

Chinese police hunt for prison escapee

A prison in southwest China's Yunnan Province offered a reward of 100,000 yuan on Wednesday for information leading to the arrest of an escaped convict.

A class-A warrant has been issued for Zhang Lincang, 27, who escaped from No. 1 Prison in Yunnan Tuesday morning.

Zhang was sentenced to life imprisonment for drug-trafficking, and started his sentence in January 2017.

"Zhang left the site where inmates were working at around 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, stole a truck and fled," the report said. He abandoned the truck on a road 2 kilometers from the prison.

Former official sentenced to life imprisonment for graft

Yang Zhenchao, former vice governor of east China's Anhui Province, was given a life sentence for accepting bribes, graft and abuse of power on Wednesday.

Yang was also deprived of his political rights for life and all his personal assets were confiscated, according to a statement from the First Intermediate People's Court of Shanghai.

Zhang Qingwei elected Party chief of Heilongjiang

Zhang Qingwei on Wednesday was elected the secretary of Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China(CPC).

Zhang was elected to the post at a plenary meeting of the CPC Heilongjiang provincial committee.

Zhang was born in 1961 in Hebei Province. He was formerly the governor of Hebei, and resigned from the post last month.

Lu Hao and Chen Haibo were elected deputy Party chiefs of Heilongjiang.

C919 takes to the skies



China's first domestically produced passenger plane completes a high-speed taxi test for the first time in Shanghai, April 16, 2017. [Photo/Xinhua]

The much-anticipated C919, a single-aisle homegrown passenger jet, will take to the skies for a debut flight on May 5, 2017. The first-time occasion will occur at the Shanghai Pudong International Airport, according to the Shanghai-based manufacturer of the C919, Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC).

The C919 is a commercial aircraft, built for medium-haul flights, with up to 174 seats and a twin engine. The aircraft will be expected to compete with the updated Airbus A320neo and the new-generation B737 MAX.

Lin Zhijie, an aviation industry analyst and columnist at Carnoc.com, one of China's largest civil aviation web portals, estimated the C919 aircraft would be put into operation between 2020 and 2022.

So far, 23 clients of COMAC have placed 570 orders for the C919, including domestic airlines such as Air China, China Southern and China Eastern, and Hainan Airlines and Sichuan Airlines.

Overseas orders also account for about 10 percent of the total, including airlines from Germany and Thailand, and others from the Asia Pacific region and Africa.

12 trapped in railway tunnel blast confirmed dead

All of the 12 people trapped in a railway tunnel blast in southwest China's Guizhou Province on Tuesday had been confirmed dead after a 14-hour rescue in the gas-filled tunnel failed to find them.

More than 2,000 rescuers and medical workers braved high carbon monoxide density and dust to search for the trapped workers after the blast ripped through the railway tunnel under construction around 2:50 p.m. in Dafang County, leaving 12 people injured and 12 others trapped.

The rescue work ended at 4:45 a.m. Wednesday.

An investigation is still underway. A gas explosion is suspected as the Qishanyan Tunnel under construction is designed to pass through a coal seam.

The 12 injured are in hospital for treatment. None of them has critical injuries.