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Shen Siwen, a 21-year-old university student in Shanghai

Briefly

BEIJING More rain coming to South China

Strong rainstorms will hit most parts of southern China from Tuesday to Thursday, the National Meteorological Center said on Sunday. The storms are expected to sweep Hunan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and Hainan provinces, as well as the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. The center warned of a high risk of geological disasters, including flash flooding.

YUNNAN Flight turbulence hurts 26 people

At least 26 people on a China Eastern Airlines flight were injured when the aircraft hit turbulence on Sunday morning before arriving in Kunming. Flight MU744, departing from Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, was coming in to land at Kunming Changshui International Airport when it encountered turbulence, the airline said on its micro blog account. The injured, including four in serious condition, were taken to hospitals after the flight landed at around 9 am, an hour later than scheduled, local authorities said.

TIBET Second scientific expedition begins

China began its second scientific expedition to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau on Saturday to study changes in climate, biodiversity and environment. The expedition will last five to 10 years. China's first comprehensive scientific expedition to the plateau began in the 1970s.

XINHUA

Proposal would tighten online food rules

Shanghai watchdog presents draft of safety regulation for public comment

By CHINA DAILY

Shanghai's food safety watchdog has proposed tightening the rules for online food ordering and delivery services, including making it mandatory for a food provider to have a physical restaurant location.

A draft of revised regulations for the industry, drawn up by the city's food and drug administration, has been made available for public comment until July 13. It comes at a time when the use of food delivery websites and apps is

booming, especially among the younger generation.

Data from BigData-Research in Beijing show the transaction volume of China's takeout food market jumped in the first three months of this year by 25.3 percent over the last quarter of 2016 to 84.3 billion yuan (\$12.4 billion).

As of April, online food ordering and delivery services had been used 194 million times.

Food safety and quality remain the top issues for consumers, surpassing concerns about discounts offered by

84.3
billion yuan

Transaction volume of China's takeout food market in the first three months of this year

vendors, delivery speed and after-sales service, the company said in a recent report.

In Shanghai, more than 60,000 unlicensed online food vendors were shut down last year, according to Xu Jianchun, director of the city's office for the campaign against intellectual property infringements and counterfeit goods.

The food safety watchdog's proposed new rules include requiring employees in the industry to display health certificates in public and to make sure such information is accessible.

In addition, containers used to deliver food should not be used for other purposes, and dishware and kitchenware should meet hygiene standards.

If the food being processed and delivered is found to violate food safety rules, supervising departments can intervene.

Major food ordering and delivery apps, including industry leader Ele.me, declined to comment on the

prospect of tightened rules on Thursday, saying they are still studying the proposals.

Wang Zhi, a food delivery worker at Ele.me, said: "Since the existing rules were implemented last year, the company has strengthened management processes, especially in terms of requiring every one of us to have a health certificate.

"The process of obtaining the certificate is complex," Wang added.

Some residents said on Thursday that they hope the watchdog can do more.

"I got a stomachache after eating food ordered via apps several times," said Shen Siwen, a 21-year-old university student in Shanghai. "This

new rule strengthens supervision of online platforms, but the supervising departments should also be held accountable when food safety issues arise. These departments need to assume joint liability."

Jin Jiamin, an employee of a State-owned company, said: "I have found bugs in food when eating at a restaurant. So the requirement of asking online food providers to have a physical store does not necessarily mean food safety issues will be solved. More important is that the regulations are well implemented."

Tian Shengjie in Shanghai contributed to this story.

Purple patch



Tourists stop for a selfie at a lavender plantation in Huocheng county, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, on Saturday. With lavender reaching full bloom, the county's farms, which produce 97 percent of the lavender in China, are a spectacular sea of purple, filling the air with a soothing scent. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Guizhou to take lead in eco-healthcare plan

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and ZHENG JINRAN in Beijing

52 percent

of Guizhou is covered by forests, making the province an ideal testing ground for building pilot forest health zones.

First came ecotourism, as people flocked to rural areas to escape noisy, polluted cities. Now, Guizhou province is turning to a new trend experts describe as eco-healthcare.

The southwestern province has established 12 pilot forest health zones that will offer a range of services to help people prevent or alleviate illnesses as they are surrounded by a relaxing natural environment.

The Guizhou Forestry Administration secured a 60 billion yuan (\$8.8 billion) loan on Saturday from Agricultural Development Bank of China to improve environmental protection and its forestry industry.

It was not revealed how much of that money will go toward eco-healthcare, but the deal, signed at the Eco Forum Global Symposium in Guiyang, the provincial capital, is expected to boost the pilot project.

The forest health zones — part of a wider effort to make better use of State-protected forests — can help parts of Guizhou and other undeveloped regions eradicate poverty by creating jobs and commercial opportunities for residents, said Liu Dongsheng, deputy director of the State Forestry Administration, during the two-day symposium.

China aims to have 500 health service centers in forest zones nationwide by 2020, according to the central government's five-year forest development plan.

The health zones, which will be combined with entertainment venues and hotels, are seen as potential new growth engines for rural areas, with Chinese travelers already showing great interest in ecotourism.

Liu cited the results of a survey of 5,839 people conducted last year that found 93 percent would be "highly interested" in the idea of forest health services, with "the clean air and natural beauty" the main attractions.

Wang Guofu, a doctor in the geriatrics department at Zhejiang Hospital, said his team has conducted at least four rounds of research since 2010 on how sick elderly patients respond to forest environments, including those with conditions such as high blood pressure and heart disease.

It was found that patients experienced a significant decrease in blood pressure and an improvement in heart function, Wang said at the symposium.

Forests cover 52 percent of Guizhou, which makes the province an ideal testing ground for such health zones, Wang said. However, experts at the symposium said that more detailed policies and standards are needed to make sure the pilot project succeeds.

"We need to learn from other countries with developed (eco-healthcare) industries, such as Japan and the United States. But we need to create unified standards based on our own situation quickly," said Song Weiming, president of Beijing Forestry University.

Contact the writers at zhengjinran@chinadaily.com.cn

Meat, vegetable quality appeals to domestic market

By ZHAO RUIXUE

in Jinan and WANG XIAODONG in Beijing

After four decades of relying heavily on overseas markets, Liu Haiyan has now turned to the domestic market for her primary customers.

Liu's company, Shandong Lufeng Co, in Anqiu, Shandong province, processes more than 1,000 varieties of food products, including frozen meat, cooked meat and frozen vegetables. It exports to Japan, the United States and Europe.

She said her biggest advantage over domestic competitors is that her products conform to US, Japanese and European standards.

"We use the same standards and the same factories to produce the same products for domestic markets," said Liu, the company's general manager. "Our overseas markets are stable, but the domestic

market has expanded in the past three years. People are paying more attention to quality of life — and the quality of products they buy."

The company sold 2 billion yuan's (\$294 million) worth of products last year, of which 1.4 billion yuan came from the domestic market.

Liu said local governments' efforts to create demonstration areas to elevate the overall quality of agricultural products ensure that the company's products meet foreign standards.

Shandong province was certified on Friday by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine — the top quality watchdog — as China's first demonstration province for the safety of food and agricultural products for export.

The province sold 107.5 billion yuan's worth of agricultural products in overseas markets

last year, accounting for 25 percent of the country's total agricultural exports, according to the provincial government.

The province has ranked first in the country for agricultural exports for 18 consecutive years.

More than 99.95 percent of agricultural products the province exported met the standards required by the destination countries last year.

To date, the national administration has certified 291 national-level demonstration areas across China to promote the overall quality of agricultural products.

In the demonstration areas, a series of measures, including enhanced cooperation between different government departments and strict controls on the use of pesticides, are enforced.

"Every week, people from the local quality supervision and inspection authorities

“ People are paying more attention to quality of life — and the quality of products they buy.”

Liu Haiyan, general manager of Shandong Lufeng Co

come to my farm to inspect whether my plants meet the requirements in terms of using pesticides," said Yu Haiyang, a farmer in Jiaojiazhuang village in Anqiu, a county certified as the first national-level demonstration area for the safety of exported agricultural products.

"Without strict regulations from local authorities on the

use of pesticides, we would have to establish our own to ensure quality of our farms, which would not only cost more but has the potential to be polluted by other people's farmland," Liu said.

Zhong Yuhua, general manager of Qingdao Fusheng Foodstuff Co, said: "Usually products meeting the standards of countries like Japan, the US and the European Union have easier access to the domestic market, as those countries have higher requirements on food quality."

Zhong started to explore the domestic market in 2014.

He predicted it will account for 40 percent of the company's total sales this year.

Contact the writers at zhaoruixue@chinadaily.com.cn

Wang Mingjian contributed to this story.

Parking by robot coming to Nanjing next month

By CANG WEI in Nanjing cangwei@chinadaily.com.cn

China's parking lot of tomorrow — a multistory garage that uses robot "valets" to take vehicles to empty spaces — will open in Nanjing next month, according to the technology company behind the project.

The facility, built as part of a new shopping mall near the city's Confucius Temple, covers 2,400 square meters and has 57 parking spaces and two robots.

Drivers will park on the

first floor, and the robots — flat platforms on wheels — will transport the cars to the second floor using elevators, according to Yu Lei, general manager of the Jiangsu office of Shenzhen Yeefung Automation Technology Co, which developed the smart system.

The machines are 4.8 meters long, 1.8 meters wide and 0.35 meters tall, and can carry vehicles weighing up to 2.5 metric tons.

"The first floor of the garage consists of robots, elevators and a control system, while parking spaces are situated on

the second floor," Yu said. "Drivers will leave their cars on the first floor, where the control systems will examine the size and weight of each car."

Robots will follow routes calculated by the system and park the cars in specified spaces using laser alignment equipment.

When drivers return to collect their cars, they will wait on the first floor as the robots locate their vehicle, reversing the trip.

Drivers can use a smartphone app to book parking spaces and collect their cars,

with the whole parking process taking about three minutes, Yu said.

"Compared with regular garages, the smart garage covers about 40 percent less space and requires fewer workers," he said. "In fact, the garage only needs one worker on the first floor to guide drivers. The second floor requires no lighting or ventilation equipment because the robots can follow the computer's orders in the dark."

Maintenance and labor costs will also be greatly reduced, Yu said.

Ji Feng, technical director of the company, said: "We spent three years researching and testing the smart garage system. A single robot can manage up to 50 parking spaces."

"Technically, using our control system, if a garage had enough space, 100 robots could work at the same time without any collisions."

Ji said more smart garages will be established in Chinese cities, adding that construction of the country's second smart garage will get underway soon in neighboring Zhejiang province.

Guo Jun contributed to this story.

Head of the family



A man wearing a fanciful horse head mimics a scene from a picture book in a park in Wuhan, Hubei province, on Sunday. The event, which featured fathers narrating stories for their children, was held to mark Father's Day, which falls on the third Sunday in June every year.

MIAO JIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY