外刊晨读

Jack Ma, Alibaba's Chairman,

Plans to Step Down

HONG KONG — The Alibaba Group said on Monday that Jack Ma would resign as chairman, **unveiling** a leadership succession plan for the Chinese e-commerce giant as it faces a more uncertain environment at home.

Mr. Ma, who co-founded Alibaba in his apartment 19 years ago and has led it ever since, will step down as chairman a year from Monday, the company said. He will be succeeded by Daniel Zhang, currently Alibaba's chief executive.

The prospect of Mr. Ma's departure un**nerve**d some investors. On Friday, The New York Times reported that Mr. Ma would retire on Monday. The company's shares fell in after-hours trading in the United States, where its shares are listed, after the news was reported.

In an interview with The Times on Friday, Mr. Ma said his retirement would be "the beginning of an era" and that he would focus on education. "I love education," he said.

Under Mr. Ma, Alibaba became one of the world's largest and most powerful technology companies. It dominates e-commerce in China, the world's largest single market of internet users. Hundreds of millions of Chinese use Alibaba's electronic payment **affiliate**, Alipay, to buy clothing and **gadgets**, order out lunch and invest their money. In recent years, as China's internet use has surged, Alibaba's market capitalization has risen to levels that rival Facebook's.

It hasn't stopped there. Alibaba's **sprawling** businesses also include **brick-and-mortar stores**, online video, movies and other enterprises, and it has sought to expand in promising new markets like Southeast Asia and India.

But investors have begun to worry in recent months that Alibaba's road is getting tougher, and shares of Alibaba and some of its rivals have fallen significantly in recent months.

The Chinese economy is showing signs of slowing, even among the country's usually **ebullient** consumers. It faces rising competition among companies like Pinduoduo, which **caters** to lower-end consumers. Its main rival, JD.com, reported disappointing financial results last month, though Alibaba's results were better.

Mr. Ma said he was **stepping down** to focus on education, a favorite subject of his. The announcement was made on Teacher's Day, an annual event in China that emphasizes education.

"I also want to return to education, which excites me with so much blessing because this is what I love to do," he said in the company statement. "The world is big, and I am still young, so I want to try new things — because what if new dreams can be realized?!"

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The New York Times 《纽约时报》

译文

马云一年后卸任，阿里 CEO 张勇接任董事长

香港——阿里巴巴集团于周一表示，马云将辞去董事长职务，在国内面临更不稳定的环境之际，这家中国电子商务巨头公布了领导层继任计划。

19 年前，马云在他的公寓里与人合作创立了阿里巴巴，从那时起就一直领导这家公司，该公司宣布，从周一开始，他将于一年后辞去董事长职务。接替他

的将是现任阿里巴巴首席执行官张勇。

马云离职的前景令一些投资者感到不安。周五，《纽约时报》报道马云将于周一退休。据报道，该公司股票在美国股市盘后交易中下跌。

在周五接受时报采访时，马云表示，他的退休将是“一个时代的开始”，他将专注于教育。“我喜欢教育，”他说。

在马云的领导下，阿里巴巴成为全球规模最大、实力最强的科技公司之一。它主导着中国这个全球最大互联网用户市场的电商业务。数以亿计的中国人使用阿里巴巴的电子支付子公司支付宝，购买服装和小物品、订购午餐并投资。近年来，随着中国互联网使用量激增，阿里巴巴的市值已上升至与 Facebook 相媲美的水平。

它并没有就此止步。阿里巴巴庞大的业务还包括实体店、在线视频、电影和其他企业，并寻求扩大有前景的新市场，如东南亚和印度。

但近几个月，投资者开始担心阿里巴巴的道路越来越艰难，近几个月阿里巴巴及其部分竞争对手的股价大幅下挫。

即使是在中国通常非常活跃的消费者中，中国经济正在显示出放缓的迹象。阿里巴巴面临着来自像拼多多这样的公司不断增加的竞争，拼多多是一家为低端消费者提供服务的公司。阿里巴巴的主要竞争对手京东上个月的财报数字令人失望，尽管阿里巴巴的财报表现略佳。

马云表示他卸任是为了将精力放在教育方面，这是他非常喜爱的一个主题。退休的消息是在教师节宣布的，这是中国一个用来强调教育的年度节日。

“我想回归教育，做我热爱的事情会让我无比兴奋和幸福，”他在一则公司声明中表示，“再说了，世界那么大，趁我还年轻，很多事想试试，万一实现了呢？！”

单词

unveil [ˌʌnˈveɪl]
vt. 揭幕；展示；将……公诸于众
例：The government has **unveiled** plans for new energy legislation.
政府公布了新能源法案的一系列计划。

nerve [nɜːrv]
n. 勇气；胆量；气魄
vt. 鼓足勇气
例：It took him several months before he eventually **nerved** himself up to invite her to his house.
他过了好几个月才终于鼓足勇气邀请她去自己家。

affiliate [əˈfɪlieɪt]
n. 隶属机构，分支机构
例：International **affiliates** account for a fast-growing segment of production in economies that open up and welcome foreign investment.
国际子公司在那些对外开放并欢迎外资的经济体中所占产量份额快速增长。
（2001 年考研英语阅读理解 Text 4）

gadget [ˈgædʒɪt]
n. 小器具；小装置；小玩意儿
例：Have you seen this handy little **gadget**—it's for separating egg yolks from whites.
你见过这种很方便的小物件吗——它是用来把蛋黄和蛋清分开的。

sprawling [ˈsprɔːlɪŋ]
adj. 蔓生的；庞大的
例：The subject is so **sprawling** that my gathering is not yet enough.
这个题目如此宽泛，以至于我收集的资料远远不够。

brick-and-mortar stores
实体店
例：The convenience of online shopping provides a huge advantage over **brick-and-mortar stores**.

比起实体店，网店购物的便捷是个巨大的优势。

ebullient [ɪˈbʌliənt]
adj. 精力充沛的；热情洋溢的；兴高采烈的
例：He was accompanied by an **ebullient**, talkative blonde.
与他同行的是一位热情、健谈的金发女郎。

cater [ˈkeɪtər]
vi. 迎合；满足需求
例：Demand comes mainly from two sources: independent mom-and-pop grocery stores, which unlike large retail chains, are too small to buy straight from producers, and food service operators that **cater** to consumers when they don't eat at home.
市场需求主要有两个来源：一是独立经营的夫妻杂货店，它们不同于大型零售连锁店，因规模太小而无法直接从生产商那里进货；二是满足在外就餐的顾客需求的食品服务经营机构。（2010 年考研英语一阅读理解 Part B）

step down
退位；下台；（尤指）让位
例：He has decided to **step down** as leader of the team.
他决定让出团队领导一职。