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Ministry of Environmental Protection

Briefly

ZHEJIANG

Nanny appeals death sentence

A woman in Zhejiang province is appealing her death sentence for starting a fire that killed four members of the same family in 2017 in Hangzhou, court authorities said on Saturday. The Zhejiang High People's Court will hear the appeal of Mo Huanjing, former nanny of the family of Lin Shengbin. According to the Intermediate People's Court of Hangzhou, Mo set fire to Lin's home in June 2017, killing Lin's wife, Zhu Xiaozhen, and their three children. Mo was sentenced to death earlier this month.

JIANGSU

4 missing after ship capsizes

Four people went missing after a fishing boat capsized in the Yellow Sea, local authorities said on Sunday. At around 9 am on Saturday, four crew members aboard the fishing boat were thrown into the water 12 nautical miles off the coast of Binhai county. Local fishermen received a distress signal on the radio and immediately informed the fishing authorities. A total of 12 ships have been searching for the missing crew members. The local meteorology department issued a wind warning on Saturday.

GUANGDONG

Luggage burns, passenger held

A passenger's luggage caught fire in the luggage rack of a China Southern Airlines flight from Guangzhou to Shanghai, at about 3 pm Sunday as passengers were boarding, the airline said in a statement. The fire was put out immediately, and the aircraft and crew were replaced. The fire was caused by a power bank inside luggage. It was not in use when the fire broke out, local police said. The passenger was taken away by the police for investigation.

XINJIANG

Fog strands more than 6,000

At least 6,000 passengers were stranded on Sunday because of heavy fog at Urumqi Diwopu International Airport in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. According to airport authorities, as of 11 am Sunday more than 80 flights had been delayed or canceled.

YUNNAN

Five killed in car-truck crash

Five people were killed and another eight injured in a vehicle crash, local authorities said on Saturday. The crash occurred at around 5:40 pm on Saturday in Yanjin county when a tanker truck lost control and crashed into an SUV.

XINHUA — CHINA DAILY

Ethnic extravaganza



Miao ethnic women dance during the annual Tiaohua Festival in Liuzhi, Guizhou province, on Sunday. The festival, which falls on the 10th day of the first month in the lunar calendar, is an occasion for a range of traditional customs, including singing, dancing, and sparring between bulls, as well as matchmaking for young men and women. The event was added to the national intangible cultural heritage list in 2008.

ZHANG HUI / FOR CHINA DAILY

New round of disciplinary checks starts across country

15 teams tasked with examining business, government entities

By CUI JIA

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Fifteen inspection teams tasked with enforcing Party discipline have been sent to examine 30 provincial-level regions, ministry-level agencies and State-owned enterprises, China's top anti-graft watchdog announced over the weekend.

The assignments mark the start of the first round of inspections conducted by the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a statement on its website.

The teams will inspect Party organizations in 14 provincial-level regions, including Hebei and Guangdong provinces; eight ministry-level entities, such as the Ministry of Commerce and the General

Administration of Customs; and eight State-owned enterprises, including China National Nuclear Corp.

Ten cities, including Dalian and Shenyang in Liaoning province; Nanjing, Jiangsu province; and Shenzhen, Guangdong province, will also be visited by inspectors.

The inspectors have arrived at Party organizations and will stay until late May — longer than previous inspections, which have typically lasted about two months.

The teams expect to receive tipoffs about suspected conduct violations by leading officials. Also, the teams are required to focus their inspections on key officials and official units, the CCDI said.

Chen Yanling, leader of the inspection team dispatched to Hunan province and the Ningxia Hui autonomous

wife He Fenghua were found in the same bed and pinned under a collapsed wall on the third floor of the 12-story Yun Men Tsui Ti building, which had tilted. The first four floors were severely compressed during the earthquake, Central News Agency reported.

It took some time for the rescue workers to retrieve the

277

units and institutions' Party organizations have been inspected by disciplinary authorities since May 2013.

region, said earlier that the team has been planning to make unannounced visits to places receiving the most public complaints in order to address as many grievances as possible.

Chen made the remarks after a meeting on Feb 2 addressing how to carry out the latest round of inspections more effectively. It is Chen's ninth time leading an inspection team. He had been involved in all 12 rounds of inspections conducted during the term of the 18th CPC Central Committee.

Times have changed and China is facing a new situation, Yang Hongyong, deputy head of the inspection team

sent to China General Technology and China Post, said after the meeting, adding that inspection methods need to be innovated to adapt to the ever-developing situation.

Starting from the first inspection in May 2013, Party organizations of 277 units and institutions have been inspected, and 16 provincial-level regions have been re-examined.

According to the CCDI, more than 50 percent of investigations into centrally administered officials were triggered by information uncovered by Party discipline inspectors since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012.

One of the major tasks of the CCDI in 2018 is to build on the overwhelming momentum of the anti-graft campaign, addressing corruption that occurs on the people's doorsteps and implementing in earnest full and strict governance over the Party, Zhao Leji, head of the commission, said in February.

2 more bodies retrieved after Taiwan quake

By CUI JIA

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The bodies of a couple from the Chinese mainland killed in a magnitude 6.5 earthquake in Taiwan's Hualien county earlier this month were removed from a collapsed building around 2 pm on Sunday, Taiwan media reported.

Ding Wenchang and his

bodies because special care was taken to remove the debris around them, as well as efforts to prevent the structure from collapsing altogether.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the tremor struck offshore near Hualien at 11:50 pm on Feb 6. Seventeen people were killed in the quake, nine of

them from the Chinese mainland. A total of 285 people were injured.

Of those killed, 14 died in the Yun Men Tsui Ti building, which triggered demands for a public enquiry. The structure was built more than 20 years ago. Its first three floors contained a restaurant and a hotel. The upper floors were residential apartments.

Officials punished over 'irregularities' at nature reserves

By HOU LIQIANG

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ENVIRONMENT
ACTION IN A NEW ERA

2,460
companies

were suspended or closed by authorities over environmental damage in nature reserves during a six-month inspection.

More than 1,100 officials have been held accountable for environmental irregularities in China's nature reserves after a six-month environmental protection inspection that lasted until the end of last year, the Ministry of Environmental Protection said in a statement on Saturday.

Those punished include 60 officials at the prefectural or equivalent level and 240 at the county or equivalent level, but the ministry didn't disclose what punishments were handed out.

With 20,800 tips related to environmental damage in nature reserves, authorities suspended or closed 2,460 companies and demolished buildings with a total floor area of 5.9 million square meters during the inspections. The inspection was focused on mining, quarrying, tourism and hydropower development in nature reserves, the ministry said.

The inspections — which involved seven central government departments, including water resources, land and agriculture — covered all 446 national nature reserves, and were the largest inspections to date targeting nature reserves.

The 10 inspection teams, with personnel from the seven departments, used remote sensing and unmanned aerial vehicles to complete their work, the ministry said.

"Some local governments still fail to attach enough importance to the protection of nature reserves and make excuses for environmental damage," the statement said.

It also said some local governments lacked powerful enough supervision over irregularities in the nature reserves and failed to rectify existing environmental issues.

Some local governments organized their own inspections of areas under their jurisdiction and found more than 5,000 irregularities. A total of 12 local laws that

relate to nature reserves but conflict with national laws were abolished, and another 51 were revised. Local governments also drafted more than 20 new laws to help with the protection of nature reserves, the statement said.

The ministry said it is cooperating with various departments to draft a plan for a similar inspection in 2018 and will maintain its tough stance over irregularities.

The inspections were launched after the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, China's cabinet, jointly released a circular in July about irregularities in the Qilian Mountains National Natural Reserve in Gansu province.

An inspection team from the central government found various irregularities, including over-exploitation of mineral resources, illegal construction and the operation of hydropower facilities, as well as excessive pollutant emissions.

More than 150 hydropower stations were found in the Qilian Mountains basin, 42 of which are located within the reserve, resulting in severe disruption to the local ecosystem. Many of the projects have violated regulations both in the process of gaining approval and in construction.

In the document, the central government said that officials, including Yang Zixing, vice-governor of Gansu province, will be held accountable for failing to look into and prevent the environmental problems.

Local fair fare



More than 200 dishes were served at a community center in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on Saturday as part of a neighborhood culinary fair. More than 200 families in the community prepared the dishes for participants to the event.

SHAO DAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Charities and donors can be rewarded or penalized

By LI LEI

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Charities and donors will receive rewards or disciplinary action from up to 40 government departments based on their credit scores, according to a senior official from the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Li Bo of the ministry's bureau for social organization administration said departments including the central bank and the National Development and

Reform Commission have signed a memorandum to share the credit data of both charitable organizations and those who donate to them, and to mete out rewards and punishments accordingly.

"The move signals that charities have been incorporated into the country's credit system," Li said at a news conference on Saturday.

The move is part of a campaign initiated by the central government to establish a

national-level credit system that encompasses all fields and sectors.

According to the memorandum, charities with ratings of at least 4A (the second-highest level) are eligible for rewards, which include favorable taxation rates and priority status during government contract bids.

Corporate donors with good records, or those that have made outstanding contributions to poverty relief efforts,

are also eligible for the same rewards.

Organizations that have violated charitable organization rules, along with those culpable, will be placed on a blacklist to be shared among departments. The list will be updated on a regular basis, the memorandum said.

For those organizations that have rectified their misconduct or passed through punitive time frames, the organization and culpable

people will be removed from the list.

Donors and recipients involved in legal disputes, and individuals and organizations that carry out charity scams, are also subject to possible disciplinary action, it said.

In addition to higher taxation and exclusion from government contract bidding activities, organizations on the blacklist will face stricter scrutiny in sectors including environmental protection.

Individuals found committing various infractions will also face restrictions in purchasing airline and high-speed rail tickets, it said.

To synchronize interdepartmental cooperation, civil affairs authorities will first update the credit information in a database shared among government departments. Then the 40 departments will give rewards or carry out disciplinary action depending on the data, according to Li Hui, an official at the NDRC, the country's top economic planner.

The general public can

access the information at credit.china.gov.cn, gsxt.gov.cn, cishan.chinanpo.gov.cn or mca.gov.cn, she said.

Li Bo said scams have a major effect on charity work. But in the past the ministry was only able to resort to administrative laws, whose disciplinary policies, he suggested, were not severe enough.

"With the memorandum in place, charity scams are liable for 24 punitive measures from up to 40 departments, which greatly increases the deterrent effect for scammers," he said.