

## briefly

### BEIJING Watchdog chief retires

Li Rongrong, chief of China's State-owned assets watchdog, left his post on Tuesday, China News Service reported.

He will be replaced by Wang Yong, currently the minister of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Li has been chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) since it was established in 2003.

Li, born in 1944, has exceeded 65, the typical retirement age for ministerial-level officials.

Wang, 55, was once vice chairman of SASAC and deputy secretary-general of the State Council.

### GANSU China launches new satellite

China successfully launched a mapping satellite, "Mapping Satellite - 1," from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu province at 3:10 pm on Tuesday.

The satellite, which was launched on a Long March 2-D carrier rocket, has entered its preset orbit, according to the center.

The satellite, developed by a company under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, will be mainly used to conduct scientific experiments, and carry out mapping and surveys on land resources, said a statement on the Ministry of National Defense website.

The remote sensing information and test results from the satellite will promote the country's scientific research and economic development, the statement said.

### HEBEI Traffic jam in its 10th day

A massive ongoing traffic jam in North China that stretched for dozens of kilometers and hit its 10-day mark on Tuesday stems from road construction in Beijing that won't be finished until the middle of next month, an official said.

Bumper-to-bumper gridlock spanning some 100 kilometers has improved since the weekend, said Zhang Minghai, director of the traffic management bureau general office in Zhangjiakou city, North China's Hebei province.

The traffic jam started on Aug 14 on a stretch of the highway. That section has frequently been congested, especially after large coal mines were discovered in Inner Mongolia, Zhang said.

Drivers stranded in the gridlock passed the time sleeping, walking around, or playing cards and chess. Local villagers were doing brisk business selling instant noodles, boxed lunches and snacks, weaving between the parked trucks on bicycles.

CHINA DAILY-XINHUA-AP



## Plane crashes in Heilongjiang

YICHUN, Heilongjiang — A passenger plane with 96 people on board, five of them crew members, crashed in Yichun city in Northeast China's Heilongjiang province Tuesday night, Xinhua News Agency quoted government and airline company sources as saying.

Initial media reports said

there were survivors.

Officials in Yichun said the plane crashed at about 10:10 pm near Lindu airport in Yichun.

Sun Bangnan, deputy chief of the Heilongjiang provincial public security bureau, said the plane crashed 1 km away from the airport. Visibility was only 300 meters because of heavy

fog, he said.

Xinhua said the plane, an Embraer E190, which had taken off about an hour earlier from the provincial capital, Harbin, belonged to Henan Airlines. It gave no further details.

News portal sina.com said the plane crashed during landing, and caught fire.

## CRASHING WAVES

PHOTO BY GUO CHENG / XINHUA

High winds hit the coast of Sanya in South China's Hainan province on Tuesday. "Mindulle," the fifth tropical storm of the year, brought waves as high as 3 meters to the city's coastline.

## Dream could move mountains

Transplanted southerner transplants trees for future generations in Shanxi

By LAN TIAN  
CHINA DAILY

SHUOZHOU, Shanxi — There is an old Chinese story about a man called Grandpa Silly, whose trips to and from home were made extremely difficult by two high mountains in front of his house.

So he gathered his family together and started to level the mountains.

CHINA FACE His neighbor scoffed at him. "Don't be silly. You are too old and weak to level even a small hill, let alone two big mountains."

But the old man said, "I have sons, and my sons have sons, and I will have endless progeny, but the mountains won't grow any higher."

Grandpa Silly's determination inspired the God of Heaven, who sent two immortals to move the mountains away.

Like many Chinese, Yu Xiaolan learned the story of Grandpa Silly as a child, but little did she think it was laying out a future path for her, or that, more than three decades later she would be referred to as a modern day Grandpa Silly.

Yu, a city dweller born and raised in Yunnan province, moved to her new husband's village in 1989.

Nancuijiayao village in the

northwestern tip of Shanxi province lies about 100 kilometers south of the Mu Us Desert.

Centuries of deforestation had stripped away its vegetation, eroded its soil and allowed the desert to encroach on the Loess Plateau where the village sits.

"The strong northwest wind blew all year round. In the morning, it was hard to push the door open as it had been blocked by sand from outside. The dust also blocked the sunlight, people had to light oil lamps during the day," said 45-year-old Yu, recalling her early days in the village.

Life was difficult. They lived in a house cut out of a cave and slept on a bed made of mud and bricks. They opened a butcher shop and grew mushrooms.

In 1992 when the county government encouraged people to plant trees on uncultivated hills, Yu immediately signed a contract for 270 hectares.

"As a southerner, I always dreamed of bringing the green of my hometown to the hills here," Yu said. "Besides, we could also make a living out of growing trees."

Yu and her husband then began their greening campaign. They blasted rock from hillsides to raise retain-



SUN RUISENG / CHINA DAILY

Yu Xiaolan stands on a mountain, once barren, in the northwestern tip of North China's Shanxi province.

ing walls, brought in soil and planted shrubs to bind the soil together.

They planted 5,000 apple trees in the first year. Tens of thousands of poplars, pine trees and apricot trees were planted in the following years.

To irrigate them, Yu, who stands a modest 150 cm tall and weighs 45 kg, has to carry water from the foot of the hills to the summit more than 50 times a day.

With an average temperature of 4 C and drought prevailing almost every year, half of the saplings won't survive.

Local villagers couldn't understand why a southern woman was so determined to plant trees on barren hills.

But years later, they joined her effort.

She has now planted more than 600,000 trees on 670

hectares of the once rocky and barren land.

Over the past decade, the once naked hills have become a sea of green. Even the wind is muted and dust is less than before. With improvements in the environment, fruit trees and livestock grow better.

In addition to selling saplings, Yu and her husband also make money from the cashmere and wool they get from their 300 sheep raised on the green mountains.

With an annual income of more than 30,000 yuan (\$4,400), they are able to send their 11-year-old son to a primary school in the county to give him a better education.

Yu said she did consider giving up and going back to Yunnan in the early years.

"But where there is love, there is home," Yu said in an accent mixing the local and her own southern dialect.

Thanks to encouragement and financial support from the local government, the county's forest coverage has increased to more than 50 percent over the past decades, while 90 percent of its land undergoing desertification has been brought under control.

This year Yu has planted another 10,000 pine trees. Only 5,000 survived due to drought, but she is determined to continue.

"The trees that survive will be green gold for future generations," she said.

CHINA DAILY - XINHUA

## Victims: Manila police criticized

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people wishing to express their sympathy within 24 hours after the incident.

One online tribute site set up by Chinese news portal sina.com.cn had racked up more than 185,000 visits by sympathizers as of 8 pm on Tuesday.

Newspaper editorials questioned the response of Philippine authorities to the stand-off.

"Their appalling professional standards, and the lack of strategic planning, made observers both angry and sad," the Hong Kong Economic Journal said.

About two dozen Liberal Party members led by lawmaker Vincent Fang protesting outside the Philippine Consulate in Hong Kong, criticized the way the rescue operation was handled.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi telephoned his Philippine counterpart Alberto Romulo to voice his concern about the incident.

"The Chinese government demands the Philippine government launch a thorough investigation into the incident and inform the Chinese side of related details as soon as possible," Yang said, according to a statement posted on the ministry's website late Monday.

Yang said the Chinese government "was appalled" by the murders.

A Chinese working team arrived in Manila at 10:35 am on Tuesday to help deal with the aftermath of the tragedy, Wang Xiaobo, Chinese consul to Manila, told China Daily.

China "strongly condemns" the violent act, Chinese ambassador to the Philippines Liu Jianchao said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said "China has requested the Philippine side to take pragmatic measures to ensure life and property and the safety of Chinese nationals in the country".

The death toll from Monday's hostage crisis in Manila, not including the hijacker, stood at eight as of 8 pm on Tuesday, Wang said.

Susanna Lau Mei-sze, general manager of Hong Thai — the travel service which organized the Hong Kong tour group to Manila — also confirmed four males and four females between the ages of 14 and 57 were killed.

The 31-year-old Hong Kong tour guide Masa Tse Ting-Chunn, who first reported the hijacking on his cell phone, was among the dead.

Earlier, some media reported that the death toll had climbed to 10, including the hostage taker.

The Hong Kong SAR gov-

ernment also dispatched a team of psychologists and doctors led by Undersecretary for Security Lai Tung-kuok to Manila.

A 15-year-old girl recovering in hospital, Tracey Wong Cheuk-yiu, said she was hiding under her chair as the incident reached its brutal climax.

Recounting the ordeal, she told reporters, "when the police threw in (tear gas) and started hammering away, everyone was suffering, some were barely able to breath. We were all scared," she said.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III acknowledged the incident showed the need for more police training and better equipment. "How can I be satisfied when there were people who died?" Aquino told reporters late Monday.

He has declared August 25 as day of national mourning for the victims in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong to "share their sorrow", presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

### Philippine apology

Aquino on Tuesday presented to China's ambassador Liu Jianchao the preliminary investigation into the hostage saga. Liu said various Philippine officials had apologized to him over what happened.

Philippine Vice-President Jejomar Binay and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will fly to Beijing and Hong Kong to present the final report to Chinese authorities once it is completed, officials said.

In a damning criticism the Philippine National Police (PNP) said the assault team which tried to rescue the 15 Hong Kong tourists from the bus had been inadequately trained, armed and led.

The police said its command group noted "some ... defects" in handling the crisis, including "inadequate training and competence of the assault team leader" and "inadequate capability, skills, equipment and planning of the assault team".

Other issues included poor handling of hostage negotiations, side issues and events that agitated the hostage-taker, improper crowd control and a breakdown of media relations procedures.

Hong Kong's government said a chartered flight would depart for Manila Wednesday to ferry victims' families, injured survivors and the bodies of the dead, while two elderly survivors were expected home Tuesday evening.

Zhang Chunyan reported from Beijing. Zhou Wa in Beijing. AP and Reuters contributed to this story.

WED - THU AUGUST 25-26

# weather

TRAVELER'S FORECAST  
LOW/HIGH TEMPERATURES, IN DEGREES CELSIUS, AND EXPECTED CONDITIONS

CITY	WED	THU
Ulaanbaatar	14/28	13/30
Urumqi	14/24	16/26
Beijing	20/28	21/29
Pyongyang	22/26	23/30
Seoul	22/26	23/30
Tokyo	25/33	25/34
Shanghai	28/35	27/34
Guangzhou	25/32	26/33
Chengdu	20/29	20/29
Shenzhen	27/34	27/34
Taipei	27/34	27/34
Hong Kong	26/30	26/31
Manila	24/32	24/32
Macao	25/31	25/31
Bangkok	26/32	26/32
Vientiane	24/29	23/29
Kuala Lumpur	25/34	25/35
Singapore	26/31	26/32
Jakarta	24/32	24/32

CITY	WED	THU
Beijing	20/28 C	21/29 C
Changchun	16/27 S	16/27 S
Changsha	25/31 Sh	22/24 T
Chongqing	21/26 Sh	22/27 Sh
Dalian	20/24 Sh	19/24 Sh
Fuzhou	26/34 C	26/34 C
Guangzhou	25/32 Sh	26/33 Sh
Guilin	25/33 Sh	24/31 R
Guiyang	19/24 R	18/23 R
Haikou	24/30 Err	24/31 R
Hangzhou	27/35 R	25/33 C
Harbin	16/28 S	17/29 S
Hefei	24/28 R	22/25 R
Hohhot	12/25 S	11/27 C
Hongkong	26/30 R	26/31 Sh
Jinan	17/23 D	18/25 D
Kunming	17/25 Sh	17/24 R
Lanzhou	15/29 S	15/29 C
Lhasa	11/20 C	12/22 O
Lijiang	15/22 R	15/21 Sh
Macao	25/31 R	26/32 Sh
Nanchang	26/32 Sh	24/29 Sh
Nanjing	25/31 T	25/27 R
Nanning	24/30 R	24/31 Sh
Qingdao	20/24 Err	20/26 R
Sanya	25/32 Sh	26/32 Sh
Shanghai	28/35 T	27/34 C
Shenyang	18/28 S	16/26 S
Shenzhen	25/31 R	26/32 Sh
Shijiazhuang	19/28 S	20/30 S
Suzhou	28/34 T	26/32 T
Taipei	27/34 C	27/34 C
Taiyuan	16/26 S	14/26 S
Tianjin	20/28 C	20/27 C
Urumqi	14/24 C	16/26 C
Wuhan	22/26 Sh	20/25 D
Xiamen	26/32 Sh	26/32 Sh
Xi'an	18/25 C	17/27 C
Xining	8/25 C	9/26 C
Yantai	18/21 Err	19/22 R
Yinchuan	15/27 C	15/28 C
Zhengzhou	18/25 Sh	19/27 O
Zhuhai	25/30 Sh	26/31 Sh

ASIA-PACIFIC-MIDDLE EAST	AMERICAS				
Abu Dhabi	34/46 D	33/46 D	Buenos Aires	10/16 C	12/18 C
Bangkok	26/32 O	26/32 O	Chicago	18/26 C	14/25 C
Colombo	25/29 R	26/30 R	Caracas	26/33 Sh	26/33 C
Dubai	32/42 C	33/44 C	Houston	25/36 C	23/35 C
Hanoi	26/30 Sh	25/30 O	Las Vegas	29/42 S	30/42 S
Islamabad	23/31 C	23/34 C	Los Angeles	19/26 C	19/26 C
Jakarta	24/32 Sh	24/32 C	Mexico City	12/23 Sh	13/23 Sh
Karachi	28/32 C	28/33 C	New York	19/26 D	21/29 C
Kuala Lumpur	25/34 C	25/35 C	Ottawa	15/24 C	13/17 Sh
Manila	25/31 R	25/31 Sh	Rio De Janeiro	20/28 S	21/28 S
Mumbai	26/30 C	26/30 Sh	San Francisco	16/27 C	14/22 S
New Delhi	26/33 C	26/33 C	Sao Paulo	17/28 S	17/30 S
Pyongyang	20/24 R	19/25 R	Vancouver	18/25 C	13/19 C
Riyadh	30/45 S	31/46 S	Washington	19/28 D	21/29 C
Seoul	22/26 O	23/30 S			
Singapore	26/31 C	26/32 C			
Sydney	9/17 C	8/17 S			
Teheran	23/33 C	22/33 C			
Tokyo	25/33 C	25/34 C			
Wellington	5/13 C	8/14 R			
Yangon	24/29 Sh	24/28 R			

EUROPE		
Athens	23/37 S	24/37 S
Berlin	12/20 D	12/23 C
Brussels	11/21 C	15/25 R
Geneva	13/25 S	14/30 S
Istanbul	24/31 C	24/32 S
London	11/19 R	15/19 Sh
Madrid	18/37 S	20/35 S
Moscow	17/23 Sh	13/19 R
Paris	11/23 C	15/27 C
Rome	20/30 S	18/31 S
Vienna	18/25 C	15/29 S