

“QUOTABLE

“It is reasonable and legal to set up an armed forces department in the urban management bureau.”

AUTHORITIES IN THE HANYANG DISTRICT OF WUHAN, capital of Hubei province, reacting to a heated discussion arising from the establishment of an armed forces department for urban management, or *cheng-guan*, on Saturday. The armed forces department was set up on Wednesday, Army Day in China, local media reported. The report has become a hot topic among netizens.

THE NUMBER
38,000
YUAN

The average spending per household in China was 38,000 yuan (\$5,960) in 2011, an increase of 5,710 yuan over 2010, according to a report released on Sunday by the Institute of Social Science Survey of Peking University. The expenditure on food spending for each household in 2011 saw an increase of 2,287 yuan, accounting for 40 percent of the average spending increase of the year.

ON THE WEB

Highlights from chinadaily.com.cn



Pictures: A store in Wuhan has paved a 7-meter walkway with 200 pure-gold nuggets valued at nearly 70 million yuan (\$10.9 million) as part of a jewelry festival. China is the world's biggest producer and consumer of gold products.

Video: Chinese walker Chen Ding, who won gold in the 20km event and set a new world record on Saturday, a day before his 20th birthday, talks about how he almost quit the sport due to injury.

Video: Michael Phelps, 27, the most decorated Olympian of all time, talks about the future after ending his swimming career.

Buzzword: A brown-bag seminar is a training session held over a lunch break. Meals brought from home or takeaway restaurants are often packed in brown bags.

Culture: New guidelines from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television aimed at “cleaning up TV and cultivating mainstream values”, has raised concern among producers and netizens about the future quality of TV shows.

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FDI worries ‘unfounded’

Foreign firms still find domestic market attractive, expert says

By **DING QINGFEN**
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US investment in China may continue to drop, but not by large amounts, a commerce official predicted.

“China is not worried about the massive transfer of factories by multinational companies to neighboring countries as the quality of foreign investment will improve,” Zhang Xiangchen, director of the Department of Policy Research at the Ministry of Commerce, told China Daily.

In a newly released guideline for the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15), the National Development and Reform Commission said China will prioritize the quality of foreign investment rather than the quantity.

Direct investment from the US to China dropped by 3.2 percent year-on-year to \$1.63 billion in the first half of 2012, according to the ministry.

Foreign direct investment in China decreased by 3 percent, in the same period, from a year earlier to \$59.1 billion. And Washington's attempts to lure back investment will have a limited effect, he said.

“The momentum will probably continue in the following months with the ‘Select USA’ program that aims to draw back

foreign investment,” Zhang said.

The Obama administration announced last year that it would set up a national promotion agency to attract more foreign investment, especially from China.

The US is a major investor in China, and during the past six months China's FDI has been declining.

But Zhang said the impact would be “limited” in the short term and fears were unfounded. “Sharp declines of US investment into China will not happen in the next year or two.”

Hu Yifan, chief economist with Haitong International Securities, wrote in a Wall Street Journal column that “the reshoring of manufacturing operations to the US would exert an impact on China, but the impact should be very small,” Hu wrote, citing

“China's strong competitiveness.”

As Chinese labor costs rise, production will gradually swing back. Big names planning to move some of their production back to the US include General Electric and Caterpillar.

A report by the Boston Consulting Group said the return of major US companies will help create 3 million jobs in the US by 2020.

But the motives of US President Barack Obama have come under scrutiny.

Columnist Edward Luce said in a commentary for the Financial Times that “it (reshoring to the US) smacked of electioneering. Most of his (Obama's) proposals, including a slightly lower tax rate for domestic manufacturers, looked gimmicky and stood no chance of enactment before 2013”.

Some multinationals are moving their production from China to low-cost countries in Southeast Asia.

Adidas said last month it will shut down the company's only fully-owned apparel factory in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, which employs 160 workers, at the end of October. This comes after Nike closed its only shoe factory in China, also in Suzhou, in 2009.

But Zhang defended China as a top global investment destination.

“China's attractiveness to foreign companies remains strong,” despite the slowdown and rising costs, Zhang said.

Hu, from Haitong International Securities, agreed.

“China's competitiveness is, and will continue to be, strong as labor costs are still comparatively low, productivity is improving

and consumption is growing.”

China's FDI in June declined by 6.9 percent year-on-year to \$12 billion, according to the ministry, the largest drop since December and compares with a 0.05 percent gain in May after a six-month slide.

Shen Danyang, Ministry of Commerce spokesman, blamed the sluggish global economy and rising domestic costs for the decline.

But he insisted the full year's FDI would “stabilize,” as economic growth picks up in the second half.

Shen also said China's attractiveness will be strong in the long term, citing huge domestic consumption, China's efforts to crack down on the infringement of intellectual property rights and the accelerating process of industrialization.

around china

BEIJING

Ex-minister accused of discipline breach

Former railway minister Liu Zhijun has been accused of violating six Party disciplines, sources with the Ministry of Railways said on Sunday, indicating the investigation into Liu's case has finished, information portal caixin.com reported on Sunday.

Internal investigation found Liu was involved in economic crimes as well as “political and moral problems”, according to the report.

Liu had taken advantage of his position to help Ding Shumiao, board chairwoman of Beijing Boyou Investment Management Corp, win the bidding for a 3 billion-yuan (\$470 million) project, and he made huge illegal profits from several railway projects, the report said.

Addicts need to quit drugs to drive

Drivers who don't give up their addiction to narcotics should have their driving licenses revoked within 30 days, the Ministry of Public Security said in a statement on Monday.

The ministry has asked public security departments to check information on Chinese drivers, and any driver addicted to drugs should voluntarily give up his or her driving license, the statement said.

Ministry launches health TV channel

China's top health authority has launched a TV channel, China Health Television, to promote health education and disease prevention.

The new channel is expected to reach more than 200 million people in 70 cities on the mainland by the end of this year, Health Minister Chen Zhu said at CHTV's launch on Monday.

“The channel will promote a healthy lifestyle and behavior among the Chinese public, who have a growing demand for keeping healthy and fit today. The knowledge has to be impartial and scientifically correct,” Chen said.

Rainstorm death toll climbs to 79

The death toll from Beijing's devastating downpours on July 21 has risen to 79 as another body was found, the city's flood control and drought relief office said on Sunday.

The body of Zhang Yuxiang, 33, was retrieved in Sanfu village in the

Fangshan district, according to a statement by the office on Sunday. The statement did not mention when the body was found.

Beijing city government raised the death toll to 77 from 37 on July 26, and the number was not updated until Thursday, when another body was found in a pond near Dongguan village in Fangshan.

GUANGXI

Three buried in lime-pit collapse

Three workers were buried when a lime pit collapsed in South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on Monday afternoon, rescuers said.

The incident happened at 4 pm in a lime factory in Yufeng district in Liuzhou, local firefighters said.

The buried workers have a slim chance of survival, and another collapse could occur, threatening the lives of rescuers, according to the firefighters who were trying to figure out a way to rescue the buried workers.

Tourist bus plunge kills 1, injures 37

A tourist bus fell into a ravine in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on Sunday, killing one and injuring 37 others on board, local police said on Monday.

The bus, carrying 38 people, broke through the road barrier and plunged into the ravine near the entrance of a tunnel in Yangshuo county in Guilin about 3:50 pm, police said. One of the critically injured died in hospital early on Monday, they said.

The bus was heading for Shenzhen from the popular tourist destination Guilin, police said. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

GANSU

Mudslide victims get apartments

The 2,700 families who lost their homes in a devastating mudslide that claimed more than 1,500 lives in 2010 in Northwest China's Gansu province will move into new apartments by the end of the year, local authorities said.

A total of 3,580 apartments have been distributed to the families, said Yi Jianglin, deputy director of the Zhugu county reconstruction management office.

Zhugu's reconstruction is projected to cost 5.02 billion yuan (\$787 million), with funds for reconstruction earmarked by central, provincial and county governments.



ART OF STRETCHING AND BENDING

PHOTO BY ZHANG MENG / XINHUA

One hundred chefs show their noodle-making skills at the opening ceremony of a hand-made noodle festival in Lanzhou, Northwest China's Gansu province, on Monday. The festival will last for 21 days.

TAIWAN

Cross-Straits negotiators to meet

Chief negotiators from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan will hold a new round of talks on Aug 9 in Taipei, where two agreements on investment protection and customs cooperation are expected to be signed, according to a schedule released by the chief negotiator from Taiwan.

Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Taipei-based Straits Exchange Foundation, said his upcoming talk with Chen Yunlin, president of the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, their eighth talk since 2008, will fall on Thursday morning, adding that the two agreements are scheduled to be signed later in the day.

Chiang said his talk with Chen will cover the prospective benefits

of the two agreements, a review of the implementation of past agreements and a discussion of future topics for their talks.

YUNNAN

Countries start fifth river patrol

Chinese police and their counterparts from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand kicked off the fifth joint patrol on the Mekong River on Monday, according to public security authorities in Yunnan province.

The patrol fleet set sail at 6:30 am from Guanlei Port, which is located in Xishuangbanna prefecture in Yunnan.

Joint patrols and reinforced cooperation have effectively safeguarded stability and shipping safety in the Mekong River area, said a statement released after a Sunday meeting of the four nations' joint commanders.

Result of bomb inquiry issued

An investigation has found that a man identified as a bomber in an explosion that killed four people on May 10 had been hired by two villagers.

The Yunnan provincial public security department said on Monday that the man, Zhao Dengyong, had been paid 100 yuan (\$16) by Deng Deyong and Song Chaoyu.

When Zhao arrived at a housing demolition office in Baihetan township of Qiaojia, Deng and Song detonated the bomb using a cell phone, the investigation found.

The blast killed four people and injured 16 others.

It is believed that officials at the site were signing compensation agreements with local villagers over the demolition of their homes when the incident occurred.

LIAONING

Drivers shamed for refusing customers

Transport authorities in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on Sunday named and shamed 10 taxi drivers who refused to pick up passengers during the rain brought by typhoon Damrey.

The Shenyang transport bureau said it investigated 329 cases, looking at unlicensed taxis and instances of overcharging and refusals to pick up passengers. Most of those incidents were said to occur near railway stations, the airport and business streets.

The 10 Shenyang drivers accused of failing to pick up passengers were each fined 3,000 yuan (\$471). Meanwhile, the bureau impounded their drivers' licenses and sent them to undergo training.

CHINA DAILY—XINHUA

Curiosity of a girl lands on Mars

Rover's identity owes debt to imagination of daughter of Chinese immigrants

By **ZHAO SHENGNAN**
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Clara, the daughter of Chinese immigrants to the US, became part of space history when she witnessed one of the most sophisticated instruments ever used to explore another world successfully land on Mars with a name suggested by her.

The \$2.5 billion Mars Sci-

ence Laboratory and its Curiosity rover landed on the Red Planet on Sunday to determine if life ever existed there.

Clara, from Kansas, suggested the name Curiosity in a winning essay submitted to NASA three years ago.

Clara, now 15, was a special guest at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, for the historic landing, according to the Kansas City Star newspaper.

She also wrote her name inside the rover with a marker

pen and experienced the thrill of watching the car-size rover liftoff in November from Cape Canaveral in Florida, the newspaper said.

“Something like this is probably never going to happen to me again, so I just want to enjoy every single moment,” Clara was quoted as saying as she waited in the control room where the anticipation and anxiety was building.

This is witnessing history and “I am going to be part of it,” she said.

Clara's 14-year-old sister, Renny, and her parents, Lisheng Cao and Frank Ma, accompanied her to the laboratory.

Both parents graduated from Tsinghua University and immigrated to the US in the 1990s, according to a People's Daily article.

Her father was surprised at the invitation, saying it was an especially rare chance for Chinese Americans, the article said.

Clara, a sixth-grader at the time, suggested Curiosity

because, as she wrote in the beginning of the essay, “it is an everlasting flame that burns in everyone's mind. It makes me get out of bed in the morning and wonder what surprises life will throw at me that day”.

Her essay was one of nine finalists out of more than 9,000 submitted.

“It (curiosity) was the first thing that popped into my mind, and I really liked it, because I was just really curious as a child and I asked so many questions. And I thought it'd be a really good fit for a rover that was going to Mars,” Clara told Washington-based National Public Radio.

Ma's interest in space seemed mainly to stem from her grandmother. “My grandpa,

when she came from China to visit us in the US, would just point out all of these constellations to me, you know, the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper. And the stars are like the only constant things in the sky. They're the same in China and in the US, and I just thought it was really, really cool,” she said.

According to the Kansas City Star, Clara intends to take science courses for the forthcoming sophomore year at high school until she graduates and would like to study it in college. Her schedule was also packed with activities, including making an educational film for children and exploring the possibility, a treasured dream, of receiving an internship at the Jet Propul-

sion Laboratory.

“I just think it's always good to learn new things, to move forward. And Curiosity isn't just a rover that's going to be studying things up in Mars. It's not just metal and titanium and a body and wheels. It's actually people's emotions and labor and hard work and love and care, and it's all put together in that rover, and it brings people together from all across the world,” she told national radio.

“If you can use science to bring people together to discover new things and to learn new things and to advance humanity as a whole, that's always an amazing thing to do, and I think it's totally worthwhile to be going to Mars.”