

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.65 NO.49 DECEMBER 8, 2022

北京周报 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



JIANG ZEMIN
(1926-2022)

RMB6.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF2.60
JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914222

邮发代号2-922·国内统一连续出版物号: CN11-1576/G2

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

2 A Measured Response

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 Jiang Zemin Passes Away
Remembering a leader

OPINION

18 A Vision for a Shared Future

A guide for modern governance

20 Bringing the Fifth Industrial Revolution To the South

Connectivity is key in the new industrial era

Cover Photo: A file photo of Jiang Zemin (XINHUA)

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22 Competition vs. Conflict

Figuring out the Sino-American relationship

23 A U.S. Debacle on the Taiwan Island

One-China principle is paramount

FEATURES

26 When Beijing Meets Havana

Friendship stands the test of time and distance

28 Whither China-U.S. Relations?

Fiftieth anniversary brings hope for brighter future

32 A Long March Into Space

China's space station buzzes with activity

34 A Family Affair

Both sides of the Straits share common values

38 Baking a Better Place

How a mother from Taiwan provides a shelter for the hearing impaired

40 Urban Fabric

How one textile hub rose to international fame

42 The Fab Fads

College students in lockdown create their own entertainment

CULTURE

46 All-Seasons Beauty

The many colors of the Palace Museum

EXPAT'S EYE

48 Beginning an Aerospace Dream in China

One student's sky-high trajectory



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BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

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Published every Thursday by
CICG Center for Americas, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,
Beijing 100037, China

Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading
Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,
Beijing 100044, China

Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)
Fax: 86-10-68412166

E-mail: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn

Website: <http://www.cibtc.com>

General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:

Peace Book Co. Ltd.
17/FI, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St. Chai Wan, HK
Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is distributed weekly
in the United States for US\$64.00 per year by Cypress Books,
360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080
News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*,
Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48,
South San Francisco, CA 94080

A Measured Response

China is implementing a more targeted COVID-19 containment strategy in places where virus outbreaks have flared up in recent weeks. On November 11, the central authorities rolled out 20 measures to optimize the country's pandemic response by maximizing the protection of public health and minimizing the impact on economic and social life. Local authorities are required to cease the arbitrary closing of schools, unauthorized suspension of business and unapproved bans on travel.

As case numbers in some parts of the country remain high, coordination is the key. The government must strike a balance between controlling the pandemic on the one hand and maintaining economic activity and ensuring those under quarantine have easy access to daily necessities and medical services on the other hand, in order to make containment measures less wearing on society.

China, as a developing country with a population of 1.4 billion, has a huge number of people in vulnerable groups. Its health system is less developed than that in developed countries and its medical resources are unevenly distributed. The Omicron variants

are known to spread fast and seasonal factors complicate matters, so it's likely that infections will continue to spread. Only with a swift response can China minimize adverse impacts on development and people's wellbeing brought by COVID-19.

Based on scientific research of previous practices and the latest cases, the recently unveiled optimizations are in line with China's current needs. Local governments are enforcing these measures and rectifying practices that are inconsistent with them. Two inappropriate approaches must be opposed: One is the block-it-off approach, which resorts to arbitrary COVID-19 restrictions; and the other is the let-it-go approach, which takes a lax attitude toward the virus.

Without strict measures, the consequences could be disastrous for a country with such a huge population, including 267 million aged 60 or over. As the country fine-tunes the containment measures along with the changing situation, and the pandemic control workers become more adept at implementing them, inappropriate restrictions will be curbed. **BR**



WRITE TO US

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CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90
TURKEY.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位: 中国外文出版发行事业局

主办单位: 中国外文局美洲传播中心(北京周报社)

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印刷: 北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2022年第49期 ISSN 1000-9140

国内统一连续出版物号: CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号: 2-922

广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证733号

国内零售价: 人民币6.00元



A SOLEMN SCENE

An honor guard carries the remains of late Chinese leader Jiang Zemin in Beijing after they were transferred from Shanghai aboard a special flight on December 1. Jiang passed away in Shanghai on November 30 at the age of 96.



Floating to New Frontiers

A floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) device at its delivery ceremony in Qingdao, Shandong Province, on November 29. The 118-meter-tall FPSO, a vessel used for the production, storage, and off-loading of crude oil, produced by the Offshore Oil Engineering Co. Ltd. for a British client, was successfully delivered that day.

Underage Internet Users

The number of underage Internet users in China hit 191 million in 2021, leading to an Internet penetration rate of 96.8 percent among Chinese minors, according to a report released on November 30.

The report, jointly issued by the Chinese Communist Youth League Central Committee and the China Internet Network Information Center, found that the gap in the Internet penetration rate of the group between urban and rural areas had been bridged in 2021.

China's cybersecurity has continuously improved, with the proportion of cybersecurity incidents involving minors on the decline compared with 2020, according to the report, which further added video platforms have become an important source of information

for minors.

The report covers students from primary, junior high, senior high, and secondary vocational schools across 31 provincial-level regions.

Coffee Tourism

The culture and tourism authorities of Yunnan Province have recently rolled out six tourist routes in a bid to further boost the development of coffee-related tourism, Xinhua News Agency reported on November 30.

The routes cover seven major coffee production bases in Yunnan, including Baoshan, Pu'er, and Dali.

Tourists can learn about the whole process, from picking coffee beans to washing and drying. They can even grind the beans and make themselves a cup of coffee during the trip.

With a large multiethnic population, Yunnan is home to rich tourism resources, including its

picturesque scenery and major tea and coffee production areas.

The province has accelerated the integrated development of coffee-themed agriculture, culture, and tourism.

In 2021, the plantation area of coffee in the province reached 93,333 hectares, yielding over 100,000 tons of coffee beans. The output value of the whole industrial chain reached 31.63 billion yuan (\$4.47 billion).

Invasive Species

China will enhance its capabilities in preventing and controlling invasive species to safeguard agricultural development and biodiversity, Xinhua reported on November 30.

The country faces multiple risks from invasive species due to its long land border, illegal introduction, breeding of exotic pets, and illegal release of animals into the wild, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said

in a statement.

So far, the country has listed 59 invasive species for elevated management.

The statement also said China would strengthen quarantine inspection of inbound goods, means of transport, consignments and deliveries, and cross-border e-commerce to stem the introduction of invasive species.

New targeted undertakings will optimize the monitoring network and develop prevention and control measures for specific invasive species.

Rail Transit Network

A new metro line and a new section of an existing line in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, are up and running.

The first phase of the Metro Line 6 branch started its initial operation in the city on November 28. Metro Line 12 began operating that same day.

With the newly opened lines, the city's urban rail transit network has 16 lines, with an operating length of 530 km, according to Shenzhen Metro Group Co. Ltd.

Additionally, the city's metro operator is promoting the digitalization and informatization of the urban rail transit network. The gate machines of the Line 6 branch and Line 12 are equipped with facial recognition technology for identity authentication.

Mammal Protection

China has made progress in protecting Yangtze finless porpoises, an iconic species in the Yangtze River, the country's longest river, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said on November 28.

Thirteen natural reserves for the Yangtze finless porpoises have been created in the Yangtze River basin, covering 40 percent of the species' habitats, Cui Shuhong, an official with the ministry, told a press conference.

These natural reserves have brought nearly 80 percent of the species' population under protection, Cui said.

The Yangtze finless porpoise, known as the "giant panda of the water," is a barometer of the ecological environment in the Yangtze River basin.

In recent years, China has poured solid efforts into ecological conservation along the Yangtze River, with a 10-year fishing ban launched in pivotal waters along the river in early 2021.

In December 2020, China announced the Yangtze River Protection Law, providing a legal guarantee for the river's biodiversity conservation.

Cargo Air Route

China's first professional cargo hub airport in the city of Ezhou, Hubei Province, launched its first all-cargo air route on November 27, linking Ezhou with Shenzhen in Guangdong Province.

Ezhou Huahu Airport is also the first professional cargo hub airport in Asia and the fourth of its kind in the world. Since the airport went into operation on July 17, it has opened multiple passenger routes linking Ezhou with cities including Beijing, Shanghai, and Xiamen in Fujian Province.

According to the airport, the all-cargo air route is operated by Boeing 737 cargo aircraft.

The airport further said it will soon open an all-cargo air route linking Ezhou and Shanghai.

The annual cargo and mail throughput of the airport is expected to reach 3.3 million tons by 2030, with annual passenger flow reaching 1.5 million.

New Cultural Heritage Entry

China's traditional tea-making was added to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list in the Moroccan capital of Rabat on November 29.

The item "Traditional tea processing techniques and associated social practices in China" passed the examination at the 17th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held from November



Cold Construction

The construction site of Harbin Ice-Snow World, a renowned seasonal theme park opening to the public every winter in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, on November 29.

28 to December 3.

The move recognizes the knowledge, skills and practices around tea plantation management, tea leaf picking, manual processing, drinking and sharing, UNESCO said on its webpage introducing the inscription.

Since ancient times, Chinese people have been planting, picking, making and drinking tea. Tea producers have developed six categories: green, yellow, dark, white, oolong and black teas. Together with re-

processed teas, such as flower-scented teas, China features over 2,000 tea products.

Tea is ubiquitous in daily life in China, as steeped or boiled tea is served in families, workplaces, tea houses, restaurants and temples, to name a few. "It is also an important part of socialization and ceremonies such as weddings and ancestral sacrifices," UNESCO added.

China now has 43 items on the intangible cultural heritage list, continuing to be the most inscribed country in the world.



Drilling Into Export

A tunnel boring machine is pictured before export to the Republic of Korea at a workshop of China Railway Engineering Equipment Group Co. Ltd. (CREG) in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, on November 24. Tunnel boring machines made by CREG have been exported to more than 30 countries and regions for major projects.

Production Approval

The domestically developed C919 large jetliner received its production certificate on November 29, meaning the model can enter mass production.

Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China, the C919's developer, received the certificate from the Civil Aviation Administration of China East China Regional Administration.

The plane conducted its successful maiden flight in 2017. It obtained the type certificate in late September, which indicates the C919's design meets airworthiness standards and environmental requirements.

The first C919 aircraft is expected to be delivered to China Eastern Airlines in December.

Property Market Support

The national securities watchdog rolled out five measures on November 28 to facilitate equity financing for real estate firms in the latest string of efforts to bolster the

property market.

Mergers, acquisitions, restructuring, supporting financing and refinancing will resume for eligible listed companies in the property sector, a spokesperson for the China Securities Regulatory Commission said.

Hong Kong-listed real-estate firms registered on the mainland will also be able to refinance.

The country will expand the use of real estate investment trusts, especially in affordable rental housing and infrastructures like warehouses and industrial parks, the commission said.

The commission also plans to pilot property-related private equity funds to help firms mobilize real estate assets.

Tariff Exemption

China will continue to exempt certain U.S. goods from additional tariffs until May next year, the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council said on November 28.

According to a previous

statement issued in April, certain items from the U.S. were excluded from the tariff countermeasures against the U.S. Section 301 measures until November 30.

After the extension, the exemption will last until May 31, 2023, the commission said in a statement.

Gas Transport

The China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline has delivered over 40 billion cubic meters of natural gas to China this year, according to PipeChina West Pipeline Co.

The pipeline transported about 120 million cubic meters of natural gas a day during the period, according to the company.

With a length of 1,833 km and a designed annual gas transmission capacity of 60 billion cubic meters, the pipeline went into service in December 2009.

The pipeline runs from the border of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, passes through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and links up with China's West-to-East Gas Pipeline in Horgos, Xinjiang

Uyghur Autonomous Region. It is China's first transnational gas pipeline.

The pipeline has been operating stably and safely for 4,730 days since it went into service. It benefits over 500 million people across 27 provinces, municipalities, autonomous regions, as well as Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

SME Performance

The activities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) picked up in October as the country's economy has logged a stable recovery since the third quarter of this year, industry data showed.

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Index, calculated based on a survey of 3,000 SMEs, came in at 88.2 in the month, the same as the level registered in September and reversing the contraction, according to the China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises.

The index contains multiple sub-indices to gauge SME

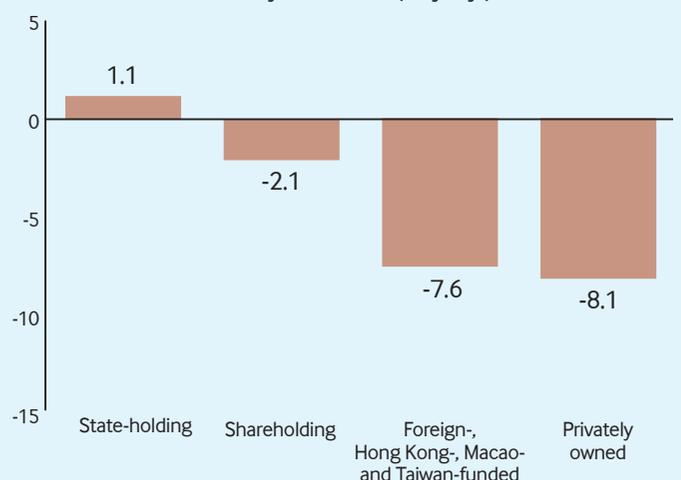
NUMBERS

(\$1=7.12 yuan as of December 1)

Industrial Enterprise Profit by Business Type
January-October (bln yuan)



Industrial Enterprise Growth by Business Type
January-October (% y.o.y.)



performances and expectations.

The sub-indices for several sectors reported stable growth in the period, with that for construction and industry climbing 0.2 points and 0.1 points, respectively, from September.

The data also showed sub-indices measuring SMEs' confidence, market activities and profits all increased in October, reversing September's decline.

Bond Issuances

Bond issuances in China topped 4.58 trillion yuan (\$640.2 billion) in October, data from the central bank showed.

Treasury bond issuances amounted to 827.18 billion yuan (\$115.6 billion) that month, and local government bonds worth 668.73 billion yuan (\$93.5 billion) were issued, according to the People's Bank of China.

Issuances of financial bonds stood at 766.09 billion yuan (\$107.1 billion) in the same period, and issuances of corporate credit bonds neared 1.1 trillion

yuan (\$153.8 billion).

Credit-asset-backed securities worth 37.51 billion yuan (\$5.2 billion) were issued in October, while issuances of interbank deposit certificates topped 1.17 trillion yuan (\$163.6 billion), the data showed.

By late October, outstanding bonds held in custody totaled 144.1 trillion yuan (\$20.1 trillion), according to the bank.

Pilot Zones

China has approved the establishment of comprehensive pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce in 33 more cities and regions, in its latest bid to boost foreign trade growth.

This is the seventh batch of such pilot areas, lifting the nationwide tally to 165.

Many in the latest batch of comprehensive pilot zones for cross-border e-commerce are in central and west China as well as the country's border areas.

The pilot zones are expected to help facilitate the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries and optimize and upgrade

foreign trade.

China's cross-border e-commerce has been growing fast in recent years. Its trade volume has ballooned nearly tenfold in the past five years, reaching 1.92 trillion yuan (\$268.5 billion) in 2021. In the first half of 2022, the market registered a 28.6-percent year-on-year growth in trade volume.

RRR Cut

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, has cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for eligible financial institutions by 0.25 percentage points to keep liquidity reasonably ample and lower comprehensive financing costs.

The cut took effect on December 5, except for financial institutions that have already implemented a 5-percent RRR.

The reduction in the amount of cash banks must hold in reserve is expected to free up 500 billion yuan (\$69.9 billion) in long-term liquidity, the central bank said in a statement on November 25.

After the reduction, the

weighted average RRR for Chinese financial institutions will stand at about 7.8 percent, it added.

International Trade

China's international trade in goods and services in October amounted to roughly 3.85 trillion yuan (\$538.4 billion), up 5 percent over the same period last year, official data showed on November 25.

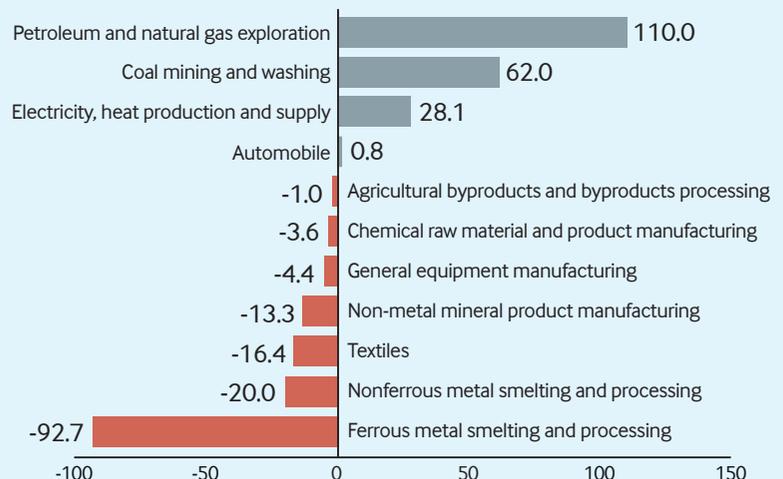
The exports of goods came in at 1.92 trillion yuan (\$268.6 billion) and imports hit 1.51 trillion yuan (\$211.2 billion), resulting in a surplus of 408.8 billion yuan (\$57.4 billion), the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

Service exports reached 180.6 billion yuan (\$25.3 billion), while imports totaled 237.3 billion yuan (\$33.2 billion), resulting in a deficit of 56.7 billion yuan (\$7.9 billion).

Industrial Enterprise Profit by Sector
January-October (bn yuan)



Profit Changes for Major Sectors
January-October (% y.o.y.)





NEW ZEALAND

A traditional Maori performance during a concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and New Zealand in Wellington on November 28



UNITED STATES

A street in Burlingame, California, on November 29. Over 11,200 patients in the country were hospitalized with the flu in the week leading up to November 28, the highest rate in the same period since 2010, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



FRANCE

Chefs plate dishes at the awards ceremony of LA LISTE 2023 world restaurant ranking in Paris on November 28. Starting from 2015, LA LISTE has been handpicking the world's best restaurants based on the compilation of hundreds of guidebooks and publications





GERMANY

Chancellor Olaf Scholz and visiting French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne sign an agreement at the German Chancellery in Berlin on November 25. The two European neighbors agreed that Germany would provide France with electricity while France would send natural gas to Germany



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Smoke rises from a forest after a helicopter crash in the eastern coastal county of Yangyang, Gangwon Province, on November 27. Five people were killed in the accident



BRAZIL

A passenger wearing a mask at Brasília International Airport in Brasília on November 26 after health authorities imposed the mandatory use of masks the day before due to a domestic surge in COVID-19 cases



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

HEAD OF THE UN'S TOP AUDITING BODY

Hou Kai, Auditor General of the National Audit Office, will hold the chairmanship of the United Nations Board of Auditors for two years starting on January 1, 2023, the board decided at its 52nd Special Session held in Santiago, Chile, on November 29.

Hou, 60, was appointed to his current post in June 2020. He is also a member of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and a member of the Standing Committee of the 20th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC.

The Board of Auditors was established in 1946 to independently audit the accounts and performance of the UN organization, as well as its funds and programs, and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.



AI Job Interviews

Qianjiang Evening News
November 25

Today, a new form of job interview, known as an artificial intelligence (AI) job interview, is becoming increasingly popular. The system requires each candidate to answer a number of preset questions in the absence of an interviewer.

The ultimate question is: Will AI interviews fully replace human interviewers?

A lack of personal interaction is just one among many features of virtual interviews that unnerve job applicants. Countdowns leading up to and during the recording

process constantly remind the candidates of the daunting passage of time, which adds to the natural feelings of discomfort and shyness when the camera is turned on.

For employers, AI-powered interviews present a cost-effective method, unlimited by space and time, to efficiently source and locate top talent without the interference of an interviewer's judgment. Yet its unhuman impartiality is both a strength and a weakness, as personal judgment surpasses computers in detecting subtle qualities and hidden potentials.

Therefore, AI interviews are in essence a form of big data collection to help narrow the talent pipelines. The final decisions should always be made by a human recruiter.



Pet Industry Expansion

China Newsweek
November 28

People are replacing children with pets, according to a *Forbes* article written in 2018. Meant as a jocular exaggeration, this remark nevertheless reveals an enduring grain of truth: Pets have become essential members of modern families. According to statistics released by the e-commerce platform JD.com, China's pet-keeping households are estimated to reach 100 million in 2022.

These strong numbers bespeak the growth of China's pet market into an

"Everyone needs respect and to be welcomed. And better sharing of technology to enable equal access to the best HIV science, especially between the Global South and North."

António Guterres, UN Secretary General, in his message for World AIDS Day, observed on December 1

"China and Kenya are good friends, good partners, good brothers and sisters. We are working together to build a China-Kenya, China-Africa community with a shared future."

Miao Miao, a counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, as the embassy donated an assortment of items to a charity dedicated to assisting vulnerable single mothers and children on November 29

integrated industry with branches in breeding, training, food, beauty, vet care, insurance, accessories and even pet funeral services.

The birth of China's pet industry dates back to the late 1980s, during which the country's reform and opening up allowed a budding of diverse lifestyles and a more open cultural attitude toward keeping house pets. The trend of pet-keeping first began to take off in earnest in the 2000s, with the emergence of domestic pet brands and animal healthcare services.

Despite the astounding speed of growth, the domestic pet industry has not yet reached a state of maturity. Pet owners' complaints of high healthcare expenses, nonstandard medical procedures, and a shortage of pet vaccines all beset the growth of the industry. Many domestic pet brands currently are mere manufacturers for multinational brands' outsourced production, which denies them the possession of core technologies.

These setbacks constitute a natural obstacle that the industry must overcome. Powered by innovative marketing means, including online stores and live-streaming on e-commerce platforms, domestic brands are gaining popularity among younger generations. Yet the emphasis should always be on research and technology.

Healthcare Chaperones

Rednet.cn

November 28

Recent years have seen the rise of professional hospital escorts, a nascent occupation that helps the sick navigate the hurdles of seeing a doctor by providing services such as making appointments, completing registrations, and fetching prescribed medicines and medical test results. In 2021, the total number of registered hospital escort service companies on Taobao, China's largest e-commerce platform, reportedly exceeded 500.

Yet surprisingly, the major clientele for this type of service is not the elderly, but the

younger generations. On the one hand, their lack of experience with intricate medical procedures results in a feeling of bewilderment. On the other hand, many young adults, trying to set foot in strange cities, often have to confront an overwhelming loneliness during solitary hospital visits.

However, the hospital escort service is currently in dire need of governmental supervision to eliminate unprofessional elements.

Therefore, all related parties should work in tandem to establish a system that integrates a clear qualification framework, uniform pricing, a set of professional standards based on customer feedback, and a content review system for online platforms.

FORMER NATIONAL HEAD COACH UNDER INVESTIGATION

Li Tie, former head coach of the Chinese men's soccer team, is under investigation for suspected serious violations of the law, according to an announcement by the Communist Party of China Hubei Provincial Commission for Discipline Inspection and the Hubei Provincial Supervisory Commission on November 26.

As a former star midfielder on the national team, Li, 45, took the reins from Marcello Lippi in January 2020. The Italian World Cup-winning coach was at the helm for the start of China's Qatar World Cup qualifying campaign but resigned after a disappointing defeat to Syria in November 2019.



Li enjoyed some initial success as the team secured a place in the final phase of Asian zone qualifying in June 2021. He was then engulfed in a series of disappointing results and controversies that culminated in his resignation as Team China's head coach at the end of 2021.

“The multiple global crises we are facing have led to a decline in real wages. This has placed tens of millions of workers in a dire situation as they face increasing uncertainties.”

Gilbert F. Hougbo, Director General of the International Labor Organization, in a recent statement at the UN Office at Geneva

“The U.S. should carefully listen to domestic rational voices, stop politicizing, weaponizing, and ideologizing economic, trade and sci-tech issues.”

Mao Ning, Foreign Ministry spokesperson, at a regular news conference on November 25

JIANG ZEMIN PASSES AWAY

Jiang Zemin passed away due to leukemia and multiple organ failure in Shanghai at 12:13 p.m. on November 30, 2022, at the age of 96, it was announced later that day.

The announcement was made by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the State Council of the PRC, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and the Central Military Commissions (CMC) of the CPC and the PRC.

It was announced in a letter addressing the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups.

The letter says they proclaim with profound grief to the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups that our beloved Comrade Jiang Zemin died of leukemia and multiple organ failure after all medical treatments had failed.

The letter says that Comrade Jiang Zemin was an outstanding leader enjoying high prestige acknowledged by the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, a great Marxist, a great proletarian revolutionary, statesman, military strategist and diplomat, a long-tested communist fighter, and an outstanding leader of the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. He was the core of the CPC's third generation of central collective leadership and the principal founder of the Theory of Three Represents.

Ever since his adolescent years, Jiang had been a diligent learner and seeker of truth enlightened by patriotism and the ideas of the democratic revolution. Through active participation in patriotic anti-Japanese movements during his college years, he developed a Marxist worldview, made his life choice and established his lifelong ideal and belief of working for national liberation and the people's wellbeing. After graduation from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 1947, Jiang worked at a local factory, and engaged in revolutionary publicity-related work

among workers and young professionals at night schools under youth associations. In 1949, he mobilized workers to protect their factories in preparation for the liberation of Shanghai.

Shortly after the founding of the PRC, Jiang served as first deputy director of Shanghai Yimin Food No.1 Factory, first deputy director of Shanghai Soap Factory, and chief of the electrical machinery section of Shanghai No.2 Design Division of the First Ministry of Machine-Building Industry.

In 1954, China was in need of a large number of technical and management cadres for the construction of the First Automotive Works in Changchun. Jiang was assigned to the plant. In 1955, he went to the Stalin Automobile Works in Moscow, where he worked as a trainee. After returning to China in 1956, he served as deputy chief of the dynamic mechanics division, deputy chief engineer for dynamic mechanics, and director of the power factory of the First Automotive Works. In 1962, he worked as deputy director of the Shanghai Electrical Apparatus Research Institute under the First Ministry of Machine-Building Industry, in charge of the organization's research work. In 1966, he worked as director and acting Party secretary of the Wuhan Heat-Power Machinery Institute, where he later became the Party secretary and organized the work for the design of atomic power generation equipment. After the "cultural revolution" (1966-76) began, he was impacted.

In 1970, he started to work in the First Ministry of Machine-Building Industry and served as head of the expert team sent by the ministry to Romania in 1971. After returning to China in 1973, he successively served as deputy director and director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the First Ministry of Machine-Building Industry. In 1980, he served as vice chairman and concurrently secretary general of the State Administration Commission on Import and Export Affairs and the State Administration Commission on Foreign Investment and a member of the Leading Party Members Groups of the two commissions. He was in charge of pioneering work includ-