



Ng Han Guan/Associated Press

People visit roadside food stalls Thursday in Beijing. The Communist Party last week laid out ambitious plans for reforms in many areas of the economy.

China boosts its economy with rate cut, EV subsidies

By Elaine Kurtenbach
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK — China ratcheted up its effort to reinvigorate its slowing economy Thursday by unexpectedly cutting a key policy rate and also doubling subsidies for electric vehicles bought to replace older cars.

The People's Bank of China said it cut its lending rate for one-year medium term policy loans by 20 basis points to 2.3%. That is the biggest rate cut since the world's second-largest economy was slammed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The rate on seven-day loans was reduced to 1.7%.

Major state-run banks cut deposit rates, meanwhile, to relieve pressure on their finances, reducing the rate paid on one-year fixed deposits by 10 basis points to 1.35%, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing official rates released Thursday by the country's "Big Four" banks: Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China and China Construction Bank.

The banks cut deposit rates three times last year and this was the first reduction for 2024, it said. Earlier this week, the central bank cut several of its other lending rates, sticking to a cautious approach

to stimulating the economy.

But while lower deposit rates may be good for the bank's balance sheets they won't encourage more consumer spending — the one thing most economists agree is needed to help revive growth that has been falling for years and was hit especially hard by a downturn in China's property sector.

"Banks are already passing on lower deposit rates to savers: which will do nothing to encourage spending in the current environment, and people will instead save even more to generate the same return they were earning before," RaboResearch said in a commentary.

China's economy expanded at a 4.7% annual rate in the last quarter, down from 5.3% in January-March.

Thursday's moves coincided with a downturn in world stocks that extended losses in Chinese markets that have swooned this year while share prices soared in many other countries. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index sank 1.8% and the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.5%.

The flurry of rate cuts this week followed a major policy-setting meeting of the ruling Communist Party last week that laid out ambitious plans for reforms in many areas of the

economy but did not spell out any specific plans for stimulus driven by government spending.

The planning meeting focused on mapping out long-term goals but also emphasized short-term targets, Nicholas Yeo of abrdn, formerly Standard Life Aberdeen plc, said in a report.

"This was unusual, but positive, as this could be an indication of the authorities' growing awareness of the need to address the country's lagging economic growth," he said.

Mostly, the party has opted for fine-tuning and increasing investments in advanced and green technologies to help spur growth during a prolonged downturn in the property sector that has been dragging on the economy.

Reiterating earlier pledges to ramp up a program aimed at getting Chinese families to scrap old cars, appliances and even housing, the National Development and Reform Commission issued details on subsidies and funding.

The increases in subsidies for EVs come at a time when the U.S and some other countries are investigating such state support for the auto industry, and in some cases raising tariffs to protect their own manufacturers.

Panel: Meta's deepfake policies, response to explicit image lacking

By Kelvin Chan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Meta's policies on non-consensual deepfake images need updating, including wording that's "not sufficiently clear," the company's oversight panel said Thursday in a decision on cases involving AI-generated explicit depictions of two famous women.

The quasi-independent Oversight Board said in one of the cases, the social media giant failed to take down the deepfake intimate image of a famous Indian woman, whom it didn't identify, until the company's review board got involved.

Deepake nude images of women and celebrities including Taylor Swift have proliferated on social media because the technology used to make them has become more accessible and easier to use. Online platforms have been facing pressure to do more to tackle the problem.

The board, which Meta set up in 2020 to serve as a referee for content on its platforms including Facebook and Instagram, has spent months reviewing the two cases involving AI-generated images depicting famous women, one Indian and one American. The board did not identify either woman, describing each only as a "female public figure."

Meta said it welcomed

the board's recommendations and is reviewing them.

One case involved an "AI-manipulated image" posted on Instagram depicting a nude Indian woman shown from the back with her face visible, resembling a "female public figure." The board said a user reported the image as pornography but the report wasn't reviewed within a 48 hour deadline so it was automatically closed. The user filed an appeal to Meta, but that was also automatically closed.

It wasn't until the user appealed to the Oversight Board that Meta decided that its original decision not to take the post down was made in error.

Meta also disabled the account that posted the images and added them to a database used to automatically detect and remove images that violate its rules.

In the second case, an AI-generated image depicting the American women nude and being groped were posted to a Facebook group. They were automatically removed because they were already in the database. A user appealed the takedown to the board, but it upheld Meta's decision.

The board said both images violated Meta's ban on "derogatory sexualized photoshop" under its bullying and harassment policy.

However it added that its

policy wording wasn't clear to users and recommended replacing the word "derogatory" with a different term like "non-consensual" and specifying that the rule covers a broad range of editing and media manipulation techniques that go beyond "photoshop."

Deepfake nude images should also fall under community standards on "adult sexual exploitation" instead of "bullying and harassment," it said.

When the board questioned Meta about why the Indian woman was not already in its image database, it was alarmed by the company's response that it relied on media reports.

"This is worrying because many victims of deepfake intimate images are not in the public eye and are forced to either accept the spread of their non-consensual depictions or search for and report every instance," the board said.

The board also said it was concerned about Meta's "auto-closing" of appeals image-based sexual abuse after 48 hours, saying it "could have a significant human rights impact."

Meta, then called Facebook, launched the Oversight Board in 2020 in response to criticism that it wasn't moving fast enough to remove misinformation, hate speech and influence campaigns from its platforms.

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Citation by Publication

CAUSE NO: 2024-05221

IN THE 125TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Plaintiff: GUERRA, ANA CECILIA

vs.

Defendant: BROWN, KENDRICK and MICHAEL SMITH

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00am on Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

To: KENDRICK BROWN
8501 BROADWAY STREET APT 2168
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77061

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 125TH Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the 05TH day of AUGUST, 2024 being the Monday after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the PLAINTIFFS SECOND AMENDED PETITION, filed in said Court on the 28TH day of May, 2024, a suit numbered 2024-05221 on docket of said court, wherein GUERRA, ANA CECILIA the Plaintiff(s), and BROWN, KENDRICK and MICHAEL SMITH, Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging: OTHER PROPERTY SUMMARY: This case involves the theft by forgery of Plaintiff's real property located at 3402 Paul Quin St., Houston, Texas 7709 herein referred to as "the property" and the legal description of the property is as follows: Track 13 Blk 21A of Highland Heights Annex Sec. 4, a subdivision in Harris County Texas. Plaintiff paid for and received title to the property by special warranty deed from Aldo R. Guerra on November 20, 2020 as memorialized in the deed. Plaintiff recorded the deed with the Harris County Clerk's office with an entry date of December 8, 2020 as RP-2020-599769. On or about June 27, 2023, both Defendant Brown and Defendant Smith colluded to steal the real property of the Plaintiff by forgery. Defendants executed a General Warranty Deed in favor of Defendant Brown with Defendant Smith alleged as witness along with a fictitious person who the Defendants named John Edmonds See Exhibit 2-General Warranty Deed.

Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the 29th day of JULY, 2024, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on 05th day of AUGUST, 2024, which if forty-two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk, Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this 17TH day of JUNE, 2024.

MARILYN BURGESS, District Clerk Harris County, Texas
301 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

By:/s/ Wanda Chambers
CHAMBERS, WANDA
Deputy District Clerk

(SEAL)

Newspaper: HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Issued at the request of: RODRIGUEZ BURNS, DAVID
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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77087
Bar Number: 00797335

Citation by Publication

CAUSE NUMBER: 2023-86924

IN THE 127th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Plaintiff(s): LOPEZ, RUBEN

vs.

Defendant(s): COMERICA BANK

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00am on Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you." In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

To: LOPEZ, MIGUEL WHOSE RESIDENCE AND WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to be and appear before the 127TH Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas in the Courthouse in the city of Houston, Texas at or before 10:00 o'clock A.M. Monday, the 9TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2024, being the Monday after the expiration date of forty-two days after this citation is issued, and you are hereby commanded and required then and there to appear and file written answer to the Plaintiffs' Original Petition, filed in said Court on the 20th day of SEPTEMBER, 2023, a suit numbered 2023-86924 on docket of said court, wherein RUBEN LOPEZ the Plaintiff, and COMERICA BANK, the Defendant(s), the nature of plaintiff's demand being and the said petition alleging: OTHER PROPERTY SUMMARY: Comerica Bank's counterclaim against Miguel Lopez seeks to foreclose a home equity loan against the property located at 9402 Willow Wood Lane, Houston, Texas 77089 (the "Property"), and more particularly described as follows: BEING LOT THIRTY-ONE (31) LESS AND EXCEPT THE NORTHEAST THREE FEET (N.E.3") THEREOF, IN BLOCK TWENTY-TWO (22), OF WILLOWWOOD, SECTION FOUR (4), AN ADDITION TO HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 215, PAGE 142, OF THE MAP RECORDS OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

Notice hereof shall be given by publishing this Citation once a week for four consecutive weeks previous to the day of SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, in some newspaper published in the County of HARRIS, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then the nearest county where a newspaper is published, and this Citation shall be returned on the 29th day of AUGUST, 2024, which is forty-two days after the date it is issued, and the first publication shall be at least twenty-eight days before said return day.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but have before said court on said return day this Writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed same.

WITNESS: Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk, Harris County, Texas

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas this 18th day of JULY, 2024.

Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk Harris County, Texas
201 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77002
P.O. Box 4651, Houston, Texas 77210

By:/s/ Nelson Cuero
NELSON CUERO, Deputy District Clerk

(SEAL)

Newspaper: HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Issued at the request of: WILLIAM D. JENNINGS
Address: 333 Lee Parkway, 8th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75219
TEL: (214) 520-3300
Bar Number: 24127205

CAUSE NUMBER: 2024-00640

IN THE 281st JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Plaintiff: CHARLES ALAN HEATON vs. Defendant: TIMOTHY DAVID YORK

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Harris

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: YORK, TIMOTHY DAVID 15830 SAINT LAWRENCE CIR FRIENDSWOOD TX 77514 OR WHEREVER HE MAY BE FOUND Attached is a copy of PLAINTIFFS ORIGINAL PETITION JURY DEMAND AND RULE 193.7 NOTICE. This instrument was filed on January 4, 2024, in the above numbered and styled cause on the docket in the above Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, in the courthouse in the City of Houston, Texas. The instrument attached describes the claim against you. YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the District Clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org. ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT at Houston, Texas, this January 5, 2024.

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