

Nominations for Hong Kong chief executive election open

The nomination period for Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)'s fifth term chief executive election started on Tuesday and will run until March 1.

"A nomination form must be subscribed by no less than 150 members of the Election Committee and each member can nominate only one candidate," a Registration and Electoral Office (REO) spokesman said.

A candidate must submit the completed nomination form in person during the nomination period, the spokesman added.

Woo Kwok-hing, Ip Lau Suk-ye, Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor and Tsang Chun-wah have announced their candidacy.

According to Hong Kong Basic Law, a Chinese citizen of no less than 40 years of age who is a permanent resident of Hong Kong SAR with no right of abode in any foreign country and has ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of no less than 20 years, is eligible to be nominated as a candidate.

The chief executive election will be held on March 26, when the Election Committee composed of nearly 1,200 members elects the fifth term chief executive to be appointed by the central government of China, by secret ballot.

25 arrested for dumping garbage into Yangtze River

Twenty five people have been arrested in two separate instances of fly-tipping, in which more than 100,000 tonnes of garbage was carelessly dumped last year, the People's Procuratorate of Zhejiang Province in east China said Tuesday.

The 25 suspects have been implicated in two cases that occurred between May and December last year.

In one case, over 90,000 tonnes of household trash from Haiyan County, Zhejiang, was either dumped at sites across the provinces of Zhejiang and Anhui, or thrown into the Nantong section of the Yangtze River in east China's Jiangsu Province.

In the other case, more than 10,990 tonnes of trash from Haining City, Zhejiang, was collected and 9,747 tonnes of it was dumped into the Yangtze River between November and December, causing serious water pollution and economic losses of over 300,000 yuan (about 43,725 U.S. dollars).

The investigation continues.

Mob attack leaves 8 dead in Xinjiang

Local police officers shot and killed three rioters armed with knives that attacked and injured 10 people in a residential community in Pishan county in the southwest part of the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Tuesday evening, according to xjht.gov.cn, a news portal run by the local government.

Five of the 10 people injured by the mob died later in hospital. The rest are being treated. The rioters had earlier stormed the residential community and hacked randomly at residents. An investigation is under way.

Chinese manufacturer ships domestic nuclear power equipment to France

A Chinese nuclear power equipment manufacturer Tuesday shipped a low pressure heater to French electricity group EDF.

The product, made by Dongfang Heavy Machinery under Dongfang Electricity Corporation (DEC), is the first independently designed and manufactured Chinese nuclear power equipment to enter the European market.

The heater, 13.85 meters long, can be used to improve efficiency on 900 MW power units.

Fabrice Fourcade, vice president of EDF, said that it was the first time the group had ordered equipment for French nuclear power plants from Chinese enterprises.

Ming Xiangjun, deputy general manager of DEC Heavy Machinery, said that the company had gained knowledge on European standards and procedures through cooperation, which laid a solid foundation for future projects.

EDF is one of the largest nuclear power operators in the world. In September 2016, the group teamed up with China General Nuclear Power Corporation on

several nuclear power projects in Britain.

China mulls revision of maritime safety law

China is considering revisions to the 1984 Maritime Traffic Safety Law to prioritize searches for survivors over searches for property.

The Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council announced Tuesday it is soliciting public opinions on revisions.

The draft states that it is the right of the people in distress at sea to be rescued without charge, adding that life should come before the environment and assets.

Passengers have the right to be informed of developments during maritime accidents when vessels are in distress, and are obliged to obey the instructions of the captain, the draft reads.

The captain should organize evacuation and be the last to leave the vessel if it is to be abandoned.

The State Council and local governments should set up maritime search and rescue centers, if needed, to organize, coordinate and command rescue operations.

In addition to professional maritime rescue teams established by the government, civilian groups are also encouraged to set up rescue teams and participate in operations.

Crews of vessels and maritime facilities are forbidden from concealing, delaying or falsifying reports on maritime accidents.

According to the white paper "Development of China's Transport," an efficient safety regime and maritime emergency aid system has been established in China.

The white paper, released in December, said the nation has improved its maritime search and rescue capability and increased the number of volunteers.