

China sets timetable for public hospital reforms

China is set to launch a comprehensive medical reform process in order to cancel the drug markups in public hospitals nationwide before September 30.

Local authorities will ensure to publish guidelines and plans on comprehensive medical reforms before July 31 ahead of starting to carry out reforms on September 30, according to a guideline jointly released by seven government organs including the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

China has launched medical reform pilot projects in a number of cities and provinces and based on the previous pilot programs, the country aims to deepen the reform nationwide, in which canceling drug markups has been the priority.

The guideline set by the end of this year, will see pilot hospitals reduce the income of drug sales to 30% of revenues, and in every 100 yuan cost of medical fees, the medical materials should be under 20 yuan.

On April 8, Beijing implemented a new reform to end high drug markups and high fees for medical materials in order to provide patients with better services and lower-cost medicine.

According to the guideline, reforms at the county level would also be put forward aiming to lower the cost for patients by decreasing the price of medicine and increase the percentage of charges in medical services.

Public hospitals have relied heavily on markups on drugs, high fees for examinations and sales of materials such as bandages, creating an incentive for doctors to over-prescribe and advise unnecessary check-ups.

Small plane crash kills two in north China



The photo taken by a netizen shows the recreational airplane before crashing into a tree, killing two people and injuring another on April 30, 2017, in north China's Shanxi Province. [Photo: Wechat]

A small recreational airplane crashed into a tree, killing two people and injuring another on Sunday in north China's Shanxi Province, local authorities said.

The accident occurred at 5:41 p.m., when the airplane carrying two passengers attempted to land following a sight-seeing trip above the Huihe reservoir in Quwo County, according to the county government.

A person on the ground was injured by the crash.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

[Police seize 12 kilograms of drug in southwest China](#)

Police in southwest China's Yunnan province have seized more than 12 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, said local authorities on Sunday.

According to a statement by the public security bureau of Ximeng Wa autonomous county, police found a man driving an unlicensed motorcycle last Wednesday who appeared suspicious. When police asked him to stop for a check, the man ran off.

Police didn't catch him, but found a blue bag he dropped with 12.43 kilograms of the drug inside.

Police are still hunting for the man.

The Ximeng county, on the border of China with Myanmar, is close to the opium-producing Golden Triangle.

5.3-magnitude quake jolts Taiwan sea area

A 5.3-magnitude earthquake hit the sea area of Taiwan at about 9:57 a.m. Sunday Beijing Time, according to the measurement of the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC).

The epicenter was monitored at 21.68 degrees north latitude and 121.54 degrees east longitude.

World's closest glacier to a city continues to shrink



Glacier No. 1 in the Tianshan Mountains in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region [Goly7.com file photo]

The world's closest glacier to a city shrank quickly in the past year and may completely vanish in half a century, according to a Chinese scientist Saturday.

In the last 12 months, the east and west stretches of Glacier No. 1 in the

Tianshan Mountains in northwest China, shrank by about 7.2 and 6.3 meters, respectively, according to a recent survey by researchers with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Glacier No.1 is approximately 130 km from Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

“There has been a remarkable increase of polluting dust on Glacier No.1 in recent years,” said Li Zhongqin, head of CAS Tianshan Mountains Glacier Observation Station.

He said that the dust could come from mining, vehicles on a nearby national highway nearby or soil degradation due to overgrazing.

“Given climate change, if no measures are taken, the shrinking will accelerate and the glacier may disappear in 50 years,” he said. “If protection is strengthened, it could last for 70 to 90 years.”