

OPINION: FEAR IN FOCUS P.26 | FEATURES: THE NIGHT SHIFT P.30

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2026th

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INvest in China

Time: September 8th to 11th, 2026

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EDITOR'S DESK

北京周报

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Peace of Mind

Few things reveal a society's strength more clearly than the sense of security people experience in daily life. In Chinese cities, it is, for example, very common to see people walking home alone late at night, enjoying an orderly urban environment. Expats and international visitors have increasingly been sharing these ordinary scenes online, helping international audiences better understand what many describe as a "Chinese sense of security."

This sense of security is the result of years of efforts to build a stable society through effective governance, public services and the rule of law. China has long recognized that social stability is essential to people's wellbeing and national development. Without safety and order, economic growth becomes more costly, social trust weakens and everyday life is disrupted. A secure environment, by contrast, creates the conditions for prosperity, innovation and better quality of life.

In recent years, China has continued to advance its Peaceful China Initiative by strengthening public security, improving community-level governance and enhancing crime prevention systems. These measures have contributed to a social environment that many residents and visitors consider safe and predictable.

In turn, such an environment can attract more talent, investment and business activity, supporting the country's long-term development goals.

At the same time, China's understanding of peace and security extends beyond its own borders. As many parts of the world right now face armed conflict or terrorist threats, the need for international cooperation on security has become increasingly urgent. China has consistently advocated a vision of common security and shared development, rejecting the idea that one country's security must come at the expense of another's.

The country's experience demonstrates that security is not simply about the absence of crime or conflict, but about the presence of effective governance, social trust and opportunities for people to pursue better lives. Looking ahead, China aims to build on these foundations by modernizing national governance, improving risk prevention mechanisms and creating a more stable and secure environment for development.

A peaceful China benefits not only its own residents but also the wider world. In an era of uncertainty and instability, social order and responsible governance are valuable public goods. **BR**



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REUSABLE ROCKET MILESTONE

The first stage of a Zhuque-3 Y2 rocket returns to the ground on August 19 after blasting off from the Dongfeng Commercial Space Innovation Pilot Zone in northwest China earlier that day. The landing was China's first successful land-based rocket recovery, following on from the country's first sea-based rocket recovery, of a Long March-10B, on July 10.



Reviving Maritime Heritage

Visitors explore a *chuanzheng*-themed scenic site in Mawei District of Fuzhou, Fujian Province, on August 18. Fuzhou has successfully revitalized its industrial heritage, centered on *chuanzheng* (shipbuilding and administration), to boost local tourism.

Personal Data Protection

China has penalized more than 400 mobile apps and software development kits (SDKs), including by ordering their removal from app stores, for violations related to users' personal information, Xinhua News Agency reported on August 19.

The action was taken following inspection of personal information collection and use practices of apps and SDKs by the Cyberspace Administration of China, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security and other authorities, as part of a campaign dedicated to protecting personal information launched in April.

More than 4,000 mobile apps and SDKs have been urged to complete compliance rectifications since the start of the campaign, with over 1,100 publicly identified for related violations.

More than 1,000 companies and institutions were urged to correct issues in their products, such as not clearly disclosing the collection of personal information for advertising and user profiling, and failing to provide users with the option to disable personalized ads.

Authorities have also carried out personal information risk assessments in sectors including education, transportation, healthcare and finance and stepped up efforts to combat crimes involving personal information throughout the campaign.

Assisted Reproduction

A total of 139,700 babies were born through assisted reproductive services covered by China's medical insurance in the first half of 2026, the National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA) said on August 19.

Nationwide, medical insurance covered 1.7 million visits for assisted reproductive services during the period, with the number of visits rising steadily, according to the NHSA.

Based on the first-half figures, nearly 300,000 babies are expected to be born with the support of China's medical insurance policy for assisted reproduction in 2026, the administration said.

During the first six months of 2026, the direct costs of assisted reproduction services totaled 2.97 billion yuan (\$437 million), with the medical insurance fund covering more than 1.9 billion yuan (\$282 million) of the expenses.

College Graduate Employment

China has issued a circular on optimizing community-level posts in both urban and rural areas to recruit college graduates, aiming to provide a solid talent pool to support the modernization of grassroots governance and capacity.

The circular, released on August 18 on the official social media accounts of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, was jointly issued by the ministry, the Society Work Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

It outlines policy measures to broaden grassroots employment channels for college graduates, create new positions and strengthen support and guarantees.

The circular calls for expanded hiring of college graduates majoring in sociology, social work, psychology and law, with a focus on emergency response, services for seniors and children, care and assistance for special groups and psychological counseling.

The circular also calls for developing internship posts in villages and communities to provide more hands-on opportunities for graduates.

Space Shuttle Bus

Chinese commercial space company CAS Space recently completed a series of propulsion

system tests for its upper stage *Kinastra-1* space shuttle bus and plans to make its maiden flight in the first quarter of next year. This will provide a powerful boost to China's commercial space launch capabilities for deep-space missions, newspaper *Science and Technology Daily* reported on August 18.

The upper stage works like a "space shuttle bus." It does not launch from the ground, but only performs transfer operations in space. After a rocket delivers the upper stage and satellite payloads into space, the upper stage takes over the mission, transferring satellites between orbits. This approach saves satellites' fuel and allows multiple satellites to be deployed into different orbits during a single launch mission.

This month, *Kinastra-1* conducted comprehensive tests of the engine pressurization system, propellant feed system, propellant management system and servo control system.

The new upper stage can perform more than 20 ignitions, autonomously plan orbital transfer trajectories, and adapt to complex space environments such as vacuum and extreme temperatures. Its universal

modular design enables adaptation to multiple rocket types. CAS Space said that *Kinastra-1* supports complex missions such as high-orbit communication constellation deployment, multi-satellite deployment into different orbits and deep-space exploration.

Ecological Achievements

Chinese authorities on August 15 unveiled a raft of major ecological achievements at the main event marking the fourth National Ecology Day in Hulunbuir, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The event, themed "Building a green foundation for Chinese modernization," was jointly hosted by the National Development and Reform Commission, related government departments and the regional government.

At the event, Zhang Liming, Deputy Director of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, detailed progress in the Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program, initiated in 1978 to combat desertification across the northwest, north and northeast of the country.

China's northern ecological



Robot Tailor

A robot showcases its sewing prowess at the 2026 World Robot Conference in Beijing on August 19. This year's conference, themed "Human-Robot Symbiosis, Production-Demand Convergence," concluded on August 23.

shield has become more robust. Forest and grassland coverage in the program area has reached 40.76 percent, while 67.82 percent of treatable desertified land has been brought under control, Zhang said.

China also reported progress in building its national park system.

Flagship species in the national parks have shown signs

of recovery. The Tibetan antelope population has exceeded 70,000, while the wild Siberian tiger population has risen from 27 to 72 and the wild leopard population from 42 to 115. The critically endangered Hainan gibbon population has expanded to 44 individuals across seven groups. Several new species have also been discovered in Fujian Province.



Splish Splash!

Residents of Baoting Li and Miao Autonomous County, Hainan Province, participate in a water festival on August 19. The event coincided with the Qixi Festival, the traditional Chinese celebration of love, this year.

Forex Market

China's foreign exchange (forex) market sustained a stable run in July, with the overall trend in line with market expectations, data released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) on August 17 showed.

According to SAFE, banks' forex settlement reached \$266.3 billion that month, while sales stood at \$248 billion in July, yielding a surplus of \$18.3 billion. In the first seven months of 2026, cumulative settlement totaled \$1,831.6 billion against sales of \$1,542.2 billion, posting a surplus of \$289.4 billion.

Cross-border receipts and payments by non-bank institutions, including enterprises and individuals, totaled \$1.7 trillion in July, surging 20 percent year on year, with a net capital inflow of \$59.8 billion. The country's forex market trading volume also climbed 8 percent from a year earlier to \$4.3 trillion.

Oil, Gas Supply

China's domestic oil and gas supply is expected to reach 440 million tons of oil equivalent by 2030 under a new five-year plan (2026-30) for the sector, the National Energy Administration (NEA) said on August 17.

The plan, jointly issued by the NEA and the National Development and Reform Commission, also sets targets to add 20,000 km of long-distance oil and gas pipelines by 2030. This will bring the country's total pipeline network to 220,000 km.

Under the new plan, China aims to raise its natural gas reserves to the equivalent of more than 13 percent of national consumption, and bring the annual carbon dioxide injection from carbon capture and storage as well as carbon capture, utilization and storage projects to 10 million tons by 2030.

The plan outlines a goal of building a modern oil and gas industry with a stronger domestic

supply capacity, more efficient pipeline networks, adequate and flexible reserves, greener production, safer and more efficient operations, higher-value processing and utilization, breakthroughs in homegrown technologies and more diversified international cooperation.

Key tasks include stepping up oil and gas exploration and production, expanding infrastructure, strengthening oil and gas reserves, deepening international cooperation, accelerating the green transition and development of new quality productive forces, boosting technological innovation and deepening reforms in the oil and gas sector. New quality productive forces refer to the shift toward innovation-driven growth, technological advancement and high-quality development in multiple sectors of the economy.

The plan also calls for coordinated development of oil and gas with renewable energy and associated resources. Oil and gas fields and surrounding areas will

be encouraged to develop solar, wind and geothermal energy in an orderly manner, raise electrification rates and build green, low-carbon and zero-carbon oil and gas fields.

China's total oil and gas output reached a record 420 million tons of oil equivalent in 2025, marking a notable improvement in the country's independent energy security capacity, official data showed.

Home Prices

China's 70 major cities generally saw narrowed year-on-year home price drops in July, adding to signs of stabilization of the property market, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on August 17.

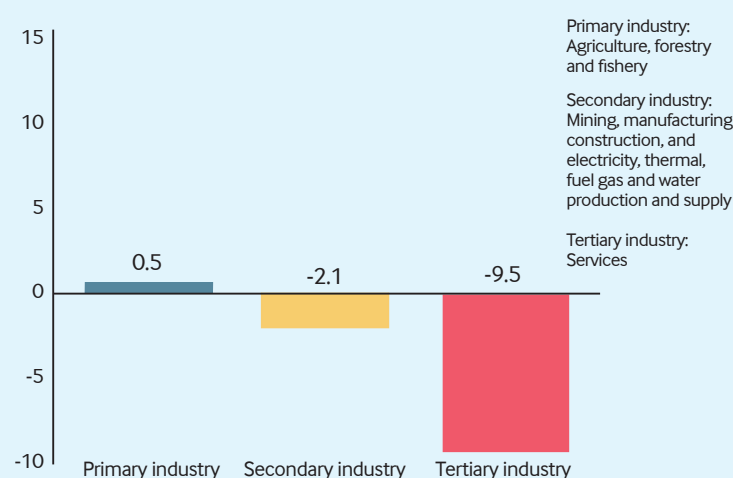
In the four first-tier cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, new home prices fell 1.1 percent year on year in July, compared with a 1.3-percent drop in June, while the decline in second-hand home prices narrowed from 4.9 percent to 3.7 percent in July.

In other cities, year-on-year declines of home prices also

NUMBERS

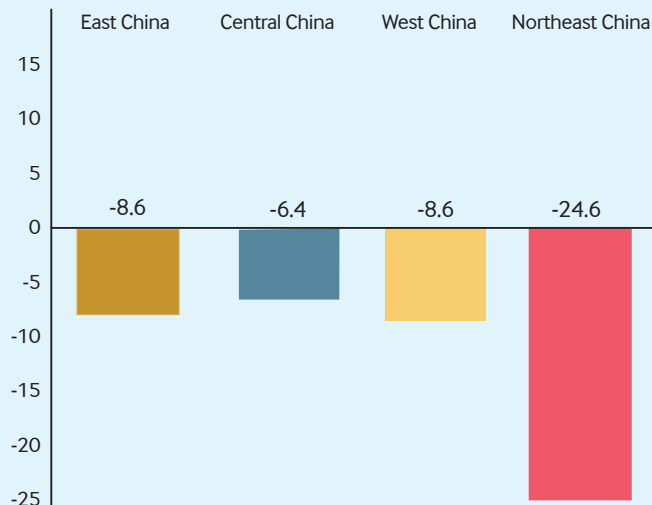
Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Sector

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



Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Region

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



narrowed slightly in July, except new home prices in third-tier cities, where the decline was unchanged from June.

On a month-on-month basis, home prices in first-tier cities generally rose, while those in second- and third-tier cities went down. Across the 70 cities, 23 recorded increases or no change in new home prices, two more than in June, while the figure for second-hand homes was eight, two fewer than the previous month.

The NBS releases a monthly home price report tracking market changes in 70 major cities, including four first-tier cities, 31 second-tier cities and 35 third-tier cities.

More signs emerging this year suggest the property market has remained broadly stable with confidence and expectations gradually improving.

Cross-Border Cash Pooling

China will expand a cross-border cash pooling pilot scheme nation-

wide, allowing more multinational companies to centrally manage their cross-border renminbi and foreign-currency funds, according to a notice issued on August 14.

The notice, jointly released by the People's Bank of China, the central bank, and SAFE, said the new policy will take effect on September 14.

Under the program, multinational companies can pool the foreign debt and overseas lending quotas of their member companies, independently determine the proportion of funds to be centralized, and manage renminbi and foreign-currency funds through the same account.

This will enable funds to be allocated at the group level while allowing member companies greater flexibility in their use, according to an official with the forex regulator.

The program, called the centralized operation and management of cross-border renminbi and foreign currency funds, was launched on a pilot basis in Beijing

and Guangdong Province in 2023. As of late June this year, more than 260 multinational companies had registered for the program, benefiting over 5,500 member companies at home and abroad.

The notice further streamlines registration procedures by introducing a single-window mechanism at local branches of the forex regulator while allowing cooperating banks to handle certain registration changes.

It also specifies operational rules and requirements for ongoing and ex-post supervision to guard against risks associated with cross-border capital flows.

Carbon Emissions Market

The cumulative trading volume of China's national carbon emissions rights trading market had exceeded 930 million tons by the end of July, Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu said on August 13.

This market, which began

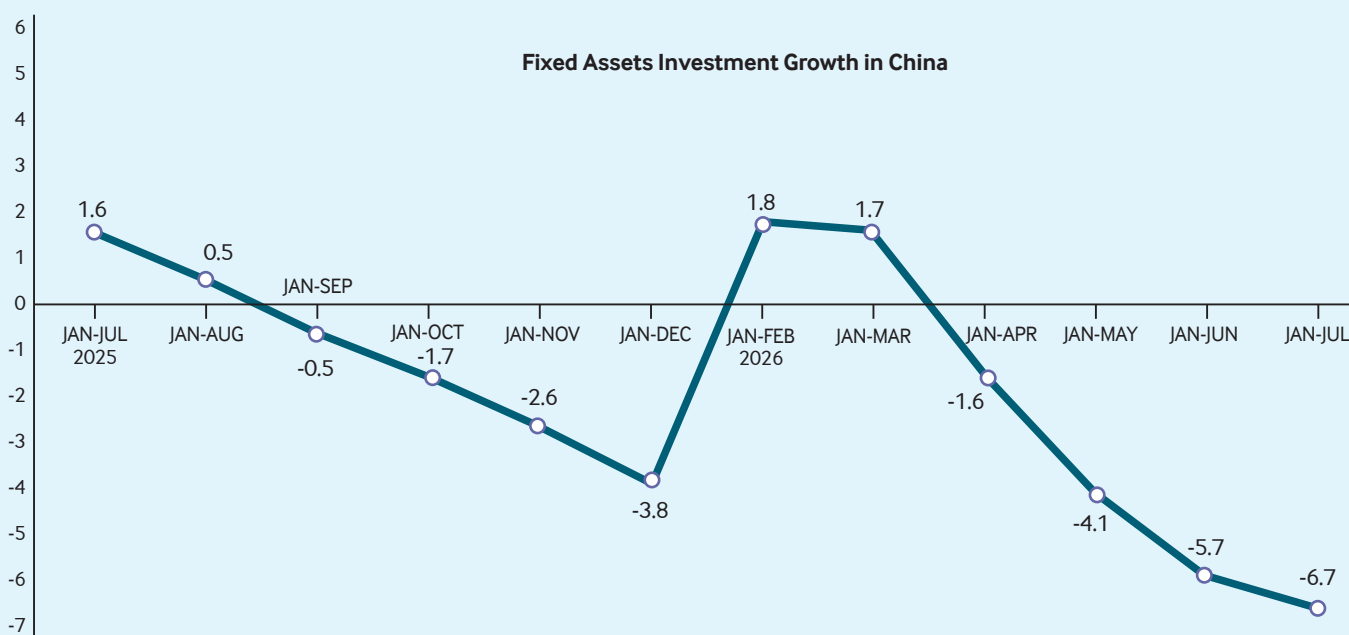
trading in 2021, has helped industries cut carbon emissions at lower costs and has contributed substantially to the green and low-carbon transition, Huang told a press conference.

China recently issued the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) for Building a Beautiful China, which calls for expanding the coverage of the national carbon emissions rights trading market in an orderly manner, increasing market participants and reducing carbon emissions per unit of product covered by the market by around 3 percent.

Li Gao, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment, said China will expand the national carbon emissions rights trading market to cover more high-emission industries, including petrochemicals and chemicals, beyond power generation, steel, cement and aluminum smelting.

This expansion will bring about 80 percent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions under effective control, Li added.

Fixed Assets Investment Growth in China



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



INDONESIA

A celebration of the 81st anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Indonesia in Jakarta on August 17



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

President Lee Jae Myung delivers a speech during an event in honor of Liberation Day in Seoul on August 15, a day marking the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule



CROATIA

A massive wildfire approaches the coastal town of Omis on August 13. At least 1,000 residents and tourists were evacuated



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Medical workers carry out disinfection work at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, North Kivu Province, on August 16. The Ebola outbreak in the country remains a public health emergency of international concern, as the epidemic had surpassed 5,000 cases as of August 20



EGYPT

The monument commemorating the 1943 Cairo Declaration, erected by China at the Mena House Hotel, opens to the public in Giza on August 15



BRAZIL

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party attends his first campaign rally for re-election in Sao Bernardo do Campo on August 16



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ ROBOT MAKER SEES FIRM LIST ON STAR MARKET

Wang Xingxing, 36, has become the first humanoid robot entrepreneur to list on the Chinese mainland stock market, with his company Unitree Robotics making its initial public offering on the Shanghai Stock Exchange's STAR Market, a Nasdaq-style sci-tech innovation board, on August 19.

Wang earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Shanghai University and developed the XDog quadruped robot prototype during his studies. Following brief employment at Chinese tech giant DJI, he founded Unitree Robotics in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, in 2016.



The firm develops quadruped and humanoid robots with self-developed core components. According to its prospectus, its humanoid robot shipments exceeded 5,500 units in 2025, taking 32.4 percent of the global market. Its cumulative quadruped robot shipments topped 33,000 units, with a nearly 60-percent global market share.

Artificial Adversity

Workers' Daily
August 18

A new type of summer camp is gaining popularity among some Chinese parents: sending children to remote rural areas to chop firewood, feed pigs, dig potatoes and live without Internet access or air conditioning.

Marketed as "hardship camps," these programs are intended to build resilience. But critics say many blur the line between natural hardships and deliberately manufactured suffering. Genuine setbacks can help children grow when accompanied by proper parental guidance. By contrast, prolonged outdoor labor under poor living conditions and harsh discipline may cause exhaustion,

anxiety and resentment.

The rise of these camps reflects a widespread parental concern over children's screen addiction and lack of independence. Some commercial operators have capitalized on that anxiety, promoting hardship camps as a quick fix while oftentimes lacking qualified trainers and adequate safety measures.

Experts are calling for tighter oversight of these camps, including stricter checks on staff, activities, accommodation and emergency procedures. Online platforms should also monitor and control advertising that makes exaggerated claims. For parents, the broader lesson is that resilience cannot be forced, and that lasting growth comes from age-appropriate challenges and sound guidance.



From Sightseeing to Skyseeing

Oriental Outlook
July 23

The low-altitude economy, economic activities in airspace below 1,000 meters, is taking a touristic turn. The revised Civil Aviation Law, in force since July 1, gives fresh legal backing to the sector, while local governments and travel operators are racing to turn short flights into a new form of mass-market leisure.

"Compared with cities, county-level markets generally have lower costs for rent and labor, which can translate into higher returns on investment."

Chen Liping, a professor of economics at the Capital University of Economics and Business, on August 18, as China introduced a set of measures to unlock the consumption potential of counties and smaller cities

"China has not behaved badly. China hasn't invaded anybody. China does not call the leaders of other countries by name, bad names. China treats people with respect."

Greg Cusack, who served in the Iowa state legislature in the U.S. from 1973 to 1981, speaking about a Pew Research Center survey showing more people have a favorable view of China than of the U.S. in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

In Guilin and Yangshuo in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, aerial routes offer sweeping views of the region's karst scenery. In Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province, visitors can use augmented-reality headsets during low-altitude flights for an immersive look at how its dramatic sandstone landscape evolved over millions of years. Such projects turn sightseeing into something closer to interactive storytelling, while giving destinations new ways to generate revenue.

For local governments, the appeal of low-altitude tourism lies less in quick ticket revenues than in its wider economic spillovers. The long-term goal is to use aerial attractions as a magnet for visitors, turning traffic in the sky into longer stays, greater spending on the ground and, ultimately, broader regional growth.

The push is also crossing regional boundaries. Chongqing Municipality and neighboring Sichuan Province, for instance, have established a cross-provincial coordination mechanism for low-altitude aviation, seeking to streamline approvals and align management. In the Yangtze River Delta, Shanghai, Suzhou in Jiangsu Province and Hangzhou are planning linked low-altitude routes, pointing toward a more integrated tourism network.

New Hush for Households

Gmw.cn
August 17

As part of a national pilot initiative to curb urban noise pollution, China has established 3,272 “quiet communities” across the country, benefiting more than 2.4 million households.

Still, much work remains to be done. In 2025 alone, Chinese prefectural-level cities received approximately 6.83 million noise-related complaints, with noise coming from sources such as dancing in public squares, equipment malfunctions and domestic quarrels accounting for 73.2 percent of all reports.

Building quieter communities requires a multipronged approach. Some newly built residential compounds are incorporating noise reduction measures from the planning and design stage. These include separating pedestrian and vehicle traffic, paving roads with noise-reducing asphalt and planting layered green belts to separate activity areas from living spaces.

Legal safeguards are also being strengthened. The new Ecological and Environmental Code, which took effect on August 15, prohibits the use of loudspeakers in areas with concentrations of noise-sensitive buildings, except in emergencies. It also requires facilities such as elevators and water pumps in residential communities to be properly located and equipped with noise reduction measures.

↓ EARTHQUAKE SURVIVOR BEGINS TSINGHUA MATH JOURNEY

Liu Chenrui, a student from Sichuan Province, completed his registration at Tsinghua University in Beijing on August 19, joining its more than 4,000 new undergraduates this year. He will study mathematics and applied mathematics at the prestigious university's Zhili College, which is committed to cultivating STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) talent.

Born in a rescue tent after the devastating 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, Liu suffered a serious tumor in his left arm, which required amputation when he was 10. Managing to keep up with his schoolwork throughout his recovery and fascinated by math, he trained hard for math competitions and claimed a silver medal at the 2025 Chinese Mathematical Olympiad.

Liu was admitted through a national pilot initiative launched in 2020 that selects outstanding students for basic academic disciplines at top universities.



“Many people assumed Unit 731 was only a story about China. Now that Singapore’s broadcaster has told this history, audiences, including many in Europe and North America, are realizing that it involved much more.”

Lim Shao Bin, a Singaporean historian, commenting on a documentary released in June, uncovering brutal atrocities committed by Unit 731, the biological and chemical warfare research unit of the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II

“The role of science and technology museums can no longer be merely about resolving doubts. Instead, through diverse forms of science popularization, museums should inspire visitors, especially young people, to think and create.”

Ni Minjing, Director of the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum, as the museum welcomed its 100 millionth visitor on August 18



A traffic police robot on duty on Xiangmihu Road in Futian District, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on August 6

COVER STORY

AI-EMPOWERED SAFETY

How smart technologies are shaping public security in China By Ji Jing