

41 stranded by snow in China

Days of snow and rain have made roads inaccessible and stranded 41 highway maintenance workers in southwest China's Yunnan Province, local officials said Thursday.

The road under maintenance is in Pengdang township, Gongshan County. Although stranded, the workers are not in danger, said the publicity department of the county government.

Rescue is underway.

Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region to draw ecological 'red line'

According to the "Guidelines on Drawing Up and Safeguarding Ecological Red Line," the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, together with the regions along the Yangtze River Economic Belt, need to draw up a "red line" for ecological protection by the end of 2017, while other areas should come up with a "red line" before the end of 2018.

The Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the regions along the Yangtze River Economic Belt are under China's two key development strategies, and the decision to draw up the ecological red lines are deemed complementary to the strategies.

The red lines are based on China's administrative divisions, but will eventually ensure the completeness of the ecological system across the country.

Survey portrays confidence and concerns of Chinese



Zhao Lingyi, a post-90 woman, introduces her cakes to a customer in her shop in Weihai in Shandong province, Dec 19, 2016. [Photo/Xinhua]

A survey carried out by China Central Television indicates that those born in the 1990s and those above 60 are more confident about their financial health, reported chinanews.com.

The China's Economic Life Survey, sponsored by CCTV, the National Bureau of Statistics, China Post and National School of Development at Peking University, suggests new trends in income, expenditure, social security, and life quality of Chinese people.

This year's survey shows that 16 percent of post-1990s and 13 percent of those aged above 60 are confident about their financial prospects.

According to previous surveys, the confidence in income in 2015 rebounded to the highest point in recent years.

In terms of investment, Chinese households are relatively risk averse, with 35 percent investing in nothing. The most popular financial products are insurances – nearly two in five people chose to spend on them.

The survey also shows that 46 percent of respondents prefer to spend on tourism, leading in various kinds of consumption choices.

More than half said they "are under much pressure from work, and have no time to exercise". At the same time, 34 percent said they buy health care products and services.

When it comes to attitudes toward the second-child policy, 24 percent of respondents said they do not plan to have another child in short term due to

economic pressure.

The survey collects feedbacks from 100,000 Chinese households in 104 cities across the country by sending them post cards with questionnaires. This year, big data technology was applied in the survey.

The detailed information about the survey will be aired on CCTV next month.

ID tags issued to troops in PLA units

Servicemen and women with the People's Liberation Army are being issued personal identification tags to improve personnel management as well as battlefield logistics and medical support.

Thirteen units across the Navy, Air Force and Rocket Force have been given the tags, which consist of two parts—a metal tag engraved with the bearer's name, rank, blood type and military member code and an auxiliary metal tag with a quick-response code and a built-in microchip with their health information.

Troops have also been issued wristwatches that can measure the wearer's heart rate and send distress signals, according to PLA Daily, the military's official newspaper.

Officers and medical professionals with the units were given a cellphonelike device that can receive signals from soldiers, scan a tag bearer's QR code and record emergency and medical situations.

Development of the tags and auxiliary instruments began in November 2013, and the first products were tried out by a brigade of the 27th Group Army, the paper reported, adding that the equipment has proved effective in battlefield medical efforts during combat exercises.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed official from the Central Military Commission's Logistic Support Department as saying that users from the 13 units will test the devices' reliability and usage. Users are also told to check whether the tags and wristwatch can work well with other logistics and medical equipment, and whether their electronic frequencies are compatible with those of weapons, the official said.

The official also said the introduction of identification tags will help improve the database of military members' personal information and logistic and medical services during combat or emergencies.

However, a PLA officer who did not want to be named told China Daily that he has found some problems with the wristwatch, such as its buttons being too big. He urged the military to solve the problems.

Zhou Yuan, a commentator for PLA Daily, has called for tests on whether enemies can be prevented from using the devices and whether the devices' signals will expose bearers' location to an enemy.

Currently, militaries in more than 30 nations including the United States, Russia, Germany and Japan use such identification tags.

Square dancers in Beijing may face punishment for public disturbance

Starting next month, square dancers in Beijing could risk legal repercussions if they are deemed to be disturbing the peace, Chinanews.com reported.

Beijing's newly revised regulation on the national fitness program stipulates that fitness activities should not disturb the public order, and violators will be subject to penalties or even criminal prosecution at the hands of public security departments.

With public square dancing becoming increasingly popular among Chinese citizens, and especially among senior citizens, disputes between dancers and residents have been on the rise, as the dancing is usually accompanied by loud music.

Places including Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and the cities of Xi'an and Nanchong have already formulated regulations controlling fitness activities in public places. These regulations, however, do not designate specific departments to oversee square dancing.

Beijing's new regulation demonstrates the government's commitment to solving the problems caused by square dancing, and is a good example of resolving disputes through law, the report noted.