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Zhang Manyu, a 38-year-old businesswoman who visited Beijing over the weekend

Briefly

BEIJING Universities to offer big-data majors

Thirty-two universities have introduced undergraduate big-data programs this year to address a talent shortage, according to the Ministry of Education. In 2016, Peking University, the University of International Business and Economics, and Central South University became the first three to recruit undergraduates for majors in data science and big-data technology.

14 million donated blood last year

China recorded 14 million blood donations last year, up 6.1 percent from the previous year, according to the country's health watchdog. As of the end of last year, China had 1,262 blood donation centers and 1,584 mobile centers, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

HENAN 2 new H7N9 cases reported in a week

Two new cases of H7N9 infection were reported in the province from April 8 to April 14, health authorities announced on Sunday. The two patients, a 45-year-old female from Nanyang, surnamed Li, and a 54-year-old male from Pingdingshan, surnamed Deng, are both critically ill in hospital, officials at the provincial health department said.

SHANGHAI Invasive species get tighter oversight

Shanghai border control authorities will blacklist people who intentionally bring in nonnative plants and animals multiple times. Shanghai border agents screened 20 million inbound tourists and 12 million parcels last year, blocking more than 7,000 entries involving 124 dangerous nonnative species.

QINGHAI Tibetan language receives new words

A total of 154 new words and terms have been given standardized Tibetan equivalents, authorities said on Sunday. New words related to politics, economy and technology such as “e-commerce”, “digital economy” and “Internet Plus” have been translated into Tibetan, according to the province's Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee.

XINHUA

Cash rewards help put dent in terrorism

County in Xinjiang praises officers, residents for protecting social stability

By CAO YIN
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Eighteen people from Hotan county in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region have shared 1.1 million yuan (\$159,700) in rewards for their contributions to maintaining social stability — including fighting terrorism — according to a news report in Xinjiang Daily over the weekend.

Sixteen police officers and two Hotan residents were

applauded for their outstanding efforts.

Of those rewarded, three received a pay raise, according to the report. Details were not specified, but rewards have been given in the past to residents for tipping off the authorities about illegal activity, and to police officers whose actions placed them in danger or otherwise went beyond the normal call of duty.

The names of awardees are

“We should fight those who aim to destroy our homes, disturb our peaceful way of life and harm social stability.”

Police officer, as quoted in Xinjiang Daily

normally withheld to protect them from possible retaliation.

“We should fight those who aim to destroy our homes, disturb our peaceful way of life and harm social stability,” the paper quoted one of the officers as saying. He called on more residents to get involved in fighting terrorism, extremism and separatism to protect Hotan.

The news report added that 14 officials have been punished for dereliction of duty, and have been removed from their posts, demoted or expelled from the Party. Several have been placed under criminal investigation.

“Our county has increased its focus on stability and has begun strictly punishing officials who behave improperly or who are

malfeasant,” Lu Boran, Hotan's Party chief, told the newspaper.

He also spoke highly of the residents' participation in anti-terrorism work. Those who voluntarily join the fight and encourage others to help maintain stability deserve to be rewarded, he said.

Li Wei, an anti-terrorism expert at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that such rewards have become common.

China's first Anti-Terrorism Law, which took effect in January last year, stipulates that rewards be handed out for anti-terrorism contributions. Three months later, Xinjiang offered

a cash reward of up to 5 million yuan for people providing key information about plotters.

“Encouraging residents to report clues and rewarding informants has been written into law, which means the government has legal grounds for doing it,” Li said.

He said such rewards, however, will not necessarily become more frequent in the region, since “the problem of terrorism will be eased when more people join the fight.”

Similar reward programs are being brewed up in other areas in the country, “as the anti-terrorism fight is a national task,” he added.

Red-carpet treatment



Bille August (right), director of *The Chinese Widow*, Chinese actress Liu Yifei (center) and other members of the cast pose for photos on the red carpet at the opening of the Beijing International Film Festival on Sunday. The event runs through April 23. JIANG DONG / CHINA DAILY

Guizhou sees GDP growth as poverty killer

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and HOU LIQIANG in Beijing

Guizhou province will set its average annual economic growth target at around 10 percent for the next five years as part of an effort to pull more than 3.7 million people out of poverty by 2020, the province's top official said on Sunday.

Chen Miner, Party chief of Guizhou, said the province aims to increase its GDP to 2 trillion yuan (\$290 billion) by 2021.

Guizhou has pulled nearly 7.8 million people out of poverty in the past five years, but there are still 3.72 million living under the poverty line of 2,300 yuan in annual income

in its rural areas, Chen said in a report to the 12th Communist Party of China Guizhou Provincial Congress.

Guizhou is home to the largest poverty-stricken population among the country's 34 provincial regions, making poverty alleviation there a “key concern” in China's effort to build a moderately prosperous society by 2020, Chen said.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, there are still 43.35 million people living below the poverty line nationwide, despite the country having lifted 12.4 million rural residents out of poverty in 2016.

Chen vowed to boost poverty relief in Guizhou by

3.7 million

people in Guizhou province are expected to be lifted out of poverty by 2020. The province has pulled nearly 7.8 million above the poverty line in the past five years.

accurately identifying poverty-stricken people and assessing how they can be elevated.

Xie Yi, a researcher at the Guizhou Academy of Social Sciences, said the province can achieve its economic growth rate target with strong support from the central government.

The growth rate offers a solid foundation to help alleviate poverty, and it goes hand in hand with job creation, he said.

Xie said many people in poverty need to be relocated from inhabitable areas, and it's important to offer them employment afterward so they remain out of poverty.

Guizhou plans to relocate about 752,000 residents this year — from 3,603 mountain villages to relatively prosperous towns with better living conditions, according to the provincial government.

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Shanghai sizzles in 120-year high heat

By ZHANG ZHIHAO
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A wave of warm weather rolled into Shanghai on Saturday, pushing temperatures up to 31.2 C, a 120-year record high for mid-April, according to a local weather station.

Cloudy weather and showers, starting on Sunday, will bring temperatures in the municipality down to around 27 C on Wednesday and 20 C on Saturday, according to forecasts.

The last time Shanghai's mid-April temperatures surged above 30 C was in 1896, when the mercury hit 33 C, said Kong Chunyan, chief service officer at the Shanghai Central Meteorological Station.

The city experienced a warm front and a weak southwesterly inland wind over the weekend. These, combined with low humidity and minimal cloud coverage, resulted in the temperature spike, Kong said.

Shanghai, which has a subtropical climate, usually

experiences its hottest weather between June and September, with the highest on record being 40.8 C in 2013.

Beijing also experienced unusual warmth on Saturday, with temperatures reaching 31.1 C. It was the first time the 30 C mark has been passed this year, coming 20 days earlier than when the city usually starts to experience such temperatures.

Beijing's peak temperature is forecast to drop to around 23 C on Tuesday due to a cold front moving east that will bring clouds and light showers.

Zhang Manyu, a 38-year-old businesswoman who visited Beijing over the weekend, said the heat surprised her.

“The weather was so hot, I thought summer had come early,” she said. “Luckily it will get cooler, so the spring wear I brought will be useful again.”

A sandstorm is predicted for Beijing on Monday — the largest in the northern region this year, the capital's environmental monitoring center said on Sunday.



People enjoy a light moment around a fountain on Nanjing West Road in Shanghai on Saturday when the mercury hit 31.2 C. YIN LIQIN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Cars: Universities, companies sponsor student racing teams

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limited to F1, is gaining a growing following in China, said Wang, now a veteran of seven years on the racing circuit.

Wang has participated in a number of different kinds of racing events in the country, such as the Beijing Goldenport Grand Prix, Erdos' Northwestern Stock Car Race in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, and Zhaoqing's Super Endurance Championship in Guangdong province.

Wang says his passion for racing comes from his technology-related university major and his love affair with speed and automobiles.

“But loving car racing does not necessarily mean I have to ride in a race car,” he said. “I'm

too old to physically ride in the cars, but it does not stop me from being a race car fan. I love the machinery and I'm always curious about how race cars work and the intricate rules of competition.”

While Wang couldn't afford a car when he was younger, he made money in logistics and now has purchased several sports cars, including a vintage race car worth more than 1 million yuan.

As people's living standards are rising, Wang said more businesspeople and white-collar middle-class workers are taking an interest in racing events. Most of them are men.

But he conceded that in China, interest lags behind the West and even other Asian countries.

“Just look at Sepang in

Malaysia,” said Wang, “their facilities are an order of magnitude better than those of the Shanghai circuit.” The Sepang International Circuit is the venue for the Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix.

He said domestic racing teams have little chance to compete with, indeed, even learn from more experienced international rivals.

“Foreign racing teams have to go through complicated and sometimes frustrating procedures to bring their equipment into China, compared with South Korea, Japan or Malaysia, so they do not prefer to race here.”

Finances also can be a problem. “Sometime you have to admit money equals speed. If you have 1 million yuan, you can start with Formula Renault, and to participate in the

“Sometime you have to admit money equals speed.”

Wang Fushi, technical director of DOPE Racing

China GT Championship, you will need several millions,” said Wang.

However, university students have a chance to get involved without having their own fortunes.

“Universities have budgets for their racing teams, and there are also corporate sponsors,” said Wang Da, the

24-year old student head of the Tongji University Racing Team in Shanghai.

He said there are about 80 student racing teams nationwide.

“At first I thought racing was a very remote concept before I started to study automobiles at the university,” Wang Da said. “When I saw the university racing team, I realized there are a bunch of cool people doing cool things, and I signed up for it.”

Wang Da led his team to compete in the Formula Student Japan race in 2015. He said Chinese teams are catching up with their Japanese rivals, but there is still a long way to go compared with the Western world.

Though not everyone can enjoy motor sports in the way Wang Fushi or Wang Da do,

many who are finding their passion for speed are resorting to fast, sporty road vehicles, known as performance cars.

Mercedes-AMG, the high-performance division of Mercedes-Benz, which has been atop the world Formula One series three years in a row, and winner of the Chinese Grand Prix four years in a row, saw its China sales grow about 100 percent last year, according to Beijing Mercedes-Benz Sales Service Co, but it did not release specific sales figures.

Statistics from parent company Daimler AG show it sold 99,235 cars worldwide in 2016, a 44.1 percent growth year-on-year.

Nicholas Speeks, president and CEO of Beijing Mercedes-Benz Sales Service Co, said China is now one of Mercedes-AMG's most important markets and the brand is planning to introduce 11 models this year into the world's largest

auto market.

Two other performance arms of famous carmakers, BMW M and Audi Sport, also are planning to carve out more of the market. The two sold 67,900 units and 20,200 units worldwide, respectively, last year.

Yale Zhang, managing director of consulting firm Automotive Foresight Shanghai, said volume brand performance cars, thanks to their lower prices, may play a bigger role than premium ones in fostering a muscle car culture in China.

“Things may get even better, say five or 10 years later, when more Ford Mustangs or Chevy Camaros become second or even third-hand cars, enabling more people to try them.”

Ford Motor introduced its Mustang into China two years ago, and its sales grew 44 percent year-on-year in 2016.

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