

Three die in helicopter crash in Taiwan

A commercial helicopter crashed near a port in Taiwan's Hualien County Saturday morning, killing three people, according to local authorities.

The fire department said the crash happened at around 11 a.m. and three fatalities had been confirmed.

The helicopter belonged to a local aviation firm and was being used for aerial filming.

An investigation is underway.

Chinese government mulls enhanced transparency in decision making

China is mulling an interim regulation that would improve transparency in the drafting of major administrative policies.

According to the draft regulation, released Friday, all major policies regarding people's vital interests or having big influences on their rights and obligations should be made available for public solicitation.

The draft, released by the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, dedicated an entire chapter to "Public Participation," which specified the requirement on such procedures.

Such participation could be carried out in various forms including public hearings, questionnaires, surveys and interviews, according to the draft.

It also noted that the period of soliciting public opinion should be no less than 30 days.

Feedback is required on key issues brought up by the public, according to the draft.

Currently, there is still insufficient public participation in some cases, which has harmed the credibility of the government, said the office in an explanatory note.

The draft also highlighted the role of feasibility studies and risk evaluation procedures in decision making.

The public can submit their opinions at chinalaw.gov.cn before July 8.

[Weibo launches online video editing program](#)

Social media giant Weibo rolled out an online video editing program Friday.

Jian.weibo.com is a partnership with video platform miaopai.com and video subtitle and translation service provider easub.com. It features video editing tools and release channels. It is currently only available to media organizations and video production companies, according to a statement from Weibo.

The move aims to facilitate short video content production and communication on new media platforms like Weibo, which boasted about 340 million monthly active users as of the end of March and has witnessed soaring popularity of short-videos on its platform.

The program also has a large pool of video clips, the statement said.

China's short video market had about 153 million users in 2016, which is expected to grow 58.2 percent in 2017 to reach 242 million users, according to a report from domestic data analysis provider iMedia Research.

[China continues yellow alert for storm](#)

The national observatory renewed its yellow storm alert Saturday morning as it expects heavy rain to continue sweeping across the country's eastern and southern regions.

From Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday, parts of Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan and Guizhou provinces will experience storms, with up to 140 millimeters of rain, the National Meteorological Center said.

The center warned that some of the above mentioned regions will likely see severe weather, such as thunder or hail, predicting hourly precipitation of up to 60 millimeters, or even over 80 millimeters per hour in some areas.

Local authorities should take emergency measures, suspend outdoor activities and guard against potential disasters including mountain floods and landslides, it said.

China has a four-tier color-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

A level-four emergency response was initiated by China Meteorological Administration Friday evening, the lowest in the country's four-grade emergency response system, which requires monitoring and timely reports.

3 detained for industrial waste water discharge

Three suspects are in custody after industrial waste water containing 180 times the maximum safe level of zinc was discharged directly into a river in east China's Zhejiang Province.

The three, detained on Wednesday, will be charged with polluting the environment, according to an environmental official in the city of Linhai Saturday.

A plant manufacturing tools for auto repair was found to be dumping unprocessed waste water into a waterway 50 meters away during an inspection in Linhai.

The inspectors said the waste water was a byproduct of metal polishing and surface treatment.

Excessive levels of zinc, bronze and nickel were detected in the water, and the zinc level was more than 180 times over the maximum allowed amount, said the official.

Police arrested the factory owner and two managers. Like other parts of the country, Linhai City this year initiated the "river chief" system, with leading officials being the major responsible people in addressing water pollution.

Those convicted of polluting the environment can be sent to prison for up to seven years.