

Bus plunges into Yangtze after crash

Authorities say more than 10 were on board; 2 bodies are recovered

By **WANG XIAOYU**
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At least two people died after a bus collided with an oncoming car on a Chongqing bridge and plunged into the Yangtze River on Sunday morning.

Based on inquires and footage from surveillance cameras along the route, it was estimated that the bus was carrying more than 10 passengers at the time of the crash, local authorities said in a statement.

Two bodies had been recovered from the water as of press time.

An initial investigation found that the bus abruptly swerved while on the Second Yangtze River Bridge in Chongqing's Wanzhou district, crossing the center of the road into oncoming traffic and slamming into a red sedan.

The bus then broke through the guardrail and plunged into the river.



A diver from the armed police force stationed in Chongqing prepares to search the water on Sunday. ZHOU YUKAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

The driver of the car, identified as Kuang, was taken to the hospital with soft tissue injuries. The bus driver, surnamed Ran, is among the missing, the police said.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

A rescue worker at the site said that the bridge stands more than 50 meters above the water and that the bus had sunk 68 meters below the surface.

Firefighters, public security officials and police officers were working on a plan to recover the bus.

The Ministry of Emergency Management dispatched 11 professional divers, a medical worker capable of deep diving and a salvage boat to assist in the rescue operation.

The four-lane Second Yangtze River Bridge opened to traffic in June 2003. It carries a daily average of more than 60,000 vehicles and over 200,000 commuters, according to the Wanzhou government.

Down the hatch



Tourists drink rice wine poured downhill, cup by cup, by dozens of Miao ethnic women during a gourmet festival in Danzhai county, Guizhou province, on Saturday. More than 43,000 Miao people and tourists participated in the event, which features dining tables measuring more than 3,500 meters in length. HUANG XIAOHAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Facial recognition gets a thumbs-up

By **CHENG SI**
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Facial recognition technology is working well at tourist attractions around the country, reducing time people spend standing in lines at entries or security checks and freeing up venue resources to enhance visitors' experience, those using the technology say.

The technology is in use at 65 scenic spots and will be extended to more than 300 by the end of this year, according to China Central Television.

Xie Jiayan, general manager of Kanas Altay Wisdom Travel Co, who is actively engaged in the modernization of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region's Kanas National Geopark, said facial recognition has brought great convenience both to travelers and park employees.

"We once used a fingerprint identification system but with poor results because fingerprints, especially those of the elderly, can't be recognized in cold winter temperatures," she said.

Xie said the new system, however, can identify a traveler even under strong light or in darkness, and is not affected by weather. The system has been used since August.

The system is open only to travelers with multi-entry permits, while travelers with single-entry tickets can get into the park by swiping an ID card, she said.

"Cameras at park entry points will take a snapshot of travelers with a multi-entry ticket, with which they can get into park again after their faces are initially captured," she said.

Xie said that travelers used to wait at entries for ticket

checks for at least 30 minutes during peak season, but the time is greatly reduced now.

"Illegal ticket scalping is also eradicated," she said. "We have more time to offer services to travelers rather than spending time checking tickets."

The facial recognition system has also received a positive response from travelers.

Xiao Zhenlin, 54, who visited the geopark over the National Day holiday, said: "The system makes my trip easier. I hope more attractions will adopt this technology."

The technology will be used for hotel check-ins and restaurant reservations, Xie said.

It was developed jointly by Beijing-based Aibee, a high-tech company in artificial intelligence research, and Send Intelligent based in

Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

Facial recognition technology has been promoted as part of "smart tourism", in which travelers can enjoy safer and easier trips based on data analysis and AI.

Longmen Grottoes in Luoyang, Henan province, introduced facial recognition to help simplify entry procedures in September 2017.

Supported by Tencent Youtu Lab, the system used at the grottoes allows travelers to get into the attraction by matching their face with a snapshot taken at the entrance.

Smart tourism — initiated in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu province, in 2010 — is recommended both by authorities and tourist attractions. National tourism authorities released a guideline to help promote smart tourism in 2015.

World Buddhist Forum to discuss contemporary value of the religion

By **WANG KEJU**
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Representatives from the Buddhism world will gather in Putian, Fujian province, for the fifth World Buddhist Forum, which will open on Monday to promote exchanges and discuss the contemporary value of the religion.

The two-day forum, themed "Exchange with mutual learning: Middle way for perfect harmony", is aimed at promoting exchanges and mutual understanding between Buddhism and other religions, as well as

modern science and technology, and realizing the mutual understanding between different civilizations, Xiao Hong, deputy secretary of China Religious Culture Communication Association, said on Sunday.

"Buddhist culture with contemporary value will unite the power of Buddhists around the world to do good deeds and make continuous efforts in building a community with a shared future for mankind," Xiao said.

The forum will also emphasize the positive role of religious people in economic and social development, environmental

protection, cultural exchanges and the Belt and Road Initiative, Xiao said.

More than 1,000 people from 55 countries and regions, including Buddhists, practitioners, scholars and researchers, will attend the forum, she said.

This year's event will include a main forum and seven subforums, covering topics such as Buddhism and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Buddhism and environmental protection and Buddhism and charity, said Master Shi Zongxing, vice-president of the Buddhist Association of China.

Exhibitions including Bud-

dhist culture along the routes of the BRI, multilingual translation of Chinese Buddhism and Buddhism and art will also be held during the forum to present Buddhist culture in creative and diverse ways, Shi Zongxing said.

"Buddhism has been playing a positive role in carrying forward the traditional culture of China and the BRI to the world, and it also serves as a bridge for exchanges with countries participating in the Belt and Road and will enhance ties with international Buddhists," said Li Jianhui, mayor of Putian.

The forum aims to start the process of building a Buddhist cultural center along the maritime silk road, a Buddhist exchange center for both sides of the Taiwan Straits and a platform for promoting mutual exchanges of Buddhism, which will make great contribution to promoting world peace and sustainable development, Li said.

Jointly proposed by Buddhist communities on the Chinese mainland and in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao in 2005, the World Buddhist Forum was established as a platform for Buddhists to communicate and cooperate.

“Buddhist culture with contemporary value will unite the power of Buddhists around the world to do good deeds.”

Xiao Hong, deputy secretary of China Religious Culture Communication Association

Couple save hungry dog; police call it theft

By **MA ZHENHUAN**
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The adoption of an emaciated, crippled police dog in Jinhua, Zhejiang province, has stirred heated online debate, generating calls for clarification about what can be done with stray animals and about the proper care of dogs working for police and firefighters, or as guide dogs.

A woman identified as Ying, a resident in Jinhua, recently complained on social media that she and her husband had

15,000 yuan
Value of a police dog which was searching for food in the garbage and adopted by a couple

been "mistakenly interrogated" by the police after the couple adopted a homeless dog on the street in June.

"We picked up the dog, a slightly crippled, emaciated German shepherd, when it was searching for food in the garbage near the Duohu police station," Ying said. "Feeling

sorry for the dog, we brought it home and found no information on the collar on its neck."

After several days, local police officers summoned and interrogated the couple on suspicion of theft, as the animal is a police dog from the station, valued at 15,000 yuan (\$2,160).

They were released on a 5,000 yuan bail, pending further investigation.

In response, the police issued a statement saying the dog was used for daily security patrols, and that the couple is suspected of "stealing the valuable dog on the street".

Ying called on the police to

release the surveillance video to clarify whether what they did should be defined as theft.

Yang Wenzhan, a lawyer at Beijing Zhongdun Law Office, said he is inclined to define the couple's action as salvation, rather than theft.

"The dog was found outside the control area of the police station. It was free ranging, with nobody looking after it. So the couple's action should not be classified as theft," Yang said.

He also called on the police to take better care of their dogs.

Sweet structure



A visitor looks at an Eiffel Tower made of chocolate during an exhibition in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on Sunday. The Chocolate Exhibition of Nikolay, a show presenting works by French chocolatier Nikolai Popov, has been staged in more than 50 cities worldwide. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Briefly

BEIJING New schools' air to be inspected

Education authorities have ordered a nationwide inspection of indoor air quality at newly built schools and student dormitories, especially for levels of formaldehyde. The move comes after some students across the country experienced dizziness and nosebleeds. Excessive levels of formaldehyde were blamed, according to a statement from the State Council's Education Supervision Committee. Local authorities should conduct thorough inspections, it said.

Alliance to study rare diseases

A Chinese medical research alliance has been set up to accelerate the study of rare diseases. The Alliance for Rare Diseases comprises more than 50 entities ranging from medical institutes, universities, academic institutions to companies. The alliance will be instrumental in concentrating resources and will improve the treatment of rare diseases in China, said Ma Xiaowei, head of the National Health Commission. At its launch on Wednesday, the alliance released its first explanatory catalog of China's rare diseases.

SHANDONG Death toll at coal mine rises to 13

Two more miners were confirmed dead on Sunday after a rock burst at a coal mine in Shandong province, local authorities said. The death toll stands now at 13. Another eight miners remain trapped in a 74-meter-deep tunnel that is blocked by collapsed coal seam at both ends. The burst occurred at Longyun Coal Mining Co in Yuncheng county on Oct 20, trapping 22 people. One miner has been rescued.

GUANGDONG 17 fugitives return from Thailand

Seventeen fugitives suspected of fraudulent fundraising via online platforms were taken to Guangzhou from Thailand on Friday. In the past three months, the Ministry of Public Security has worked with police and immigration departments overseas to detain more than 40 people suspected of online fraud. Since June, a number of senior managers running illegal online peer-to-peer lending platforms have fled overseas due to a shortage of capital.

JILIN Dig discovers ancient ruins

Archaeologists said on Sunday they have unearthed the remains of ancient houses and ash pits, together with animal bones, bronze ware and stone tools in Jilin province. The Bronze Age finds were discovered on a sand dune near Dajinshan village in the city of Shuangliao, according to the School of Archaeology affiliated with Jilin University. The ruins are around 150 meters long and 100 meters wide. Jointly launched by researchers from countries including China, France and the United States, the ongoing excavation started in July and has covered about 1,000 square meters.