

## QUOTABLE

"I am distressed because of what happened — there is no way I can measure the value of my loss."

Sculptor Zhu Bingren said on Friday. Four Buddha statues made by Zhu were stolen during an exhibition in Shizuoka, Japan, in April. He alerted Japanese police on July 31. They were among the exhibits brought from Zhejiang province to Shizuoka for a special show to celebrate the 30th anniversary of friendship between the two provinces. The missing Buddha statues, each 45 centimeters high and weighing 20 kilograms, are one-fifth-size replicas of those sitting in a copper Buddhism hall designed for the renowned Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou, in Zhejiang province.

## THE NUMBER

245

OFFICIALS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR CORRUPTION IN BEIJING

Beijing prosecutors said on Friday that they placed 203 corruption cases on file for investigation in the first half of the year, involving 245 officials, up 15.3 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively, over figures for the same period of last year.

In the first six months, a total of 9,144 prosecutions were initiated in Beijing, up 28.8 percent year-on-year, according to official figures.

## ON THE WEB

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**Video:** London's green spaces are being called into use as campsites, where international communities are developing.

**Culture:** Find the Peach Blossom Valley described by poet Tao Yuanming of the Eastern Jin Dynasty (AD 317-420), a mountain-encircled land laced with crystal-clear rivers and girded with bridges, whose inhabitants live a carefree life of peace and prosperity.

**Hot words:** Come and learn different ways of saying "break the record" in language tips.

**Bilingual:** L.A.'s chief technology officer sends e-mail imploring city workers to stop watching the Olympics online, fearing it could trigger a massive computer crash.

On China Forum

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**Discussion:** What do you think of Chinese people?

**Pictures:** A 93-year-old bra maker

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# Policies stabilize service sectors

Moderate economic recovery can be seen in coming months, expert says

By WEI TIAN and CHEN JIA

China's service industries are slowly stabilizing as government policies gradually boost demand, analysts said after the release of new economic measurements on Friday.

The purchasing managers' index for the non-manufacturing sector dropped 1.1 points to 55.6 in July, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

A reading above 50 indicates business activities in non-manufacturing sectors are expanding from the previous month. Top Chinese leaders have decided to boost domestic demand in the second half of

the year by improving people's spending power, Cai Jin, the federation's vice-chairman, said in a statement on Friday.

"That will help service industries maintain stable and fast growth," Cai said.

Business expectations remain at high level of 63.9 points, according to the official figure, with confidence in IT, post, air transport and building industries surging above 70.

"The initial effect of earlier easing measures, the recent rebound of property sales and the still robust income growth are the factors behind the improvement of July's services demand," said Qu Hongbin, chief economist in China with HSBC.

A separate reading on China's non-manufacturing sectors,

the HSBC China services PMI, picked up mildly to 53.1 in July from 52.3 in June, because of a gain of new business.

The official service PMI tracks larger and State-owned companies while HSBC's index mostly tracks smaller and private companies.

"The modest gain in HSBC services PMI, plus a modest improvement of reading in manufacturing sectors, suggest that the real economy is stabilizing at a subdued pace," Qu said.

The HSBC manufacturing PMI was 49.3 in July, up from 48.2 in June, which marked the largest month-on-month increase in 21 months.

The improvements have helped lift the employment index in HSBC's statistics to 51.4 in July compared to 50.7 in June and lead to a less sharp reduction of work backlog.

However, business expect-

tations reported by HSBC dropped to the lowest level since December, and at 62.8 is the third lowest reading since the series began in November 2005.

"A meaningful turnaround of domestic demand is a key counterbalance to weakening exports," Qu said. "Clearly, Beijing is willing to do more to step up easing, and the possible drop of inflation to below 2 percent allows them to deliver one more rate cut in the coming months."

Yet cuts in the reserve ratio requirement and fiscal easing are likely to remain China's primary tools to support growth.

"We still expect a moderate growth recovery in the coming months, when easing measures should fully filter through," he said.

On Tuesday, China's top leaders reaffirmed stable growth as a priority and vowed to maintain fiscal and monetary policies to

combat turbulent global conditions.

President Hu Jintao called for measures to expand domestic demand, which caused analysts to speculate more support to stimulate consumption.

The Ministry of Finance on Thursday announced the date for the expansion of value-added tax reform to eight provinces.

Eight cities will launch their reform to replace the business tax with a VAT in the modern service and transportation sectors to avoid duplicate taxation and lower their tax burden, with Beijing taking the lead on Sept 1.

China may also select certain industries to roll out VAT reform nationwide in 2013, said Kenneth Leung, a partner of tax and business advisory services at Ernst and Young. Such industries include transportation, building installation, and post and telecommunications,

he said.

In contrast with the boom in service sectors, the rebound in the property market may not last long, said Chang Qing, a property market analyst with Homelink Real Estate.

"Although there has been a universal warming up in the sales volume of the housing market nationwide, some cities have already seen a retreat in that amount, which suggests that the housing demand is not sustainable amid ongoing regulations," Chang said.

"What's more, the local government has reiterated the tightening measures on the property market despite expectations of increasing housing prices, which may trigger further restrictions on the market," he said.

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## around china

SICHUAN

### Two dead in natural-gas blast

The death toll from a gas blast on Thursday in Southwest China's Sichuan province rose to two after an injured person died in a hospital, local authorities said on Friday. A 30-year-old man died at 8:50 pm on Thursday, following the death of a 44-year-old woman earlier that day, according to a statement issued by the Nanjiang county government.

The 24 injured were still receiving treatment at two local hospitals, and two of them were in critical condition.

The accident occurred at around 3 pm on Thursday on the second floor of an eight-story building belonging to the China Mobile branch in the county.

An initial investigation indicated that the blast was caused by a natural-gas leak in a kitchen.

### Prolific robber keeps diary

A prolific robber who stole 88 motorbikes in five months had bad luck when he was stealing his 89th bike, the Chengdu Business Daily reported on Friday.

The alleged thief surnamed Zhang was caught red-handed in Pengzhou, Sichuan province, when he offered a tricycle driver five yuan (78 US cents) to help him carry away a locked motorbike. The request caught the attention of a nearby policeman, the report said.

The paper said that when police searched Zhang's home, they also found an unusual diary where he had recorded a history of all the 88 motorbikes he had stolen and the prices he had sold them for.

Zhang was accused of theft and arrested, the paper said.

HEILONGJIANG

### Tiger training program launched

Zoologists at a Northeast China breeding center announced on Friday the beginning of a wilderness training program for Siberian tigers.

Seven Siberian tigers are participating in the program and the figure is expected to rise to 11 by the end of the year, said sources with the Heilongjiang Siberian Tiger Garden, the world's largest breeding center for Siberian tigers.

Participating tigers must be cubs born within the breeding center, said chief engineer Liu Dan, adding that they will be sent to demarcated

areas within the center's reserve accompanied by their mothers.

HUNAN

### Over 200 mine pits suspended

Authorities in Hunan province have suspended the production licenses of more than 200 coal-mine pits for safety reasons.

At a conference on preventing coal-mine gas outburst accidents held on Thursday, the provincial coal industry bureau released a list of 216 coal-mine pits, which failed to pass the inspection on gas outburst prevention.

All these pits are small in production scale, with annual production capacities of less than 90,000 tons each.

The bureau requested its lower-level branches to withhold licenses of relevant collieries by Aug 15 and supervise them on their correctional measures.

The inspection was put forward following two gas outburst accidents in early July in the province's Lianyuan city and Jiage county that killed 10 people.

HONG KONG

### CY Leung invites astronauts

Three astronauts, Jing Haipeng, Liu Wang and Liu Yang, who successfully completed China's first manned space docking mission, will arrive in Hong Kong next Friday for a four-day visit at the invitation of Hong Kong Chief Executive CY Leung.

The 40-member delegation comprises key commanders and designers of the manned space program, who contributed to the success of the docking mission between the Shenzhou IX spacecraft and the Tiangong-1 lab module.

Leung is glad ahead of the delegation's visit.

"The accomplishments of the Shenzhou IX mission have opened a new chapter in our country's aerospace history. The crew succeeded in the first manual space docking between an airship and a space laboratory, and had the first female astronaut in a China space mission," Leung said.

ZHEJIANG

### Jiaying plants colorful rice

Rice of different colors that creates text and graphics in the fields



### GORILLA ATHLETES

PHOTO BY LIU WEIYONG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Six-year-old gorilla Feijie (center), dressed as an Olympic athlete on Thursday, is seen with other gorillas in Xiangjiang Safari Park in Guangzhou, the capital of South China's Guangdong province.

has attracted the attention of many in the farmland of the Xiangjiadang provincial agriculture zone on Aug 2, in Jiaying, Zhejiang province.

The multicolored rice was successfully planted by the agricultural sciences authority of Xiuzhou district, Jiaying city. For the first time, more than 30,000 square meters of experimental fields were cultivated at the agriculture zone.

The area will be expanded next year.

JIANGSU

### Man perfects card throwing skills

Ye Tongxin, 50, can easily hit any close-range target, quick and hard, with a playing card.

Ye, who works at a bus company in Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu province, has spent 10 years practicing his card-throwing skills. After years of practice, his cards can easily hit an apple three meters away and slice 16 cucumbers in one minute, the Yangtze Evening News reported on Friday.

According to Ye, his cards can reach speeds of 100 meters per second.

HAINAN

### Rapist sentenced to death

A 21-year-old motorcycle driver surnamed Tan was sen-

tenced to death with a two-year reprieve — a penalty usually reduced to life in jail — for rapes at a local court in Sanya, South China's Hainan province, on Thursday, local media reported on Friday.

Tan drove female passengers to remote areas or followed women who were walking alone, the paper said.

For over half a year from November 2010 to 2011, Tan tried to rape 10 women. Only two of the 10 victims escaped. Police detained him on May 1, 2011.

JIANGXI

### Research starts on freshwater lake

Chinese scientists started on Friday a research program on the country's largest freshwater lake to boost economic development in the region.

The program, the second in three decades, will bring scientists together from 30 institutes around the country to conduct research on the ecological, environmental and hydrological systems of Poyang Lake in East China's Jiangxi province, said Hu Zhenpeng, director of the program.

The three-year program at a cost of 10 million yuan (\$1.59 million) will also look into the social economy of the lake region, Hu said.

## Dragons in 3-D

By XU LIN in Dengfeng, Henan [xulin@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:xulin@chinadaily.com.cn)

Diehard fans of Chinese martial arts will be able to enjoy kung fu as if they were in the presence of masters thanks to the launch of a 3-D documentary set in the legendary Shaolin Temple.

The 60-minute *Shaolin Boot Camp* showcases the life of Hollywood actor and martial artist Jason Scott Lee as he learns about the Shaolin Temple, its traditions and kung fu from Shaolin monks over a two-week period.

Shooting of the documentary wrapped up on Thursday. Shi Yongxin, the abbot of the temple, tutored Lee and guided his practice.

Lee, 46, who is of Chinese-American descent, became famous starring as Bruce Lee in the 1993 kung fu movie *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story*. He also studied Jeet Kune Do — a kung fu system developed by Bruce Lee — under Jerry Poteet, one of Bruce Lee's students.

The story of the Shaolin Temple and its kung fu has been featured in movies and documentaries before, but this is the first 3-D film to be made about it.

It is a co-production by China Intercontinental Communication Center, Beach House Pictures in Singapore and 3net, a 3-D television channel in the United States. The documentary's premiere on 3net is scheduled for the beginning of 2013, with plans to have it broadcast in China later.

Jason Scott Lee is very eager to learn. Shaolin kung fu is more culture, spirit and belief than just fighting and combat. I believe a true Shaolin will be demonstrated in the documentary," Shi said.

According to director Donovan Chan from Singapore, 3-D filmmaking has gained popularity globally in the past few years, both in television and motion pictures.

"It's perfect timing to recapture the beauty and spirit of the Shaolin Temple and its martial arts in stunning 3-D quality, displaying it to the world in a

way it has never seen before," Chan said.

"We not only used state-of-the-art 3-D high-speed cameras to capture Shaolin kung fu in super slow motion, but also adopted an innovative hand-held 3-D rig. It allows us to capture the reality of living, eating and training with Shaolin monks without the bulk of many older 3-D rigs," he said.

Chan said it allows viewers to feel they are right in the Shaolin Temple, marveling at its ancient architecture with kung fu masters.

Chan said Jason Scott Lee is perfect for this role as he's not only a Jeet Kune Do expert but also has a great understanding of Western and Eastern traditions.

"In my childhood, I was obsessed with Shaolin kung fu when I watched Hong Kong's martial arts movies. I hoped someday I would visit the Shaolin Temple and often wondered what it would be like to be a warrior monk. Now I've fulfilled my dream," Jason Scott Lee said.

"If I say Shaolin kung fu, I think of fighting, medicine, practice and philosophy. What I've learned about Shaolin kung fu is about being mindful throughout the day," Lee said.

He said *qigong* — a kung fu system that involves the cultivation of internal breath — is very challenging and different from his training of Jeet Kune Do because Shaolin kung fu has more traditional and classical movements while Jeet Kune Do is quite modern.

"The thing I remember most is getting to know my master (Shi Yongxin) and other monks. They are humorous in life but they are very focused with all their heart in shooting. It's a fascinating contrast," Lee said.

"It's an international crew from five countries. Shaolin kung fu is not only an important part of Chinese culture, but also an international topic because it has many fans in the world," said Jing Shuiqing, director of the international department of the China Intercontinental Communication Center.

## 'Have you ever heard about the guy who...'

By XIN DINGDING

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Where can birds, puppies, turtles and ants be found together?

If you thought a pet shop, be more creative.

Lin Meizhuo, the security checker at Beijing Capital International Airport, says it would be in passengers' luggage.

The most memorable passenger Lin has met at the security counter of the capital airport's Terminal 2 is a man who hid a tiny bird in his sock.

"He said the bird was a gift for his daughter, and the little bird would not do any harm (to

flight safety)," Lin recalled.

The bird was found during the pat-down routine. Smaller than the palm of a hand, the bird looked listless, as if it had been drugged with narcotics, she said.

The bird was later picked up by a friend of the passenger.

Surprisingly, it's not an isolated case. As the country experiences fast economic development and changes in lifestyle, more people are carrying their pets when they travel by air, she said.

But the procedure of shipping animals by air is lengthy and cumbersome. Pets need a number of certificates from

animal quarantine departments before being shipped by airlines.

But "people think small animals are harmless, so they would rather try their luck," she said.

Besides birds, a passenger was found carrying a cricket in a box inside his suit, she said.

But most often seen are pets including puppies, turtles and ants carried in cages or boxes, she said.

"But there was once a passenger who tried to take a tiny turtle by hiding it in a napkin package in her bag," she said.

Usually, animals that cannot go with their owners wait

behind until the owners can make arrangements for someone to pick them up.

Beijing Capital International Airport transported about 78.7 million passengers last year, the largest number in China.

Security personnel at the airport are now intensifying their efforts to screen out any potential risks after a foiled hijacking in Northwest China.

Six potential hijackers passed through security checks at Hotan airport in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region on June 29 and brought metal bars hidden in crutches as well as suspected explosives onto the plane. Fortunately, they were

apprehended by passengers and flight workers.

The lesson that the Beijing airport can learn from the incident is that devices are not always reliable, said Tang Hong, an assistant manager at the capital airport's security department.

"It's necessary to master skills that can tell suspicious passengers just by observation," Tang said.

Experts invited from Israel, "the most experienced in the field," just finished training security personnel at the airport last week, she said.

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A Shaolin monk practices kung fu during the shooting of the first 3-D documentary about the legendary temple.