

Five seized in cross-border heroin trafficking

Police in southwest China's Yunnan Province have arrested five suspects and seized 41 kg of heroin in the latest crackdown on drug trafficking.

The men and drug were seized in Ruili City in Dai-Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture of Dehong on March 31, the public security bureau of Longling County said in a statement Saturday.

The bureau received reports in February that an overseas drug trafficking ring were planning to ship narcotics to China.

Police detected the two suspects from Myanmar as soon as they crossed the border into China at 4 p.m. on March 31. They then followed them to a hotel in Ruili City, where the suspects met their three Chinese collaborators. All five were arrested.

From the trunk of their SUV, police found 120 blocks of heroin, which weighed 41.785 kg.

The two suspects from Myanmar said they had been promised 5,000 yuan (725 U.S. dollars).

The investigation continues.

Dehong prefecture is close to the opium-growing Golden Triangle. Last year, border police in Dehong seized 1.6 tonnes of narcotics, completed investigations into 668 drug-related crimes and arrested 662 suspects.

More seeking help for mental illnesses

The number of registered patients with serious mental disorders in China reached 5.4 million last year, with three-quarters of them suffering schizophrenia, China's top health authority said on Friday.

Of the patients, 88.7 percent are under the management of health authorities, and receive public services such as medical care and living subsidies, Wang Bin, deputy chief for disease control and prevention at the National Health and Family Planning Commission, said at a news conference on Friday, which coincided with World Health Day.

Previous figures released by the commission showed the number of such registered patients was 4.3 million by the end of 2014, with 73.2 percent managed by health authorities.

China has been improving mental health services, with the number of institutions that offer such services reaching nearly 3,000 by the end of 2015, compared with 1,650 in 2010, Wang said.

Last year, the number of certified psychiatrists in China exceeded 27,700, and the number of psychotherapists in China exceeded 5,000, she added.

Patients with serious mental disorders have been receiving improved services throughout China with multi-departmental cooperation such as regular follow-up diagnosis and treatment.

In places such as Beijing and Shanghai they also enjoy favorable insurance policies, which provide free medication and more reimbursement for medical bills, according to her.

In Beijing, guardians are eligible for a 2,400 yuan (\$370) annual subsidy from the municipal government if they deliver proper care, according to the city's health and family planning commission.

China faces challenges in improving mental health, due to rising incidences of mental disorders caused by depression, tension, alcohol and dementia, she said.

A survey conducted by professionals from more than 40 psychiatric hospitals and universities in China between 2012 and 2014 found nearly 3.6 percent of Chinese suffer depression-related mental disorders.

Although the rate is lower than countries such as the United States, Australia and South Africa, it saw an increase compared with previous surveys, which may be attributed to increasing psychological pressure on the public due to rapid economic and social development, she said.

The World Health Organization estimates that more than 54 million people in China suffer from depression, and is estimated to cost the nation \$7.8 billion every year from lost work days, medical expenses and funeral expenses, it said in a statement on Friday.

According to Yu Xin, a professor in psychiatry at Peking University Sixth Hospital, said a major obstacle to prevention and treatment in China is the lack of importance paid to the issue by the public and patients.

"This means only a small portion of people with mental diseases are actually diagnosed and treated," Yu said.

Lack of facilities and talent at community-level medical institutions are also major obstacles, he added.

"In many other countries, patients with mental disorders first seek treatment at community health centers or their family doctors," he said. "But in China, most patients go to big comprehensive hospitals first, as other institutes may lack qualified psychiatrists."

Wang said health authorities will improve capabilities of grassroots

hospitals to offer mental health services, such as encouraging top public hospitals to provide training to medical staff.

Beijing to supply more land for residential housing

Beijing announced plans Friday to supply 6,000 hectares of land by 2021 in a bid to meet the market demand of 1.5 million units of residential houses.

Beijing plans to supply 5,000 hectares of state-owned construction land and 1,000 hectares of collectively-owned construction land in the following five years, according to the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning and Land and Resources Management.

Seventy percent of the land will be used for the construction of residential houses with property rights, while 30 percent of the land will be used to build rental houses.

In 2017, Beijing will offer about 1,200 hectares of residential land to build 300,000 units of residential housing.

Analysts said the rising supply of residential land is aimed at relieving the supply-demand contradiction in Beijing's property market and help stabilize housing prices.

In March, Beijing introduced a spate of measures, including higher down payments, higher mortgage rates and tougher purchase restrictions, to cool the red-hot property market.

Youngest organ donor in China: 33 hours old



Doctors and nurses stand in silence to honor the young organ donor.
[Photo/China Daily]

On March 27, an organ donation procedure was carried out at Chongqing Daping Hospital on a donor who only lived for 33 hours.

The baby boy was diagnosed with severe congenital heart disease after his mother gave birth by caesarean section, or c-section. After their son passed away, the parents decided to donate the child's organs to help extend another's life, according to the local Red Cross Society.

After a doctor evaluation, the boy successfully donated two kidneys that would be used to help save a 27-year-old woman with renal failure.

The Red Cross Society of China and the former Ministry of Health started the organ donation system in March 2010, encouraging citizens to voluntarily donate organs after they pass away to help others live longer.

The baby boy in Chongqing is the youngest donor since it was established.

Public understanding and support of organ donations has significantly improved over the years in China. Nearly 170,000 people had registered as organ donors in China by the end of last year.

A total of 4,080 organ donations were made in 2016, with 11,296 organs being donated, an increase of 47.5 percent from 2015, according to the Red Cross Society of China.

Chongqing to unveil world's longest glass skywalk



This photo shows the exhilarating skywalk. [Photo/China Daily]

A theme park in Wansheng, Southwest China's Chongqing, will unveil an 80-meter-long glass skywalk in one month, which could break the Guinness World Record.

The A-shaped sky corridor is three times longer than the Grand Canyon Skywalk in the United States.

With its stone forest, the Wansheng Ordovician Park boasts unique geographic landscape from the Ordovician Period.

The skywalk is currently undergoing a test run and hopefully will open to the public on May 1, according to the park manager.

"We are applying for a Guinness World Record as the longest glass skywalk in the world," said Tang Nan, the park manager.

Some tourists have already been attracted to the spot and experienced the walkway.

“So many people want to walk on it and there is always a long line,” Tang said.

In May 2015, Longgang National Geological Park in Yunyang county, Chongqing, unveiled a 26.68-meter-long glass skywalk which was said to be the world’s longest one at the time.