



LANDSLIDE CLAIMS 15

PHOTO BY LIU XU / XINHUA

Villagers sit in front of landslide debris in Daoping township, Guizhou province, on Friday. A severe landslide struck the township on Wednesday, killing 15 and injuring 22. Another eight people are still missing.

Rescue forces get top rating in review

By ZHENG JINRAN

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The performance of China's rescue forces is at a high level, ready for international and domestic emergencies, an international peer review evaluation concluded.

The China International Search & Rescue Team passed its three-day peer review on Thursday, reclaiming its expired title of "Heavy Team," the United Nations' highest international external classification.

That title means China's rescue team is officially recognized as excellent. On short notice, it can mobilize within eight hours of a request and can be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours for a response assignment of up to 10 days in challenging conditions.

"In the reclassification, the performance of the Chinese team was almost perfect," said Rashid Khalikov, director of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, adding that after five years, the members showed they have kept their abilities at a high level.

The China International Search & Rescue Team first received the classification in 2009, the second Heavy Team in Asia following Singapore. But every team must be re-evaluated every five years to keep the title, under UN rules.

The 480-member Chinese team has participated in 12 international rescue efforts, including the devastating earthquake in Japan in 2011.

"Both the disaster-stricken countries and other countries' rescue teams have a positive image about the Chinese rescue members," Khalikov said.

"Compared with other foreign rescue teams, the Chinese team has an outstanding feature: swift action," said Chen Hong, an expert who worked with the team during the review.

After Haiti was hit by an earthquake in 2010, the Chinese team was on the scene even before that of the US, which neighbors the Caribbean, she said.

"We have professional doctors instead of just members with some medical knowledge, as in many other countries," she said, adding that strong support from information technology and geology has boosted the Chinese team's success in international rescues.

Tearful actor Kai Ko publicly apologizes for 'wrong choice'

By WANG KAIHAO

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Kai Ko burst into tears on Friday as he expressed his regret for using drugs following his release from detention.

"I was wrong, without any reason or excuse," he said at the start of a packed news conference in Beijing. Then, overcome by emotion, he sat down as camera flashes lit up the room.

He repeated the word "sorry," adding: "I have to face and fix the error."

The 23-year-old actor from Taiwan, also known as Ko Chen-tung, was released at midnight on Thursday after spending 14 days in detention.

"This event will be my ugly scar. As long as it is on my body, I will see it forever," he said.

Ko recalled the joy he felt when he first entered the entertainment industry in 2011, and said he regretted making his family unhappy and setting a bad example for his fans.

"I will try my best to do better and win opportunities by revealing positive energy and information in the future," he said.

However, observers say Ko will probably be prevented from making films on the mainland in future.

He promised to fully cooperate with any further investigations after returning to Taiwan.

He said he will respect producers' decisions on whether to delete scenes in upcoming movies in which he appears.

He said he did not know anything about the status of Jaycee Chan, son of Hong Kong kung fu star Jackie Chan. The pair were arrested at the younger Chan's Beijing apartment on Aug 14, reportedly for smoking marijuana.

"It's all our own wrong choices; I don't blame him," Ko said.

His parents remained poker-faced for most of the 25-minute press conference, but his father made a short statement.

"We used to love him without a stern attitude," he said.

"We have usually respected



ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

Actor Kai Ko sheds tears as he apologizes to his fans and the public in Beijing on Friday. He was released late Thursday after a 14-day detention for drug use.

his decisions. Now, we'll continue to offer him love, but more rigorously."

Ko and Chan are the most recent names to be added to a long list of drug-using stars in China. Actor Gao Hu was arrested earlier this month.

"I hope Ko will come

back to the screen," said Han Siyang, a 24-year-old fan who rushed from Qinhuangdao, Hebei province, to see his idol at the news conference.

"I think it's unfair for the media to keep kicking him when he knows he made a mistake. Everyone deserves a second chance."

Three more senior officials named in graft probes

By AN BAIJIE

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The nation's top anti-corruption watchdog announced on Friday that three more high-ranking officials have been placed under investigation.

Two of them, Bai Yun and Ren Runhou, come from North China's Shanxi province. They were the seventh and eighth cases this year in a series of investigations of officials suspected of corruption in the coal-rich province.

The third official, from the National People's Congress, was also named on Friday.

Bai Yun, a member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Shanxi Provincial Committee, is being probed for "serious discipline and law violations," indicating that corruption is suspected.

Bai is also head of the United Front Work Department of the provincial Party committee, which is in charge of communicating with different political



Bai Yun



Ren Runhou



Bai Enpei

parties, according to a statement released by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The commission gave no further details in the statement on its website.

Ren Runhou, 47, vice-governor of Shanxi, was also probed

by the CCDI on Friday, according to the commission's website.

Bai, 54, is the first female provincial-level official to be investigated since November 2012, when the CPC elected its new leadership.

Previously, she served as Party secretary of Yuncheng from

Chiefs vow to build up military ties

Troops in joint drill successfully act out mission to halt terrorist coup

By WANG XU

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Peace Mission 2014, a joint military drill that began on Sunday, concluded on Friday with forces from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan successfully completing their training tasks.

The chiefs of general staff of the countries, which are all Shanghai Cooperation Organization members, and representatives of observer countries, dialogue partners and embassy attaches watched the drill and attended the closing ceremonies.

On Thursday, at a meeting of the chiefs of general staff of SCO members in Beijing, officers pledged to further build their military ties.

"Russia is ready to make joint efforts with China to lift the relationship to a new high," said Valery Gerasimov, chief of the general staff of the armed forces of Russia. "The bilateral, state-to-state and military-to-military ties between China and Russia have entered a new stage."

SCO members have conducted anti-terror drills code-named "Peace Mission" since 2005, with China, Russia and Kazakhstan taking turns hosting.

Seven thousand troops participated in this latest joint drill, whose main phase was at the Zhurihe training base in China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

Under the drill's scenario, a separatist organization supported by an international terrorist group had supposedly hatched a coup to divide an SCO nation. The nation asks the SCO for assistance, and joint forces are dispatched to suppress the insurgency with United Nations consent.

First, drones and helicopters were used to count and locate the "terrorists". Then a reconnaissance and strike drone destroyed the "enemy's" com-

mand vehicle with a missile.

Airstrikes followed artillery fire by joint armored carriers and tank units, which attacked the mountainous region where the terrorists were hiding and wiped out their main forces. Finally, the joint forces surrounded and eliminated the remnants of the enemy.

The five countries, troops began training together a week before the drill started, on Aug 17. During that time, their soldiers and officers had a chance to get to know each other through recreational activities such as tug of war, ballgames and martial music concerts.

According to Wang Ning, chief director of the joint directing department of the exercise, this "Peace Mission" drill was the largest ever, involving some 440 pieces of military hardware, as well as 70 aircraft.

There has been sharp interest in "Peace Mission 2014," not only due to the drill itself but because of recent events.

In the past, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have all found themselves faced with challenges from terrorist forces such as the East Turkistan Islamic Movement.

But this year, at least five deadly attacks by terrorists and religious extremists linked to the Xinjiang autonomous region have occurred in northwest China.

China seeks peace in the neighboring provinces in order to better deal with island disputes in the East China Sea, while Russia seeks stability in Central Asian countries in order to deal with the Ukraine crisis.

A week earlier, Japan's military showcased its ability to defend remote islands, aiming at repelling a hypothetical invasion.

In South Korea, 50,000 soldiers and 30,000 United States counterparts took part in a drill that ended Aug 29 and simulated a response to a nuclear attack.

6 Husi Food executives face arrest in meat scandal

By CHINA DAILY

Six senior executives at Shanghai Husi Food Co face arrest over their alleged involvement in the expired meat scandal that affected leading fast food chains last month.

Shanghai No 2 People's Procuratorate approved the arrests on Friday.

The six include factory director Hu Jun, who is accused of manufacturing

or selling counterfeit or inferior products, according to a statement on the prosecutors' website.

Shanghai-based Dragon TV claimed in July that Shanghai Husi had supplied products tainted with reprocessed expired meat to a string of fast food chains and restaurants across China, including McDonald's, KFC and Pizza Hut.

The Shanghai Public Security Bureau and the city's

Food and Drug Administration said after an investigation that the company produced 5,108 crates of meat products, including pork patties and beefsteaks, using out-of-date or moldy meat.

About 100 metric tons of Husi products were seized and sealed up. Police later detained five people allegedly involved in the scandal.

Gu Xiaorong, vice-president of the Shanghai Law Society, said people can be

convicted of manufacturing or selling counterfeit or inferior products even if there are no serious consequences, under Chinese law.

"It is different from poisoning," he added. "The effects of eating inferior foodstuffs may not show up immediately. The law works in this way as it's hard to clearly know the consequences."

Gu said the six executives may have had no criminal intent, but as the people

directly in charge of the company they can still be convicted.

"The position of the company is serious as it had been conducting this criminal act for a long time," he said. "As the criminal act benefited the company, the crime can be considered as a crime committed by the unit. In such a circumstance, the executives will still be held responsible."

Under the Criminal Law, those who manufacture or

sell inferior food products that can cause serious poisoning or spread food-borne diseases may be jailed for up to three years.

The sentence can rise to between three and seven years if the food causes serious harm to customers. Offenders can be given seven years to life if the consequences are particularly serious.

Those convicted of the offense must also pay a fine.