

CHINA

Siblings reunite after 56 years

Wang Hansheng (left) reunites with his brother Shen Guanlin and sister Shen Yunxian in Tongxiang, Zhejiang province, on Monday after 56 years of separation. Born on May 23, 1968, Wang, originally named Shen Guanming, was given up by his impoverished parents and was later adopted by a couple from Shandong province. In August this year, Wang sought help online and found his family with a DNA match provided by the police.

TIAN JIANMING / FOR CHINA DAILY



Briefly

Former top adviser under investigation

Qi Tongsheng, the former top political adviser in the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, is under investigation after being accused of seriously violating Party disciplines and laws, China's top anti-corruption authorities said on Tuesday. The Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the National Commission of Supervision announced the probe on their official website. Born in July 1952 in Pingshan, Hebei province, Qi began his career in 1968 and joined the Communist Party in 1984. Over the years, he held key positions in Ningxia, including director of the region's Development and Reform Commission and vice-governor. In 2013, Qi was appointed chairman of the Ningxia Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He later served as deputy director of the National CPPCC's Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee.

Philippine ships face 'control measures'

The China Coast Guard said on Tuesday that its vessels monitored and took action against two Philippine ships that entered waters near China's Huangyan Island in the South China Sea without permission earlier in the day. Liu Dejun, a spokesman for the China Coast Guard, said in a statement that the Philippine vessels, identified by hull numbers 3001 and 3002, entered the area without authorization from the Chinese government. He added that the Coast Guard followed the vessels and implemented "professional, reasonable and legitimate control measures." Liu reiterated China's position that it has "indisputable sovereignty" over Huangyan Island and the surrounding waters, as well as sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the region. "We urge the Philippines to immediately cease its infringements," Liu said. "The China Coast Guard will continue to enforce the law and protect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in these waters."

245m jobless people covered by insurance

The number of people in China covered by unemployment insurance reached 245 million by the end of September, sources with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security have said. The ministry will promote the coverage of unemployment insurance to vocational workers and optimize the linkage mechanism between employment, unemployment insurance and subsistence allowances, it said. Data from the ministry shows that last year, 7.3 million unemployed people nationwide received unemployment insurance benefits totaling 72.9 billion yuan (\$10.4 billion), up 13.6 billion yuan from the previous year.

Cultural tourism trend reflected in National Day holiday travel

China's tourism market boomed during the weeklong National Day holiday, which ended on Monday. While patriotic sentiments were present, cultural tourism stood out as a defining aspect of this year's holiday.

Ranging from performances in traditional clothing to immersive heritage experiences, cultural tourism flourished across the country. For example, on Ancient Culture Street in Tianjin, performers clad in *hanfu* captivated onlookers, many of whom also wore traditional attire.

The heritage-rich area saw over 300,000 visitors and generated more than 25 million yuan (\$3.56 million) in revenue in just two days.

Beijing's Central Axis, newly recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, also proved a popular destination during the holiday.

Tourists' interest in visiting the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and other locations along the axis grew significantly, with bookings up 69 percent compared to last year.

Cultural souvenirs, including special postcards and themed mer-

300,000+ tourists

visited Ancient Culture Street in Tianjin in just two days during the weeklong National Day holiday and generated more than 25 million yuan (\$3.56 million) in revenue.

chandise, further enriched travelers' experiences.

Museum visits have become an important part of holiday activities for many travelers.

In Liaoning province, the Liaoning Provincial Museum displayed an original painting by an emperor of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), attracting tourists from across the country. Some visitors queued for hours to view the work.

A tourist surnamed Li from Shanghai considered visiting the exhibition a key part of her family trip.

"Visiting museums can plant the seeds of culture in children's minds from a young age," she said.

Data shows that the number of traditional culture-themed scenic

spots in China increased to nearly 4,000 in 2022 compared to 2,230 in 2013, with approximately 80 percent of A-level tourist attractions incorporating various intangible cultural heritage projects.

Trip.com data revealed that during this year's National Day holiday, average daily bookings for revolutionary-themed tourism in China increased 40 percent year-on-year.

Zhao Wenzhi, president of the Guangdong Travel Service Association, said that evolving tourist demands are continuously fostering new cultural and tourism consumption scenarios, business formats and models, with the tourism market offering both more diverse experiences and richer options for travelers.

Dai Bin, president of the China Tourism Academy, predicted that based on factors such as people's travel intentions, bookings and local tourism preparations, the number of travelers during this year's National Day holiday would likely reach a record high.

XINHUA

Shanxi scenic area offers free return visits

By ZHU XINGXIN in Taiyuan and ZHANG XIAOMIN

In an effort to appease tourists who complained of overcrowding, authorities in Shanxi province, which has seen a surge in tourism fueled by the popular video game *Black Myth: Wukong*, announced on Monday that people who visited during the recent Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holidays can return to the scenic Xiaoxitian area in Xixian county for free until the end of the year by presenting their ticket receipts.

"The keeper of the New West welcomes 'again' the Destined One!" the scenic area's service center said in a thank-you letter to visitors, quoting a line from the game and humorously adding "again".

The Xiaoxitian temple complex, located in Linfen city, served as a key inspiration for the Buddhist kingdom's suspended sculptures featured in the game when the protagonist, known as the Destined One, enters the area. "New West" is the translation of Xiaoxitian in the game.

"We want to make up for the disappointment some visitors faced due to overcrowding during the holidays," said Liu Xiaogang, director of the service center. "Next time, when they visit on less crowded days, they can truly appreciate the wonders of the Buddha's heavenly palace and the exquisite suspended sculptures."

With a population of less than 100,000, Xixian received 133,600 visitors last year. However, during this year's National Day holiday, the daily visits exceeded 10,000 — its highest attendance since opening to the public in 2001.

The influx of visitors is attributed to the video game *Black Myth: Wukong*, which is based on the classic Chinese novel *Journey to the West* and features scenes inspired



Visitors tour the Xiaoxitian scenic area in Xixian county, Shanxi province, on Oct 1. KANG YALI / LINFEN DAILY

by real ancient Chinese architecture, including temples, pagodas, grottoes and stone carvings.

Xiaoxitian is renowned for its stunning suspended sculptures. The main hall, covering just 169.6 square meters, houses over 1,900 colorful, lifelike sculptures — some as tall as 3 meters and others as small as a thumb — meticulously preserved after nearly four centuries.

"It's truly awe-inspiring! Missing Xiaoxitian would be a real regret. The suspended sculptures here are second to none," said Sun Xianwen, a visitor from Jiaozuo, Henan province.

However, long queues to reach the place led to frustration among tourists on Oct 2. In response, Xixian's bureau of culture and tourism issued a letter asking for patience, noting that the county, primarily agricultural, is working hard to develop into a tourist destination.

Efforts were made to accommodate the influx of visitors, including three additional parking lots with free shuttle services. Parking spaces at government offices, businesses

and institutions were also opened to visitors during the holidays. County officials canceled their vacations to oversee operations, and 300 volunteers were stationed at key points to assist tourists.

Xixian's Deputy Mayor Lyu Xuehui explained that the county had mobilized efforts to ensure a smooth experience for visitors.

Video clips circulating online showed local officials including Lyu interacting with tourists — Lyu was seen singing to visitors, and the county's tourism director even portrayed Tang Seng, a character from *Journey to the West*.

Public security officials were also on hand to manage the crowds. Huang Shenghui, the director of the local public security bureau, directed visitors, while Liu Wei, deputy director of the bureau, promised immediate improvements based on tourist feedback.

"No matter how much you complain or criticize, your safety is our top priority," Liu told tourists through a loudspeaker.

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Wuxi hospital accused of rampant fraud

Facility personnel allegedly schemed to pilfer insurance funds, probe reveals

By WANG XIAOYU wangxiaoyu@chinadaily.com.cn

A hospital in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, is suspected of illegally using medical insurance funds totaling nearly 22.3 million yuan (\$3.16 million), according to investigation results released by the National Healthcare Security Administration on Tuesday.

About half the defrauded amount was illegally obtained by fabricating medical records, the administration said in a circular. By working with healthcare agencies and offering free health checkups, the hospital coaxed insured people into pretending to be hospitalized to generate documents seeking insurance funds for medical services that were never rendered.

The case first emerged around late last month after a doctor at the private hospital reported irregularities to the media, prompting central, provincial and Wuxi healthcare insurance administrations, as well as local police, to launch an investigation.

The circular said that police have detained 24 suspects, including the hospital's president and legal representative.

Investigations are underway into other suspected crimes such as collective perjury, the destruction of financial records and tampering with medical documents and data deletion.

Wuxi has terminated its medical insurance service agreement with

the hospital and has initiated procedures to hand out administrative penalties.

According to the circular, senior hospital managers colluded with medical insurance department workers, doctors, nurses and an employee at a local cancer rehabilitation association to forge medical records.

"Their counterfeiting of medical records involved a chain of comprehensive and mature steps," the circular said.

For instance, a physician would come up with a fake hospitalization record tailored to a patient's health condition, and an ultrasound technician would copy or capture corresponding images from a hospital database storing the examination results of real patients.

Each entry of a falsified hospitalized record would generate between 5,000 to 8,000 yuan of ill-gotten insurance funds, and all people involved would split the gains.

The hospital is also accused of obstructing investigations into illegal activities such as collective collusion, as well as attempting to destroy medical records and delete data.

The National Healthcare Security Administration said that it will guide Jiangsu authorities to examine 100 insurance-designated medical institutions in Wuxi while launching a national campaign to crack down on medical insurance fraud.

Credit system could help reduce medical scams

By WANG XIAOYU

China plans to develop a points-based credit system for healthcare professionals who are certified to process medical insurance funds to curb the misuse of funds and strengthen punishment for violators, according to a guideline released recently.

Similar to the nation's point system for driver's licenses, the new system will target relevant staff members at insurance-designated medical institutions as well as owners of pharmacies, according to the guideline jointly released by the National Healthcare Security Administration, the National Health Commission and the National Medical Products Administration on Sept 27.

Workers who are found to have engaged in dishonest or illegal behavior will have points assigned to them in the system deducted. They can lose one to three points for minor offenses, while the most severe violations will result in a loss of 10 to 12 points.

Those who lose nine to 11 points in a year will see their insurance payment certifications suspended for one to six months, which also means that patients who use healthcare services and medications prescribed by them — except for first aid and emergency care services — will not be reimbursed for the amount they spent on these services.

An accumulation of 12 deducted points will lead to revocation of their eligibility to work as certified insurance agents. Also, they will not be allowed to apply for the qualification again for one to three consecutive years, depending on specific conditions.

Gu Rong, head of the National Healthcare Security Administration's fund supervision department, said that information on certification suspensions or revocations will be shared nationwide and reported to health authorities and drug regulators to ensure joint supervision.

"In the future, we will also consider establishing individual insurance credibility files for relevant

personnel to track points and monitor their compliance with insurance rules and regulations throughout their career," he said.

Despite the nation's intensifying oversight over healthcare insurance funds in recent years, irregular and illegal use of insurance funds remains rampant.

In a recent case that drew widespread public attention, medical workers at a hospital in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, are suspected of fabricating medical records to obtain insurance payments.

"An outstanding challenge is that although we have cracked down on a number of offenses, we can only implement supervision on and hand penalties to specific institutions rather than individuals," Gu said. "So some violators simply change their identities and resume their old occupations elsewhere."

Gu said that extending the regulatory scope from designated medical institutions to all healthcare personnel and pharmacy managers is expected to enhance oversight and increase deterrence.

He added that the guideline highlights the significance of gradual and steady implementation to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach. Local authorities are asked to put all relevant personnel under supervision within three years, and they are allowed to tailor specifics of the guidelines based on local circumstances and roll out pilot programs first.

The administration said that this year, it has carried out unannounced inspections at 500 insurance-designated medical institutions across the nation.

These inspections have led to the discovery of 2.21 billion yuan (\$344 million) in misused insurance funds. From January to August, healthcare fund regulators nationwide regained 13.66 billion yuan of ill-gotten insurance funds.

Yan Qinghui, deputy director of the administration, stressed that supervising insurance funds remains complicated and requires long-term efforts to root out existing problems while curbing potential offenses.