

CHINA



Left: Rescuers search for survivors at the landslide site in Guowa township, Dafang county, Guizhou province on Thursday.

Right: The aftermath of Thursday's landslide in Guowa township. PHOTOS BY YANG WENBIN / XINHUA



2 killed, 19 trapped in Guizhou landslides

By LIU BOQIAN in Guiyang
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Two separate landslides struck Changshi and Guowa townships in Dafang county, Guizhou province, on Thursday, killing two people and trapping 19 others, local authorities told Xinhua News Agency.

The first landslide hit Changshi at around 3 am, leaving two residents trapped. The second occurred at about 9 am in Guowa, trapping 19 people across eight households. As of 6:55 pm on Thursday, the two people trapped in Changshi had been confirmed dead, Xinhua reported.

Rescue efforts have been hampered by steep terrain and sharp

inclines, according to the report.

By 2 pm, multiple units of the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed Police Force had arrived in the area to join the rescue efforts. The local military sub-district mobilized about 120 soldiers and local militia from surrounding townships. By noon, more than 60 armed police officers from the Bijie detachment had reached the scene with demolition tools, lifesaving equipment and other specialized gear.

The Ministry of Emergency Management launched a Level IV emergency response for geological disasters and dispatched a work team to provide on-site guidance. At 1 pm, the Ministry of Natural Resources issued a Level II

response for geological disaster defense and sent experts to help coordinate emergency efforts.

Heavy rain from Wednesday night to Thursday caused landslides that blocked all access roads to the affected areas. By 6 pm on Thursday, one of the roads had been cleared, allowing excavators and other heavy machinery to enter, according to China Central Television.

Xu Lin, Party secretary of Guizhou, went to the emergency command center to oversee the rescue operation. Provincial Governor Li Bingjun later arrived at the site with relevant provincial departments to direct search and rescue efforts and other emergency measures.

According to publicly released information, the Dafang county meteorological station upgraded its heavy rain warning from orange to red — the highest level in the four-tier system — at 3:33 am on Thursday, and reissued the red alert at 6:45 am.

The forecast predicted that rainfall in several areas, including Changshi and Guowa, would exceed 150 millimeters over the next three hours.

Authorities were urged to strengthen drainage and flood control, guard against rain-triggered hazards such as mountain floods, landslides and debris flows, and evacuate residents from high-risk areas and unstable housing without delay.

Campaign seeks to rectify dubious enforcement

By CUI JIA
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Swift action has been taken to address excessive inspections, arbitrary fines and fees, and profit-driven enforcement by local authorities as part of a nationwide campaign aimed at improving the business environment, officials said on Thursday.

The campaign, launched in March, seeks to resolve long-standing administrative law enforcement issues that infringe upon the business environment, officials said on Thursday.

“Such issues are widespread and causing serious harm,” Hu said at a news conference held by the State Council Information Office. “The success of this campaign depends on whether these problems can truly be rectified.”

As part of the effort, authorities

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Ji Xiaoling, an inspection specialist at the State Administration for Market Regulation

have established a digital platform to support administrative law enforcement involving enterprises. The platform consolidates problems and automatically distributes them to relevant regions and departments, significantly boosting efficiency, Hu said.

The platform also performs real-time statistical analysis to issue alerts. For example, if confiscation

revenue grows more than 20 percent year-on-year, local authorities will be required to explain the increase and implement appropriate follow-up measures, he said.

Ji Xiaoling, an inspection specialist at the State Administration for Market Regulation, said arbitrary administrative fees remain an issue in some sectors, with certain authorities still abusing their dominant positions to levy illegal charges, despite repeated bans. Businesses have also raised concerns about hidden fees on e-government platforms.

“We will strictly investigate unauthorized fee collection and overcharging by government departments,” Ji said, adding that enforcement will also be strengthened in the transportation and logistics sectors, including land and maritime ports.

Yang Zhihui, director of the Bureau of Workplace Safety Law Enforcement and Industrial and Commercial Safety Supervision under the Ministry of Emergency

Management, said emergency management departments will work to avoid excessive inspections while also guarding against lax oversight.

To reduce the frequency of on-site inspections, non-site inspections are being piloted in nine provinces, Yang said. These efforts are supported by technologies such as big data and artificial intelligence, enabling more precise enforcement and better prevention of workplace safety incidents.

Hu said a range of innovative practices, including joint and non-site inspections, have already led to a sharp reduction in unnecessary inspections nationwide.

From January to April, the total number of administrative inspections in Beijing fell by 72 percent compared with the same period last year, while non-site inspections rose by 48 percent. Despite the drop in on-site inspections, the effectiveness of enforcement improved, with a 26 percent increase in issue detection, he said.

Websites urged to help combat online infringement

By JIANG CHENGLONG
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China's top internet watchdog has launched a two-month nationwide campaign to crack down on online activities that infringe upon the legitimate rights of enterprises, including defamation, slander and extortion.

The campaign, announced on Thursday by the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission, urges websites and social media platforms to improve their handling of corporate-related complaints and better protect the online rights and interests of businesses and entrepreneurs.

According to the notice, the campaign targets illegal online behaviors such as fabricating false information, attacking product quality, smearing company reputations and filing malicious complaints.

So-called “troll farms” — groups hired to post fake comments, manipulate public opinion or publish harmful content about competitors — are also in the crosshairs. These groups often demand payment to delete negative posts or time damaging claims to coincide with major company events such as product launches or financing

rounds in an attempt to pressure firms into cooperation.

The campaign will also address malicious marketing and disinformation campaigns that distort public corporate data, including shareholding structures and financial disclosures.

It aims to stop activities that disrupt regular business operations, such as filming live broadcasts or short videos at company premises under the guise of rights protection.

The initiative is part of efforts to implement the newly enacted Private Economy Promotion Law, which took effect on Tuesday.

The law prohibits individuals or organizations from using the internet to insult or defame private enterprises or their operators.

Internet service providers are required to enhance content moderation, improve complaint and reporting systems, and promptly remove illegal content that infringes on the rights of private businesses.

The regulator called on online platforms to refine review standards for enterprise-related content, tighten oversight of trending topics, and bolster the day-to-day management of accounts that publish financial information.

Crew floats for 8 hours in its first spacewalk

Shenzhou XX astronauts carry out tasks before returning to Tiangong space station

By ZHAO LEI
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The Shenzhou XX mission crew members aboard China's Tiangong space station completed their first spacewalk on Thursday afternoon, the China Manned Space Agency said.

During the eight-hour operation, mission commander Senior Colonel Chen Dong and crew member Colonel Chen Zhongrui floated out of the Tianhe core module and installed debris-shielding devices, which had been put in place by the robotic arm before the spacewalk.

The pair also checked the condition of extravehicular instruments and fixed broken parts, according to the agency.

They returned to the space station at 4:49 pm. The mission's third astronaut, Colonel Wang Jie, stayed inside the space station and worked with ground controllers to provide assistance to the spacewalkers.

The spacewalk was the 21st that Chinese astronauts have ever carried out, and marked the fourth time Chen Dong floated outside the Chinese space station. He previously took part in three spacewalks during the Shenzhou XIV mission.

Thursday's spacewalk was the first for Chen Zhongrui.

Chen Dong and his teammates have been aboard the station since their arrival on April 25.

Before the spacewalk, they had conducted a host of assignments, including examining and performing maintenance on instruments, installing intravehicular devices, monitoring the space station environment and testing spacewalk suits.

The astronauts had also rehearsed medical emergency response efforts and engaged in scientific and technological tasks.

The Shenzhou XX crew is conducting China's 15th manned spaceflight and has become the ninth group of astronauts aboard Tiangong, which is currently the only operational space station independently run by a single nation.

Their predecessors in the Shenzhou XIX flight made three spacewalks during their six-month mission.

Orbiting Earth at a distance of about 400 kilometers, Tiangong has three permanent parts — a core module and two science capsules — and is regularly connected to several visiting crew and cargo spaceships.



A smart guided vehicle is tested at the container field at Rizhao Port in Shandong province on Wednesday. When put into service, the vehicles will be used to shuttle containers. ZHAO RUIXUE / CHINA DAILY

Shandong port becomes a model of innovation

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Towering cranes loom over a steady stream of container ships at the Rizhao Port of Shandong Port Group, where more than 1.5 million metric tons of cargo move daily through increasingly automated terminals.

In the past year, Rizhao Port achieved 23 technological breakthroughs, propelling its transformation into a model of innovation and efficiency.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Rizhao Port on May 22 last year, he commended the port's efforts to advance technological innovation, which has turned it from a traditional facility into a modernized operation in recent years.

Located in the south of Shandong province, the port not only ranks among the top nationwide for cargo throughput, but also offers valuable experience in upgrading traditional industries to foster new quality productive forces, he said.

Driven by technological advancement, Rizhao Port has evolved into a global hub for the transshipment of energy and bulk raw materials since its construction following China's reform and opening-up in the late 1970s.

The port's automated container terminal hums with robotic rail cranes handling operations and autonomous vehicles ferrying containers. “These are our newly tested smart guided vehicles, which use the Beidou navigation satellite system to calculate optimal routes in real time,” said Xu Guannan, manager of the port's technology research and development department.

“Instead of performing traditional parallel parking, they can approach the area by moving sideways like a crab. There's no need for complex alignment adjustments, which makes them more flexible,” Xu said.

Twelve new lightweight, domestically designed cranes will soon be deployed at the terminal.

“These new cranes have smart electric control systems that replace imported ones, while their composite structures reduce each unit's weight by 70 metric tons and cut energy use by 15 percent,” said Wang Yandi, director of the port's innovation center. Each crane saves about 1 million yuan (\$138,788) in construction costs, he added.

Thanks to these upgrades, overall efficiency at the terminal has increased by 9.5 percent year-on-year.

In the past, coal-handling ports were often associated with blackened industrial zones. Today, visitors to Rizhao Port are met with a cleaner view: enclosed conveyor belts transport coal from storage yards to ships, maintaining a green and dust-free environment.

This transformation stems from an intelligent system launched in December that integrates laser scanning, artificial intelligence recognition and automated holds-clearing technologies. The system has boosted operational efficiency by 30 percent while eliminating coal dust pollution.

“To build this system, we had no ready-made solutions and no examples to follow. We had to optimize algorithms ourselves. We researched, compared data and tested repeatedly,” said Tian Zhengdong, a senior technician at the port. “There were times we thought about quitting, but we made it.”