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# ABOUT US

There are five tones in Mandarin Chinese. When it comes to coverage of China, Sixth Tone believes there is room for other voices that go beyond buzzwords and headlines to tell the uncommon stories of common people.

Through fresh takes on trending topics, in-depth features, and illuminating contributions, Sixth Tone covers issues from the perspectives of those most intimately involved to highlight the nuances and complexities of today's China.

We are a team of writers, editors, and researchers from within China and abroad. We belong to Shanghai United Media Group, and share our offices with our sister publication, The Paper.

## OUR TONES

Daily Tones are daily news and highlights from across China.

Rising Tones are timely reports on issues and events from across China. Drawing from a vast range of sources, these articles provide insights into the significance of each issue in a wider context.

## The Paper (newspaper)

文 4 languages

ArticleTalk

ReadEditView history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For the American underground paper, see [The Paper \(American newspaper\)](#).*

**The Paper** (**simplified Chinese**: 澎湃新闻; **traditional Chinese**: 澎湃新聞; **pinyin**: *Péngpài Xīnwén*; **lit.** 'Surging News') is a Chinese **digital newspaper** owned and run by the [Shanghai United Media Group](#).

### History [edit]

*The Paper* was launched in July 2014 as an offshoot of the Shanghai United Media Group publication *[Oriental Morning Post](#)*. It received a large amount of initial funding, speculated to be anywhere from US\$16 million to 64 million.<sup>[1]</sup> Of this, RMB 100 million (approximately \$14,500,000) was

#### The Paper

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# After Three Years, Chinese Tourists Ready to Hit the Road Again

Li Xin



## Seeing for the Sightless

Beijing Youth Daily

disability

## Seeing for the Sightless

On a mobile app that connects the whole world, volunteers lend their eyes to the visually impaired, who in return give their ears to offer soothing comfort.

### Beijing Youth Daily

Feb 06, 2023

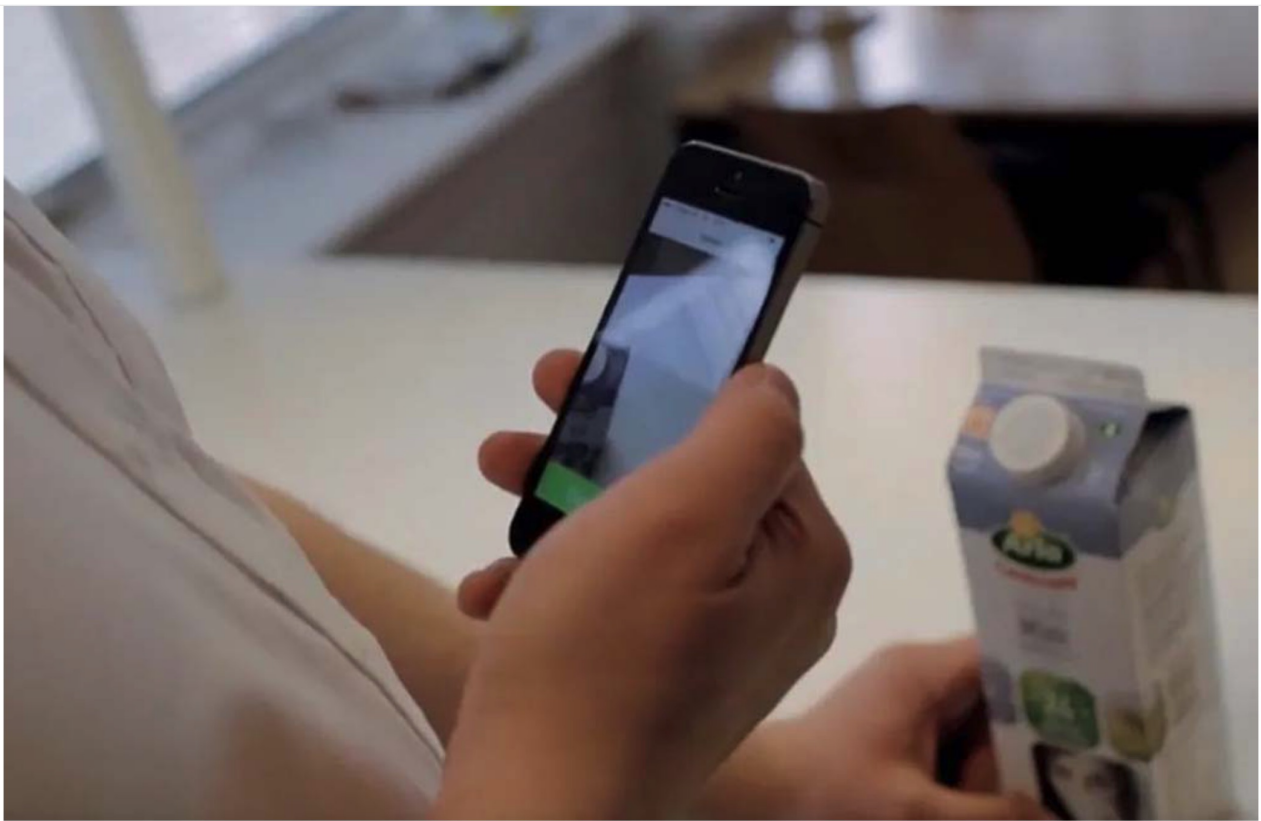
7-min read

The first thing Luo Wencong does after he wakes up a little after six in the morning is to weigh himself. Last summer, he attended a training camp in Qingdao, a coastal city in China's eastern Shandong province, to prepare for the men's 90 kg judo competition in the provincial 11th Paralympic Games. He needed to lose a few kilos to qualify for the contest.

Luo, 26, suffers from congenital cataracts and is pursuing a degree in acupuncture and **massage therapy** at a college in Beijing. He needs help on the scales as there is no voice assistant function at the training center. On a mobile app called Be My Eyes (BME), he sends out a video call. Pointing his phone camera at the scales, he asks, "Hello, can you read the number for me, please?" A volunteer on the other end tells him, "91 kg." Luo says thanks and hangs up. Usually, these exchanges only last a few seconds.

SIXTH TONE

Being tech savvy, Luo wrote a program back in high school to help the visually impaired memorize English vocabulary, something he himself struggled with. The app would randomly pick a word from a list he composed and he would spell it out after hearing the word. BME, developed by Hans Jørgen Wiberg, a visually impaired man from Denmark, drew Luo's attention as soon as the Android version was available in China in 2017. Currently, there are 445,000 visually impaired users from all over the world and more than six million volunteers on BME.



A visually impaired person asks a volunteer to check the shelf life of milk. Courtesy of Beijing Youth Daily

“

***You can't tell if people really don't mind helping, or if they are just being polite.***

- Luo Wencong, blind athlete



”

When it comes to asking for help, he actually feels more comfortable with strangers. He doesn't want to burden the people he knows. "You can't tell if people really don't mind helping, or if they are just being polite," he says. The app makes it much more straightforward — everyone is free to decline the call, and it gets forwarded to the next person.

He even set the app language to English. Though his English isn't all that good, it is a more practical choice for him. Being a night owl, he worries about bothering people in the same time zone if he just keeps calling Chinese speakers.

He has experience with similar Chinese apps as well. Developers usually would set up group chats, where volunteers and visually impaired people can provide input. Lin says he can get nosy sometimes. Whenever someone is disrespectful or asks too much of volunteers, he'd give them a stern warning. One time, someone in the group took issue with what he called the "laconic" tone of a volunteer, to which Lin replied, "You come on this app to have someone solve your problems for you. So long as they do that, who cares if the voice is to your liking?"

## Missing Schoolboy from Jiangxi Committed Suicide, Say Police

Officials said the teenager, who disappeared three months ago triggering nationwide concern, was struggling with depression.

More than three months after the disappearance of a 15-year-old boy gripped China, police officials in the eastern Jiangxi province announced Thursday that the teenager had committed suicide.

Putting weeks of speculation surrounding the circumstances of his death to rest, police **said** at a press conference that Hu Xinyu, a student from a boarding school in Jiangxi's Yanshan County, died by hanging himself with his own shoelaces due to depression brought about by academic pressure, insomnia, and difficulties with personal relationships.

On Oct. 14, the teenager disappeared while walking from his dormitory to his classroom about 15 minutes away. The incident sparked numerous debates that lasted months on social media.



ludwig.guru

Search

Translate

Paraphrase

Library

E Eric

Q "putting \* to rest"

SIMILAR (60)

But the fact that First View gives advertisers a coveted position at the top of the feed — putting to rest the worry that some people just don't scroll that much on Twitter — and that it's focused around premium video, both point to Twitter's interest in developing more higher-priced tiers around its main line of revenue generation.

1

TechCrunch

Quickly putting to rest any thoughts of an early blowout, the Nets opened with a stunningly efficient first quarter that put them ahead by 30-22.

2

The New York Times - Sports

The Dolphins are putting to rest the theory that they can't win in December.

3

The New York Times - Sports

He did so with less arrogance than his predecessor, Eliot Spitzer, putting to rest most fears about his own temperament.

4

The New York Times

Recent weeks have seen two promising steps toward putting to rest lingering ghosts of World War II.

Google

"putting to rest weeks"

X

(

## Dell's close encounter with Alienware - CNET

Dell announced this week that it would, in fact, acquire gaming PC maker Alienware, putting to rest weeks of rumors. alien. The deal gives Dell a high-end, ...

<https://www.csmonitor.com> > World > Global-News > Brit... ⋮

## Britain will launch Brexit by April, prime minister says - CSMonitor.com

... the European Union before the end of March, Prime Minister Theresa May said Sunday, putting to rest weeks of speculation on the timing of the move.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com> > article > jimdalrympleii ⋮

## FIFA President Sepp Blatter Says He Probably Won't Step ...

Jun 27, 2558 BE — ... him will probably happen in early 2016, putting to rest weeks of speculation and seemingly contradictory statements about his departure.

<https://www.dawn.com> > news ⋮

## Curtains for Dar after finance job taken away - Pakistan - Dawn

Nov 23, 2560 BE — ISLAMABAD: Putting to rest weeks of speculation about the fate of the key ministry, the government on Wednesday withdrew the portfolio of ...



anthony 通

昨天直播课学了“起外号”“沿用下来”，想到水浒传，仿写两句：Song Jiang was dubbed Timely Rain because of his helpfulness and it stuck. Wu dalang was dubbed Three-inch Shorty because of his height and it stuck. 感觉有乐趣，仿佛翻译了大部头中的一两句话。

<https://twitter.com/AdamMcCalvy/status/1234567890>

### Adam McCalvy on Twitter: "Re: Luis Urias' nickname, here's ...

Nov 27, 2562 BE — But when another kid on one of Urias' childhood teams heard the nickname, Urias was promptly dubbed "Wicho," and it stuck.

[https://www.mlb.com/news/padres-players-weekend...](https://www.mlb.com/news/padres-players-weekend-2020)

### Padres' Players' Weekend nicknames - MLB.com

Aug 18, 2562 BE — But when another kid on one of Urias' childhood teams heard the nickname, Urias was promptly dubbed "Wicho," and it stuck.

[https://www.npr.org/2012/05/20/behind-the-shades-sla...](https://www.npr.org/2012/05/20/behind-the-shades-slash)

### Behind The Shades: Slash Tries To 'Figure This Thing Out'

May 20, 2555 BE — Slash's given name was Saul Hudson. When he was a teenager, his friend's dad dubbed him "Slash" and it stuck. With a name like that, he was ...



ludwig.guru



Search



Translate



Paraphrase

and it stuck

19



The New York Times

His teammate Roy Williams called him Megatron during Johnson's rookie year in 2007 and it stuck.

20



The New York Times - Sports

"Back then, I thought you got nicknamed from other people, and it stuck," Rivers said.

27



[The New York Times - Sports](#)

Her Irish father nicknamed her "Pat" after the saint, and it stuck.

28



[The New Yorker](#)

In their disappointment, they dubbed the place "False" – and it stuck.

29



[The Guardian - Travel](#)

He came up with a name for his idea — the "warm glow" theory — and it stuck.

30



[The New York Times - Magazine](#)

His sudden disappearance captivated China, becoming one of the most high-profile cases in recent years with many questioning why he went missing from school without a trace and for such a long time. Public attention was fueled by various rumors that ranged from homicide to criminals being involved.

Song Chunlei, a lawyer from Shanghai Ganus Law Firm, told Sixth Tone that without further evidence of external coercion, police investigation results show that Hu's tragedy is not a criminal case as many speculated.

However, another lawyer, who requested anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the incident, said that Hu's school should take partial liability for their negligence in supervising students.

**vt.**

1. 握紧;抓牢;咬住;夹牢;(感情等)强烈地攫住

• Fear gripped his heart.

他心中充满恐惧。

• An anarchic fervour gripped the campus.

一阵无政府主义的狂热笼罩着校园。

2. 吸引住

• a story that grips the reader

吸引住读者的故事

• see nothing to grip the eye

没看见什么引人注目的东西

**captivate**

★★★★★

1 [VERB 动词] 迷住; 使...着迷; If you are captivated by someone or something, you find them fascinating and attractive. [be V-ed] [V n]

I was captivated by her brilliant mind...

我为她的聪慧所倾倒。

For 40 years she has captivated the world with her radiant looks.

40年来,她那令人惊艳的美貌让全世界为之痴迷。

**vi.**

1. 成为注意中心;当主角

• She is headlining in the new play.

他在这出新戏里担当主角。

make (或hit, catch, grab, capture) (the) headlines

1. 作为重要新闻见报;被大肆宣扬

• Many young men made headlines with riots.

许多青年参加骚乱一事成了报纸的重要新闻。

• The political negotiations capture headlines.

这几次政治谈判成了报纸的头条新闻。

to fuel



So, time to fuel up.



Independent

Predictably, this measure led to fuel shortages.



The Economist

That threatens further to fuel inflation.



The Economist

Saban used them to fuel his team.



The Guardian - Sport

That helps to fuel their openness.



The New York Times

As for that commitment to fuel economy?



The New York Times



Use the pain as fuel as a reminder  
of your strength.

— August Wilson —

AZ QUOTES

Eat to fuel your body,  
not to feed your emotions.

MyMotivationalQuotes.com



### Vivid Tones

## A Day in a Shanghai Park: See You Next Wednesday

Public parks are oases of calm in modern Shanghai. Open, healing, and free for all, they are where people retreat to after a hard day's work, an argument, or a breakup. They provide the space to calm the body and mind, escape the bustle of the city, and be in the moment — even if it's just for a few minutes.

After Shanghai emerged from a two-month lockdown last year, the city's public parks were where people rushed back to, for fresh air, freedom, and human connection.

In this series, Sixth Tone captures the daily rhythm of life in three of Shanghai's parks. The third episode captures a group of deaf people meeting up at a corner in Shanghai's Luxun Park.

## Spirited Away: A Peek into the World of China's Door Gods

While the superstition isn't widespread, the age-old tradition of hanging up door gods still endures during Lunar New Year.



Every Lunar New Year, they are always outside the door: Portraits of two heavily armed and fierce warriors donned in colorful battle armor.

Known as menshen or “door gods,” they are venerated across the country as deities who protect homes from evil spirits — a tradition that dates back to ancient China. While belief in the supernatural isn’t as strong today, the time-honored custom of pasting their portraits on both sides of a door or gate still endures.

Their origins can be traced back to ancient China during the Han dynasty (202 B.C.-220 A.D). Earliest available records show there were two such gods — Shenshu and Yulu. The pair lived on the mythical Dushuo Mountain in the middle of the sea, near a giant peach tree with branches that spread for thousands of miles.

Atop the peach tree’s canopy on its northeast corner was a gate through which the spirits of the world entered the mortal world. Shenshu and Yulu stood guard on either side of the gate. If they found evil spirits, the deities would tie them up with reed rope and feed them to tigers.

Later, the Yellow Emperor ordered people to paint images of the two gods on their doors, thus beginning the tradition of door gods.

During the Tang dynasty (618-907), door gods acquired new identities. Emperor Taizong of Tang, also known as Li Shimin, spent years fighting military campaigns and even killed his older brother in his bid to ascend the throne.

After becoming emperor, he often heard spirits haunting the palace at night. According to legend, he ordered two generals — Qin Shubao and Yuchi Jingde — to stand guard outside, so he could sleep undisturbed.

Fresh  
voices  
from  
today's  
China

SIXTH TONE

attempt

Eventually realizing that having two generals stay up all night was implausible, the emperor ordered that their portraits be painted on the palace gates to ward off evil spirits. The practice spread and soon the generals began to appear in Lunar New Year images that people pasted on their doors.

In them, Qin is portrayed with a white face and Yuchi's is black, while the pair are presented as imposing figures dressed in full armor. This depiction of door gods is still among the most popular and is seen even today.

Door gods almost always come in pairs, primarily since the traditional design of doors in China has two panels and requires a deity on each side to form a symmetrical composition — two figures matched both in pose and status.

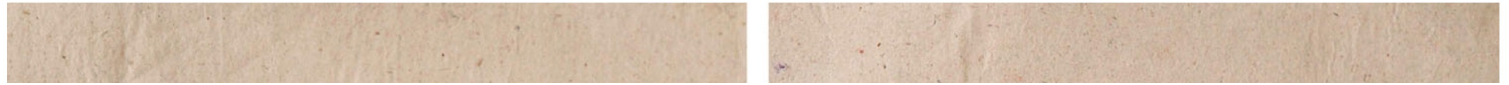
Besides the traditional pairing of Shenshu and Yulu, and the later variation of Qin Shubao and Yuchi Jingde, many other figures taken from history, novels, and elsewhere can be found outside doors.



Among those pictured as door gods are Li Yuanba and Yuwen Chengdu from “Romance of the Sui and Tang Dynasties,” Randeng Daoren and Zhao Gongming from “Creation of the Gods,” Yao Qi and Ma Wu from “Romance of the Eastern Han Dynasty,” and even Wu Song and Sun Erniang from “Water Margin.”

One pairing is particularly special — Meng Liang and Jiao Zan from “The Generals of the Yang Family.” During the Qing dynasty (1636-1911), they were depicted as door gods in Lunar New Year paintings from Wei County in the eastern Shandong province.

However, rather than being pasted on front doors, their images were put on the gates where livestock and poultry were kept, which is why they are also called “gate paintings.” It was believed that the pictures prevented diseases from reaching the animals.



The duo were inseparable, hence the adage “Jiao doesn’t leave Meng and Meng doesn’t leave Jiao.” Folk tales tell a story of the two men starting out as bandits who later reformed their ways. But their indelible past meant they could not enter people’s homes, and instead only kept watch of poultry and livestock.

The door god **Guan Yu** is the exception to the pairing tradition.

A general during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), he was immortalized in the classic novel “Romance of the Three Kingdoms.” Guan Yu is renowned for his strong beliefs and is regarded as an epitome of loyalty.



I see you two all the time. You're thick as thieves, you are.

你们常在一起 亲密得像做贼一样

In Lunar New Year images from Wuqiang County in the northern Hebei province, dating from the Qing dynasty, Guan Yu stands guard alone. Instead, two symmetrical images of the general are affixed to double doors, while a single image is pasted on single-panel doors. His ability to appear either alone or as a pair is evidence of the high regard in which people hold him.

Historical figures from different periods also sometimes appear alongside one another as door gods. For example, images from Zhangzhou in the eastern Fujian province pair together Zheng Chenggong and Yue Fei despite living 500 years apart.



Yue Fei (right) and Zheng Chenggong, produced in Zhangzhou, Fujian province.

While Yue lived during the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), Zheng was from the late Ming dynasty (1368-1644), but both are common door gods together since they are considered great patriots.

In some cases, generic warriors brandishing swords are used, expressing the hope for peace. Images of government officials as door gods can also be found, embodying the concept of following the standards of officialdom. Pictures of officials as door gods even appear in ordinary people's homes, demonstrating their desire to obtain a promotion.

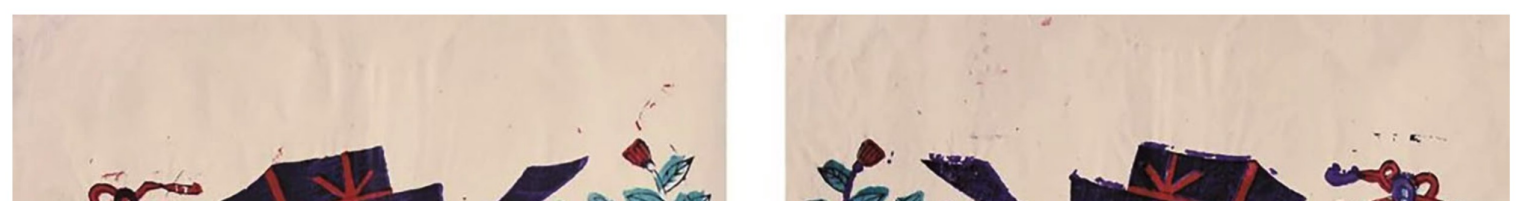


Generic warriors produced in Gusu (now Suzhou, Jiangsu province), early Qing dynasty.

Chinese people tend to be pragmatic in their beliefs. Any positive elements can be incorporated, and the identities of door gods are often mixed. Some pictures include the concepts of having more children and attracting good blessings by incorporating images of young children.

Meanwhile, others focus on passing exams using images of door gods dressed in the robes and jade belt of top students in the old imperial exams. These elements can also be used together, as seen in images of an official surrounded by five young boys. If the God of Wealth appears, it symbolizes the desire to acquire wealth.

In short, there's a lot to be learned from the posters people paste on their door.



Translator: David Ball; editors: Apurva and Ding Yining.

(In-text images: All the images are from the public domain, collected and provided by Sheng Wenqiang)

(Header image: Door gods Qin Shubao (right) and Yuchi Jingde, Pucheng, Shaanxi province, Qing dynasty (1636-1912). Courtesy of Sheng Wenqiang)



david ball sixth tone



New Chinese parents often feel intense pressure to adopt a “scientific” approach to childrearing.

<https://www.caixinglobal.com> › living-in-chinas-new-gree... ⋮

## Living in China's New Green Zones - Caixin Global

Sep 28, 2562 BE — (**Sixth Tone**) — Darkness was going to be Gaotiankeng's ticket to a bright future. The remote village planned to transform itself into a ...

<https://click.mailerlite.com> › link ⋮

## China: How Grandkids Are Changing China's LGBT Family ...

Jul 20, 2563 BE — by Wei Wei, Translator: **David Ball**. Clutching a photograph of his son, ...  
Read more via **Sixth Tone**. Tagged: family, surrogacy, China.

<https://www.indiachinainstitute.org> › Full Blog ⋮

## Interview: How the Lockdown is Remaking Shanghai ...

Jul 8, 2565 BE — **Sixth Tone**: As a Shanghai resident yourself, what have you observed about community ...  
Translator: **David Ball**; editor: Kilian O'Donnell.

<https://chinafilm insider.com> › how-emperor-qin-shi-hu... ⋮

## How Emperor Qin Shi Huang Got His New Clothes |