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A Clean Bill of Health

China's ongoing nationwide anti-corruption campaign in the medical sector has drawn public attention.

This campaign began in May when 14 departments, including the National Health Commission (NHC), jointly issued a notice to eliminate improper practices in the procurement and sales of medical products as well as those in medical services. In late July, the NHC and nine other departments jointly launched a yearlong campaign to root out corruption in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors. Initial statistics showed that by mid-August, more than 170 hospital heads, as well as a large number of hospital department directors and pharmaceutical executives, had been investigated.

Problems in the healthcare sector have always been a matter of public concern, as people should be able to access medical services conveniently and safely at reasonable cost. Attention has long focused on issues such as the difficulty and cost of obtaining quality care. The ongoing anti-corruption drive is also taking direct aim at problems in the healthcare system, including pricing transparency, inadequate supervision and the unbalanced distribution of medical resources. For example, some hospital staff in more powerful positions have been able to

obtain illegal income from the procurement of drugs, medical equipment and supplies, and the construction of hospital buildings, harming public interest.

According to a case published on the website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the disciplinary watchdog of the Communist Party of China, a medical device with an import price of 15 million yuan (\$2 million) was sold to a hospital for 35.2 million yuan (\$4.8 million), with the hospital head receiving a kickback of up to 16 million yuan (\$2.2 million). The consequences of such corruption will eventually be passed on to patients in the form of higher medical fees, increasing the burden on the public.

Despite the malpractices of some hospital administrators, drug and equipment suppliers, and physicians, medical professionals generally carry heavy workloads, and the medical profession is widely respected. The purpose of the anti-corruption campaign is not to subject doctors to public humiliation, which would be unfair and unjust to the vast majority of them. Instead, it will show the public the government's determination to eliminate malpractices and establish a clean medical sector. **BR**



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EMBRACING SERVICES TRADE

A view of Shougang Park in Beijing on August 31. The China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2023 was held in the China National Convention Center and Shougang Park, a cultural and sports complex refurbished from a former steel plant, from September 2 to 6.

This year's edition of the CIFTIS, one of the world's largest and most comprehensive fairs for trade in services, covered an exhibition area of 155,000 square meters.



New Beginnings!

A first grader poses for pictures at a primary school in Nan'an District of Chongqing Municipality in southwest China on August 30.

Online Copyrights

China has initiated another campaign of special operations to crack down on online copyright infringement and piracy nationwide.

The campaign, set to run from August to November, was launched by the National Copyright Administration in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security and the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Regulators will reinforce copyright protection for the broadcasting of sports events, targeting the unauthorized or illicit dissemination of sports event programs, such as the forthcoming Hangzhou Asian Games and

the Asian Para Games.

They will fortify the safeguarding of copyrights related to the cultural and creative products of museums, art galleries and libraries.

Throughout the campaign, video-streaming websites and apps, e-commerce platforms, web browsers and search engines will also be subject to copyright scrutiny.

The National Copyright Administration has vowed harsh penalties for online copyright infringement and piracy cases.

Rail Network

A Fuxing bullet train departed from Nanning, capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southwest China, on August 31, marking the launch of full-scale

high-speed rail services in Karst regions in south China.

Spanning 482 km, the new railway connects Nanning with Guiyang, capital of the southwestern province of Guizhou, according to China Railway Nanning Group Co. Ltd.

The Guiyang-Nanning High-Speed Railway was designed with a top speed of 350 km per hour, and it is the first railway of its kind to be built in either Guizhou or Guangxi, both of which are known for their Karst landscape.

The time it takes to travel from Guiyang to Nanning has now been reduced from over five hours to approximately three hours, greatly benefiting residents in mountainous areas and contributing to economic growth along the route.

Water Resources

China's consumption of unconventional water resources expanded notably in 2022 amid the country's efforts to guarantee water security, Xinhua News Agency reported on August 29.

The country's total annual consumption of unconventional water resources reached 17.58 billion cubic meters in 2022, 3.75 billion cubic meters more than in 2021, accounting for 2.9 percent of the total water supply, according to a recently released report by the Ministry of Water Resources.

The figure was 2.9 times higher than that of 2012, and 37 percent higher than of 2020, the report said.

Unconventional water resources, including recycled water, rainwater and desalinated seawater, are considered important supplements to surface, ground and tap water, as well as being options for the sustainable provision of water.

Feeding around 20 percent of the world's population, China has only 6 percent of the world's fresh water. The ministry said it would take further steps to promote the exploration and utilization of unconventional water resources and carry out pilot schemes for the distribution of such water, so as to leverage the role of these resources in overcoming water scarcity while preventing and controlling water pollution.

Birth Defect Prevention

The National Health Commission has released a five-year plan to more effectively prevent and control birth defects and reduce the incidence of deaths and disabilities caused by birth defects, Xinhua reported on August 26.

According to the plan, the rate of prenatal screening in China is expected to reach at least 90 percent by 2027, while the mortality rates of infants and children under the age of 5 due to birth defects will be below 0.1 percent and 0.11 percent, respectively.

The plan also called for improvement in preventing and treating major birth defects such as severe congenital heart disease, Down Syndrome and thalassemia major (an inherited blood disorder).

By 2027, the diagnosis and treatment rates of inherited metabolic diseases such as phenylketonuria and congenital hypothyroidism within two weeks after birth are expected to reach 90 percent. The diagnosis rate of congenital hearing loss within three months and intervention rate within six months after birth are expected to both reach 90 percent, according to the plan.

Underwater Investigation

An underwater archaeological investigation project was recently launched at the site of the sunken warship *Laiyuan*, which fought in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) as an armored cruiser of the Beiyang

Fleet of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), according to the Shandong Provincial Underwater Archaeological Research Center, Xinhua reported on August 26.

This investigation, using sand-extraction excavation techniques, aims to provide initial insights into the preservation condition of the warship, thus offering archaeological materials for the study of the history of the First Sino-Japanese War, commonly known in China as the Jiawu War, as well as for global naval history.

The investigation will last 60 days and is a collaborative effort involving several archaeological research centers, historical museums, underwater archaeologists from Shandong and Guangdong provinces, and personnel from the Guangzhou Salvage Bureau.

The *Laiyuan* was completed in 1887 and joined the Beiyang Fleet in December of the same year. In February 1895, the ship was ambushed by Japanese torpedo boats in Weihai Bay, causing it to capsize and sink in the waters south of the Liu Gong Island stone pier. All 30 people on board perished in the incident.

Tax Relief

China will extend the preferential tax policy for overseas talent



Trade Aid

A staff member of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (front left) introduces beer to a purchasing agent during a pre-exhibition supply and demand matchmaking meeting for the sixth China International Import Expo in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in south China, on August 29.

working in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to December 31, 2027 to support the area's development, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said on August 25.

High-caliber overseas talent and professionals in short supply who work in the Greater Bay Area will get subsidies from Guangdong Province and

Shenzhen Municipality to offset the difference between the individual income tax on the Chinese mainland and in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, according to a circular jointly released by the MOF and the State Taxation Administration.

The subsidies will be exempt from individual income tax, the circular said.



Happy Bearthday!

People look on as female giant panda Yuan Yuan, 19, enjoys a birthday treat at the Taipei Zoo in Taiwan Province on August 30. Yuan Yuan and male panda Tuan Tuan arrived in Taipei as goodwill gifts from the mainland in December 2008. Tuan Tuan died of illness in November last year at the age of 18.

Technological System

China will put in place a preliminary technological system covering all key industries of the manufacturing sector by 2025, according to a guideline unveiled on August 29.

The guideline was released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT). It is part of the country's efforts to tackle technological problems and scale up technological applications.

By 2027, an advanced manufacturing technology innovation system will be established, which is expected to guide enterprises in establishing advanced research and development plus supply chain management systems, providing an important underpinning for the technological self-reliance and strength of the manufacturing sector, according to the MIIT.

In the next step, China will

further develop and apply the manufacturing technology system, optimize the allocation of innovation resources and foster new competitive edges, the MIIT said.

Public Offering Funds

Assets under the management of public offering funds totaled 28.8 trillion yuan (\$3.95 trillion) as of late July, data from the Asset Management Association of China showed.

By the end of July, 144 fund management companies operated 11,039 public offering funds, the association said.

The scale of closed-end funds neared 3.75 trillion yuan (\$514.5 billion), with open-end funds at about 25.06 trillion yuan (\$3.4 trillion), the data revealed.

Of the 144 fund management companies, 48 are foreign-funded and 96 are domestic firms, the association said.

SOE Revenue

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) and state-holding enterprises saw their revenues and profits grow in the first seven months of 2023, the Ministry of Finance said on August 29.

Revenues hit 47.72 trillion yuan (\$6.5 trillion), up 4.3 percent year on year, while profits reached 2.73 trillion yuan (\$374.5 billion), an increase of 3.9 percent from a year earlier.

The companies paid 3.44 trillion yuan (\$471.95 billion) in taxes and fees during the period, down 2.9 percent year on year.

The asset-liability ratio of SOEs was 64.7 percent as of late July, the ministry said.

Stamp Duty Cut

China halved the stamp duty on stock transactions effective on August 28 to invigorate the capital market and boost investor confidence.

Cutting the stamp duty is conducive to reducing market

transaction costs and easing the tax burden on investors, especially small and medium-sized ones, Zhao Xijun, a finance professor at Renmin University of China, said.

Data showed more than 220 million individual investors in China's stock market, accounting for 99.76 percent of the total. Among them, small and micro investors holding shares worth less than 100,000 yuan (\$13,719.6) accounted for 87.87 percent.

In April 2008, securities regulators slashed the levy from 0.3 percent to 0.1 percent, and in September that same year, the stamp duty was levied unilaterally on the seller, spurring bull runs.

Nonferrous Metal

The industrial added value of the nonferrous metal sector rose 5.9 percent year on year in the first seven months of 2023, 2.1 percentage points higher than the average level of all

NUMBERS

Industrial Enterprise Profit by Business Type

January-July (bln yuan)



Industrial Enterprise Growth by Business Type

January-July (% y.o.y.)



industries, according to the MIIT.

The combined output of 10 types of nonferrous metals reached 42.32 million tons, up 7 percent year on year, the data revealed.

The 10 leading nonferrous metals are copper, aluminum, lead, zinc, nickel, tin, antimony, mercury, magnesium and titanium.

International Trade

China's international trade in goods and services in July exceeded 3.77 trillion yuan (\$526.5 billion), official data showed on August 25.

Exports of goods neared 1.83 trillion yuan (\$251.1 billion) and imports surpassed 1.44 trillion yuan (\$197.6 billion), resulting in a surplus of 385.5 billion yuan (\$52.9 billion), the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

Services exports totaled 183.8 billion yuan (\$25.2 billion) that month, and services imports were at 315.3 billion

yuan (\$43.3 billion), resulting in a deficit of 131.5 billion yuan (\$18 billion).

Overseas Listing

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) will continue to facilitate channels for mainland companies to list in the overseas market, according to Li Chao, vice chairman of the commission.

The CSRC will give play to the role of Hong Kong as an international platform to support the financing of Chinese enterprises, promote the formation of a more transparent, efficient and smooth regulatory coordination mechanism for overseas listing of the companies, and introduce more representative "green light" cases, Li said during a celebration marking the 30th anniversary of the listing of H-shares, or shares issued by Chinese companies incorporated on the Chinese mainland and traded in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The commission will optimize and improve the connectivity mechanism, promote the introduction of more products, such as block trading mechanism and real estate investment trusts (REITs), into the target market, and further facilitate the entry of foreign medium- and long-term funds into the market.

An REIT is a security that trades like a stock on the major exchanges and owns—and in most cases operates—income-producing real estate or related assets.

The CSRC will also strengthen the two-way opening up of products from the mainland and Hong Kong, support Hong Kong in launching treasury bond futures and other products, enrich risk management tools for the offshore market, and consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's position as a risk management center.

By the end of July, over 1,400 Chinese companies were listed in Hong Kong, accounting for over

50 percent of the total number of listed companies in the financial hub, according to data from the CSRC.

BYD Acquisition

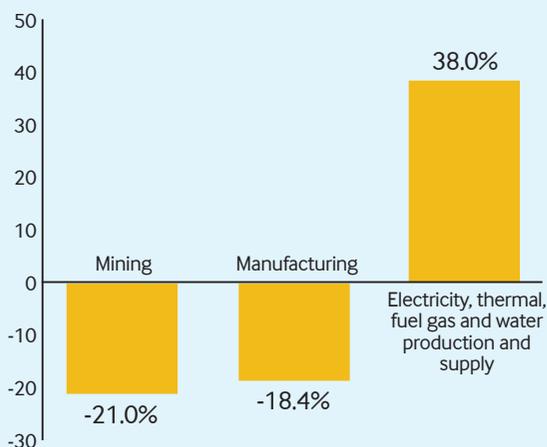
China's leading new-energy vehicle manufacturer BYD said on August 28 that its holding subsidiary has inked an acquisition framework agreement with the Singaporean subsidiary of United States-based firm Jabil Inc. to buy its manufacturing business in the Chinese cities of Wuxi, Jiangsu Province in east China, and Chengdu, Sichuan Province in southwest China, for 15.8 billion yuan (\$2.2 billion).

The intended purchase will mainly include the parts manufacturing business for Jabil Circuit (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.'s existing customers, BYD said.

Jabil Inc., headquartered in Florida, provides multi-field manufacturing services and ranks at the forefront of the global electronics manufacturing services industry.

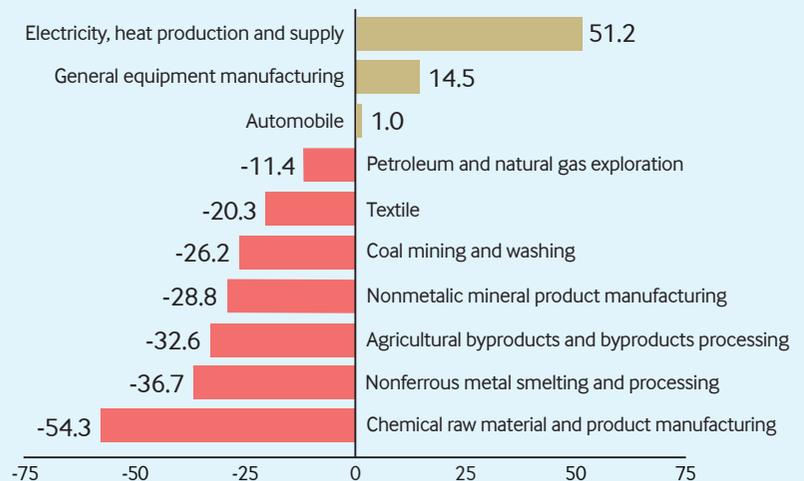
Industrial Enterprise Profit by Sector

January-July (% y.o.y.)



Profit Changes for Major Sectors

January-July (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



GREECE

A full moon rises behind the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion near Athens on August 30



GERMANY

People visit the Caravan Salon 2023 in Düsseldorf on August 28. More than 750 exhibitors participated in the world's leading trade fair for mobile travel, which ran from August 26 to September 3



AFGHANISTAN

Photo taken on August 29 shows weapons seized by security forces in a series of operations in Balkh Province





UNITED KINGDOM

A female performer participates in the Notting Hill Carnival in London on August 28. Originating in the 1960s, the carnival is a way for the local Afro-Caribbean communities to celebrate their cultures and traditions



ZIMBABWE

President Emmerson Mnangagwa addresses the media at the State House in Harare on August 27. He was re-elected for a second five-year term after garnering 52.6 percent of the total votes cast in the August 23-24 elections



MALAYSIA

People attend a rally against Japan's dumping of nuclear-contaminated wastewater into the ocean in Selangor State on August 27



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ BASKETBALL ICON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Chinese basketball star **Yi Jianlian** announced his retirement from a 21-year professional career on August 29.

Yi, 35, began his professional journey in 2002. He clinched seven Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) titles with the Guangdong Southern Tigers and represented Team China in four Olympic Games. Throughout his 625 CBA games, Yi amassed 12,781 points and 6,159 rebounds, becoming the league's premier all-time rebounder. He is the first domestic player to reach the 10,000-point milestone in regular season play.

Yi has been honored with the title of CBA regular season most valuable player (MVP) five times and has been named CBA Finals MVP three times. He was selected by the Milwaukee Bucks in the 2007 U.S. National Basketball Association draft. The U.S. teams Yi played for also included the New Jersey Nets, the Washington Wizards and the Dallas Mavericks.



Purchasing Peace of Mind

China Youth Daily
August 25

China's booming e-commerce platforms have become a new space where anxiety-ridden millennials flock to let off steam. In recent years, these platforms have seen the rise of a series of online de-stressing services, which include the "emotional tree hole," where one can unload all his or her negativity onto a complete stranger, and the "wake-up call," a chat service that helps lovelorn youth heal from breakups.

The most nonsensical of these items is perhaps the "brain of Albert Einstein." The product, which purports to offer a share of

Einstein's intelligence and consequently an instant increase in IQ, offers nothing tangible, at a price of around 0.5 yuan (\$0.07). It is intended to provide stressed-out students with a way to cope with their anxieties in the face of excessive academic pressures. The nonexistent share of Einstein's master mind can also act as a powerful placebo capable of boosting confidence in its young purchasers.

Instead of questioning the validity of these e-commerce trends, people should give these new fads a bit more understanding and focus on addressing the deeper social issues that are plaguing today's youth. At the same time, rules should be put in place to prevent fraud, scams and the leaking of personal data.



Duped by Debtors

China Newsweek
August 21

In recent months, multiple Chinese banks have received large numbers of fake doctor's notes stating that debtors have contracted severe diseases, which automatically qualifies them for a suspension of loan repayments. These fabricated sick notes are the work of an underground sector that helps borrowers defer or evade debt payment.

Underground debt relief services first emerged in the early 2000s with the rise

"There are different languages and cultures and ways of doing things in BRICS. It is that diversity that brings new ways of thinking and new ways of looking at the world."

Farhana Paruk, a professor at the Gordon Institute of Business Science at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, commenting after the conclusion of this year's summit of BRICS, which comprises the world's five leading emerging economies—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency in late August

"China is looking more at countries that have potential markets that are not very developed in (electric mobility), and Latin America is a great opportunity."

Henrique Reis, an international relations manager at the China Trade Center Group in São Paulo, in a recent interview with *China Daily*

of the Internet. The sector suddenly grew in 2020, the year in which the COVID-19 pandemic started. During the pandemic, the Central Government issued a series of measures to relieve the financial stress of people trying to stay afloat amid the halt of business activities and accumulating financial uncertainties. However, scammers have taken advantage of these policies.

Financial institutions have been making unsuccessful attempts to rein in these practices. Most of the fraudsters are former finance professionals and therefore are familiar with the loopholes embedded in banking systems. Conversely, banks are required to run a complex assessment on every individual borrower with overdue repayments to find out his or her real financial situation. As scammers continue to devise increasingly clever tricks, the cost of finding the culprit is getting higher.

Experts have advised financial institutions to work with government authorities and the police on building a national digital platform for financial fraud detection, and the creation of a coordinated anti-fraud network is now already underway. In July, multiple banks co-launched a shared database onto which banks can upload their credit blacklists.

Reexamining the Media's Role

Rednet.cn
August 24

The film, *No More Bets*, which premiered on August 8, delves into the complex web of cyberfraud in the northern region of Myanmar, a region that has recently become a byword on Chinese social media for organized crime. The movie feeds into an already heated debate on whether the rumors surrounding Myanmar are true. On the one hand, numerous online fraud suspects have recently been brought back from Myanmar to China as part of a joint law enforcement operation. On the other hand, Chinese expats living in Myanmar have opened up about

their peaceful daily life there, contending that the media's overly negative portrayal of Myanmar is exaggerated.

In recent years, an increasing number of criminal groups have moved their dens into neighboring countries. By offering a glimpse into the dark world of overseas Internet frauds, in-depth news stories have significantly raised public awareness of fraud prevention.

However, with a natural tendency to cluster around events that have a sharp dramatic focus, mass media often unintentionally blow up bad parts and perpetuating certain stereotypes. Online influencers have also been exploiting the topic by fabricating overly melodramatic stories. Caution should be exercised toward media hype lest society be overwhelmed by anxiety.

↓ XPENG'S MAJOR MOVE

He Xiaopeng, Chair and CEO of leading Chinese electric car startup Xpeng, announced on August 28 that the company will acquire the related assets as well as the research and development capabilities of ride-hailing giant DiDi Chuxing's smart electric vehicle (EV) unit.

The two companies will join hands to launch an intelligent EV model under Xpeng's new affordable MONA brand in 2024. He expects the model's annual sales to hit at least 100,000 units, adding that the model will target both individual buyers and companies.

Xpeng, founded by He and other investors in 2014, is known for its focus on technological innovation. In late July, Volkswagen sealed a deal to acquire a 4.99-percent stake in the Guangzhou-based company and co-develop two EV models for the Chinese market.



“A legally binding prohibition on nuclear tests is a fundamental step in our quest for a world free of nuclear weapons.”

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General, in a message on the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, which falls on August 29

“My breathing was fast, my feet were heavy, my watch showed my peak heart rate was over 180 beats per minute, and I lost my strength faster than I expected.”

Cao Bin, a participant in the Lhasa Half Marathon on August 27, recalling his experience after finishing the race. Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, is one of the world's highest cities, where the oxygen content is about two thirds that of lower areas



COVER STORY

CARVING OUT CORRUPTION

The campaign to clean up China's healthcare sector By Yuan Yuan