicity department. Temporary shelters were set up at some local facilities like primary schools to receive the affected. Across the province, over 770,000 emergency supplies had been prepared for vulnerable

areas. More than 2,800 rescue workers are on standby with necessary vehicles and equipment, said Wu Zhanchao, deputy head of the Department of Emergency Management of Hainan Province. All 30,769 local fishing boats had either returned to port or were safely sheltered, with over 21,000 crew members moved to shore. Residents were advised to avoid unnecessary travel, stay away from low-lying areas, temporary structures and the coast, and be alert for potential geological hazards. In Sanya, measures included closing schools, offices, business operations, suspending public transportation and shipping, and shutting scenic areas. Hotels in Sanya took comprehensive steps to ensure guest safety. Atlantis Sanya provided multilingual notices in Chinese, English and Russian in each guest room, detailing the latest weather updates, temporarily suspended facilities, and offered alternative indoor activities within the resort. "I'm not worried about the typhoon at all because the tour guide and travel agency have a lot of experience in dealing with it. They explained the precautions during the typhoon and reminded us to stay indoors as much as possible," said Yelena Rostova, a Russian tourist visiting Sanya as part of a tour group. "I hope the typhoon passes quickly so that my family and I can enjoy the sunny beaches and our vacation," she added. With strong winds and heavy rain lashing the city, Wang Wen, a resident of Sanya, chose to stay home over the weekend. "It has not significantly affected my daily life," she said.

Agencies contributed to this story.

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Tourists brave heavy rains to reach a railway station in Haikou, the capital of Hainan province, on Sunday. In light of Typhoon Kajiki making landfall, residents have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel. LUO YUNFEI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

player in the global R&D landscape, and has made rapid progress in the development of AI technology, becoming one of the global leaders, and the pace will further accelerate," Depoux said. The country's emphasis on accelerating the development of new quality productive forces will attract more investment by foreign companies to support Chinese companies' transformation, and to bring more technologies to the world's second-largest economy, he added. Anu Rathninde, president for Asia-Pacific at Johnson Controls, a United States-based smart building solutions provider, said the rise of new quality productive forces signifies a transformative shift in China's economic model, replacing outdated growth drivers with more dynamic ones and establishing the foundation for more sustained and robust economic development in the future. He said that China is an important part of the company's global business network, and will continue to be a key contributor to global economic growth. "We are confident in the Chinese market and determined to deepen our footprint here," he said. Chris Lee, senior vice-president and head of Asia-Pacific at Aveva, a United Kingdom-based industrial software developer, said that China has rapidly emerged as a global frontier for industrial innovation, presenting vast development opportunities fueled by the development of new quality productive forces and the country's vibrant digital economy. Lee highlighted that China's mature and extensive industrial system and supply chain offer an unparalleled platform for technological innovation, adding that the company will deepen its roots locally and collaborate closely with local partners to empower China's smart manufacturing and industrial digitalization.