

News on China | No. 34



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Geopolitics

China Funds 475-Bed National Surgical Centre in Maputo to End Medical Referrals Abroad

Grant financing of US \$42 million will, over a 24-month build employing roughly 200 Mozambicans, raise an eight-floor complex on two hectares inside Maputo Central Hospital with 475 beds – 19 of them in intensive care – sparing patients who need complex surgery the costly referral to South Africa, Portugal or India, while giving concrete form to agreements concluded between the two governments.

Read More:

- Club of Mozambique, 3 August 2026

- Forum Macao, 3 August 2026

China Rejects Japan's Defense Report, Warns Against Remilitarization

On Aug. 5, China rejected Japan's new defense white paper, accusing Tokyo of using the "China threat" narrative to justify military expansion. Defense Ministry spokesperson Chen Xi said the document, released on Aug. 4, contains "false narratives" and criticized Japan's rising defense spending and long-range strike capabilities. Beijing opposed the use of Taiwan-related concerns to justify the buildup. The issue is also linked to historical tensions: UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 recognized the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China at the UN, while Japan's wartime aggression, including the occupation of Chinese territories such as Taiwan, is estimated to have caused more than 20 million deaths.

Read More:

- China Daily, 5 August 2026
- China's Diplomacy, 5 August 2026



National Politics

Cyberspace Regulator Publishes 60-Article Draft Law to Curb Online Abuse and Protect Victims

Open for public comment until 28 August, the text caps a decade of incremental rule-making on the internet environment, requiring platforms to run early-warning systems combining AI, big data and human review, trace and remove AI-generated harassment, and give targets on-screen tools to block strangers and record evidence; providers causing serious harm face fines of up to 10 million yuan, closure or licence revocation.

Read More:

- China Daily, 30 July 2026
- China Reporter, 29 July 2026



Economy

Central Bank Steers Credit to Technology and Green Sectors as Aggregate Lending Slows

At the end of June, the five designated priority areas – technology, green, inclusive, pension and digital finance – had expanded 11 percent year-on-year, markedly outpacing overall loan growth, while cumulative sci-tech innovation bond issuance passed 2.8 trillion yuan (US \$414.73 billion) and the World Bank recorded total credit easing to 7.7 percent, indicating that composition rather than volume has become the object of monetary policy.

Read More:

- Global Times, 2 August 2026
- World Bank, July 2026

Pure-Electric Cable-Laying Ship Launched to Wire Deep-Sea Wind Farms and Intercontinental Grids

Superseding the 10,000-tonne, diesel-driven and non-self-propelled Qifan 19 from the same 708 Research Institute, the vessel entered the water in Jiangsu on 4 August with a 139.8-metre hull rated to carry 16,000 tonnes of cable and work at depths reaching 3,000 metres, meaning that the yards supplying most of the world's new ships now also build the equipment that connects deep-sea wind farms and intercontinental power grids.

Read More:

- Global Times, 5 August 2026
- Baird Maritime, 21 June 2024



Agriculture and Environment

Renewables Plan Sets First Binding Firm-Capacity Targets to Make Wind and Solar Replace Coal

Issued jointly on 23 July by the National Development and Reform Commission and the National Energy Administration, the 2026-2030 blueprint makes renewable consumption of about 1.8 billion tonnes of standard coal equivalent one of only two binding indicators, while requiring wind to deliver 11 percent and solar 6 percent of installed capacity as dependable output during critical supply periods, meaning that reliability, not gigawatts, now measures success.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 23 July 2026
- Carbon Brief, 23 July 2026

After the Rescue, US \$319 Million Turns to Repairing Water Works and Replanting Guangxi Fields

Typhoon Maysak destroyed 1.267 million hectares of crops and killed over 900,000 head of livestock across Guangxi in early July, and a month after the emergency rescue and resettlement tranches, the Ministry of Finance has joined the agriculture and water resources ministries to release US \$319 million through a separate sectoral channel for post-disaster production recovery and water-works repair, with Guangxi named in three of the four tranches.

Read More:

- ESG News, 3 August 2026

- ECNS, 17 July 2026



Science and Technology

Leaner DeepSeek Model Runs at 3 Cents per Test as China's AI Industry Grows 40%

Switching on only a fraction of the parameters its largest domestic rivals use per query – Alibaba's Qwen3.8-Max activates 95 billion at a time – the sparse V4-Flash released on 31 July costs 3 cents per benchmark test against 86 cents for Moonshot AI's Kimi K3, trimming the computation, and therefore the electricity, behind each unit of work in a sector that grew 40 percent to 1.2 trillion yuan (US \$176.7 billion) in 2025.

Read More:

- AI News, 3 August 2026
- China Daily, 4 August 2026

China Opens a Quantum Standards Committee Two Months After Jinan's First IEC/ISO Plenary

Nearly 240 delegates from 21 countries, among them the United States, Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea, gathered in Shandong from 25 to 28 May for the fifth plenary of the IEC/ISO joint technical committee on quantum technologies, the first hosted on Chinese soil; on 30 July the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology convened its own body to write industry standards for quantum computing, communication and precision measurement.

Read More:

- Xinhua, 30 July 2026
- SESEC, 22 June 2026



People's Life and Culture

Excavators Hedge Big Dipper Claim on Seven Pits as Hongshan Reopens Civilization Criteria

Announced through state broadcaster CCTV rather than in any excavation report, the burnt-earth features uncovered at the Neolithic ritual centre of Niuheliang drew a guarded reading from field leader Jia Xiaobing – 'We are not sure for now that is the Big Dipper, but the shape does look alike' – while the culture behind them, dating back 5,000 to 6,500 years, is cited to argue that writing, cities and metallurgy are not the only route to civilization.

Read More:

- Bastille Post, 17 December 2025
- China Daily, 5 August 2026

Chinese Web Fiction Draws 250 Million Registered Overseas Users across 200 Countries

Southeast Asia, Latin America and India together took more than three-quarters of global short-drama downloads in the first quarter of 2026 – 32%, 23% and 22% respectively – the clearest sign that the Global South now drives this cultural flow; platforms added 40 million overseas sign-ups in 2025 and 530,000 foreign authors now write on Yuewen’s international service, though revenue remains concentrated in the North.

Read More:

- People’s Daily Online, 31 July 2026
- Sensor Tower, June 2026