



Puppy love turns serious

Two Yorkshire terriers are given their "marriage" certificate during a group wedding for pets held at the Ziyu Shanzhuang residential community in Beijing on Sunday. Twenty-one pairs of pets tied the knot during the ceremony.

Around China

BEIJING False theft report ends in detention

A woman surnamed Wang reported a theft to the police but ended up being detained for making a false claim and being involved in prostitution. Wang received a client who did not pay her the full 3,500 yuan (\$570) so she reported to police the shortfall had been stolen. Police discovered she was working as a prostitute and detained her along with the client.

LEGAL EVENING NEWS

Library official's sentence upheld

A higher court recently upheld a three-year prison sentence imposed on the former director of the library at Beijing Sport University, surnamed Liu. He was sentenced in 2010 for embezzling 18,500 yuan (\$3,000) of public funds allocated for buying books. Liu had appealed against the first judgment.

BEIJING MORNING NEWS

GANSU Load of live fish looted from overturned truck

Some 22 metric tons of live fish were looted from a truck when it overturned on a highway in Tianzhu county on Thursday. The consignment of fish worth 500,000 yuan (\$81,700) was being transported from Hubei province by Zhang Xinru, a businessman in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. It is believed farmers near the scene of the accident took the fish. Police are investigating.

IYAXIN.COM

GUANGDONG Boa constrictor scares visitors to park

A 2-meter-long boa constrictor alarmed visitors in a park in Dongguan on Sunday. The incident was reported to police who took the snake away to ensure the safety of visitors. Police said the snake would be released into the wild.

YANGCHENG EVENING NEWS

HENAN 18 cities set new dumpling record

A Guinness World Record was set at 10 am on Sunday by 4,613 people in 18 cities in the province in Central China who all made dumplings at the same time. The former record was made by 3,687 people from Qingdao, a coastal city in East China's Shan-dong province, in February.

BEIJING TIMES

JIANGSU Property donated to local government

Chinese philanthropist Chen Guangbiao, president of Jiangsu Huangpu Recycling Resources, donated real estate valued at 70 million yuan (\$11.4 million) to the local government on Saturday. The real estate included a nursing home, a rural market and a kindergarten, which were built by Chen in 2005 in his hometown in Sihong county.

XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

GROUND LEVEL: PEOPLE

Practice makes perfect for 'doctor of the rails'

Track maintenance becomes vital to passenger safety as more trains use high-speed network

By ZHAO RUIXUE in Jinan
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Deep in the night, a team of eight men walk slowly along a railroad, the lights from their safety helmets looking like fireflies in the inky blackness.

Ji Fengyun and seven other workers walk 6 kilometers along the Beijing-to-Shanghai high-speed railroad from 12:30 to 4:30 am, Monday through Friday. They are tasked with detecting flaws and defects in the rail tracks, using sophisticated ultrasonic equipment.

The 44-year-old is based at the track maintenance center of Jinan Western Station. He is originally from Tai'an, 85 km away, and started the job in 1992.

At first he couldn't understand the textbooks and manuals on rail flaw detection because he only had a junior high school education.

"The patterns and numbers were just mumbo-jumbo to me," Ji recalled.

But he set himself the task of learning mathematics and physics, and applying the theories to practical situations.

"Practice makes perfect," Ji said. "Experience is very important."

With 22 years of experience, Ji is regarded as an expert by his colleagues.

"We are the doctors of the rails," he said.

As China's high-speed rail network expands and more trains use the rail lines, the need for skilled



Ji Fengyun, (right), a worker at the track maintenance center of Jinan Western Station, checks equipment along the railway line. JU CHUANJIANG / CHINA DAILY

Quick bio

Name: Ji Fengyun
Age: 44
Hometown: Tai'an, Shandong province
Job: Rail flaw detector

track maintenance workers grows.

"Experienced rail flaw detection workers like Ji are in demand because the increasing number of trains using high-speed rail lines might cause changes to the rails," said Zhou Bin, deputy Party chief of the track maintenance center of Jinan Western Station.

That skill and experience are reflected in a monthly salary some

300 yuan (\$50) higher than that of other workers, said Zhou. The track maintenance center also pays a reward to those workers who detect flaws in the track.

"Workers who find a serious flaw will receive 500 yuan, and 200 yuan for a minor flaw," he said.

Ji said the most important thing for a flaw detection worker to bear in mind is safety.

"A flaw the size of a grain of millet will cause a gap in the track," he said. "As a rail worker, you just cannot afford any kind of flaw in the track. I get nervous every time I hear that a train was delayed."

Ji's dedication to his work also extends to his colleagues.

"I hope every member in my group becomes an expert as soon as possible and committed to flaw detection work," Ji said.

Shandong report

History 'Olympics' comes to Shandong

By WANG QIAN
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The 22nd International Conference of Historical Science, the world's most influential academic event on historical science, will be held in Jinan, the capital of East China's Shandong province from Aug 23 to 29.

It is the first time the international event will be held in an Asian country in the past 100 years. The conference has taken place every five years since 1900 and enjoys a reputation as the "Olympics of historians" because of its far-ranging influence.

This year's event is sponsored by the International Committee of Historical Science and co-organized by the Association of Chinese Historians and Shandong University.

It is expected to attract more than 2,000 scholars from all over the world who will have in-depth discussions on historical science issues of common concern.

"After successfully hosting the Olympics in Beijing, the 22nd ICHS comes as another great opportunity to showcase China's long history and profound culture to the world," Zhang Rong, president of Shandong University, told China Daily.

"It will have a positive and far-reaching influence, displaying the vitality of Chinese civilization and promoting cultural self-confidence, as well as raising China's international image," Zhang said.

Zhang believes that winning the organizing rights for the event was an important reflection of China's international influence. He said it was also recognition of Shandong University, which is known for its literature and history expertise, and Shandong, a prominent cultural province that was the home of famous Chinese philosophers Confucius and Mencius.

According to the conference's organizing committee, preparations including the arrangement of conference agendas, scholar registration, paper submission and volunteer recruitment are well underway.

To date, a total of 1,602 experts and scholars from 66 countries and



Zhang Rong, president of Shandong University. WANG QIAN / CHINA DAILY

regions including the United States, Australia, France, Germany and South Korea have confirmed their participation. The roster includes 705 foreigners, said the organizing committee. Zhang highlighted the high academic level of the event.

"We have deliberately arranged more than 150 symposiums and round-table conferences during the week-long event," he said.

The conference will mainly involve four major themes — China from Global Perspectives, Historicizing Emotions, Revolutions in World History: Comparisons and Connections and Digital Turn in History.

Zhang said they hoped to showcase Chinese and Shandong culture through the event and encourage more graduate and doctoral students to participate.

The cities of Jinan, Qingdao, Zibo, Tai'an, Jining and Liaocheng will host six specialized themed discussions to display their unique cultural history. Participants will focus on world cultural heritage items in Shandong, including Mount Taishan in Tai'an, the Grand Canal in Liaocheng and the Confucius Temple in Jining, the hometown of

Confucius. The conference is open to graduate and doctoral students from all over the world. A poster session will be organized to showcase participants' thesis and research findings and the top 10 students will be awarded prizes for the best paper, Zhang said.

Marjatta Hietala, president of the International Committee of Historical Science, said that the ideal result of this kind of international conference is to open a new platform to discuss history, establish new perspectives and raise the status of history in the world. "For years, we have aimed to bring the conference from a solely European orientation towards a true global community of historians. It seems that we will certainly reach that goal in 2015 at the 22nd session," she said.

During the conference, participants will have the chance to enjoy Shandong's friendly hospitality and its fascinating history and culture, said Robert Frank, secretary of the International Committee of Historical Science.

"We believe it will be an unprecedented international historical gala," he said.



Wine masters check Changyu's new products at the 2015 China National Sugar and Alcoholic Commodities Fair. JU CHUANJIANG / CHINA DAILY

Chinese wine hits world sales record

By JU CHUANJIANG and ZHAO RUIXUE

Sales of Changyu Jiebaina surpassed 400 million bottles, making it the world's largest single wine product in terms of sales, said the company last month.

Changyu Pioneer Wine Co Ltd, a 123-year-old wine producer, released the information at the 2015 China National Sugar and Alcoholic Commodities Fair held in Chengdu from March 26 to 28. "Changyu Jiebaina is six years older than me," said John Salvi, chief winemaker and honorary owner of Chateau Changyu Baron Balboa Xinjiang.

The 78-year-old said the cabernet gemischt cultivated by the Chinese gives Jiebaina a unique aroma and enriched the world's vine and wine profile.

In 1892, when Changyu's founder Zhang Bishi, an overseas Chinese in Indonesia, brought about 120 vine varieties from Europe to Yantai, where Changyu is headquartered, Changyu started to cultivate its own grape varieties for high-end wines.

After numerous field trials, the

company finally cultivated a new variety of cabernet gemischt by grafting, or combining, an imported vine with a vine growing wild. The grape it yielded is rich in sugar and has high resistance to pests and diseases.

In 1931, Changyu Jiebaina, a dry red wine, was made from the grape. Salvi said Changyu Jiebaina has world-class quality and is endowed with Chinese culture.

"With generations of effort, we have formed unique wine production techniques and viticulture to produce Changyu Jiebaina," said Zhou Hongjiang, general manager of the company.

Changyu Jiebaina was awarded a gold medal at a quality products selection held in Brussels in 1987 and was the only Asian wine to be honored as one of the world's top 30 wine brands at the Salon International de l'Alimentation, an international food and drink expo held in Paris in 2008.

Wine critic Jancis Robinson gave Jiebaina a "distinguished" 16 out of 20 score after tasting the wine in 2012.

"Changyu's incredible chateaus, wine quality as well as wine culture-

related tourism convinced me of China's future in the wine market," said Frank Kammer MS, a German sommelier who now works as the chief sommelier for Changyu.

"Changyu Jiebaina is not only enjoyed by Chinese consumers but recognized by overseas consumers," said Zhou.

Since 2006, Changyu Jiebaina has been sold in 28 countries across the world, including Germany, Italy and France.

The wine was the first China-made one to enter the European mainstream market and is available in more than 3,000 outlets of supermarkets, shops and hotels in Europe. The wine hit the shelves of Waitrose, the sixth-largest grocery retailer in the United Kingdom, in 2012.

"Changyu's achievement shows the world that China has the ability to make the world's premium wine," said Wang Qi, deputy director and secretary-general of the China Alcoholic Drinks Association.

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