

New CPC procedure fine-tunes oversight

The Communist Party of China has issued a revised regulation on inspection in a renewed effort to improve supervision and governance of its more than 89 million members.

Shifting its focus from fighting corruption and Party rule violations in the initial rounds of inspections, the amendment released on Friday made political inspection more prominent on the supervision agenda.

The revised rules clearly stipulate that "political inspection should be deepened, and inspections should mainly focus on upholding the Party leadership, improving Party building, and advancing comprehensive and strict rule of the Party".

The inspections should staunchly safeguard the authority and the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, and ensure the CPC is always the firm and core leadership of the socialist cause with Chinese characteristics, it said.

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Yang Xiaochao, member of the inspection leadership group of the CPC Central Committee

"Political inspection is a major innovation in both theory and practice of the inspection work of the 18th CPC Central Committee," said Yang Xiaochao, a member of the inspection leadership group of the CPC Central Committee.

"Incorporating requirements of political inspection into the regulation is a key point and highlight of the latest revision," Yang noted.

At a meeting on May 26, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee decided to amend the Party's regulation on inspection work, to reflect the latest innovative practices.

The CPC inspection regulation was first put into force on a trial basis in 2009. This is the third version of the regulation following the release of a revised version in August 2015.

The regulation made public on Friday also stipulates that Party committees at both the central and provincial levels should conduct inspections on Party organizations of all localities, departments, public institutions and enterprises under their jurisdiction.

Party committees at the municipal and county levels are also required to establish special agencies to conduct inspections.

On June 21, the CPC discipline agency published the results of its 12th round of inspections into CPC organizations in provincial-level regions, central CPC and government organs, major state-owned enterprises, central financial institutions and centrally administered universities.

XINHUA

Releasing steam



A pool is jammed with people trying to cool off in Wuhan, in Central China's Hubei province, on Saturday. Many parts of Central and East China have been gripped by a heat wave, the China Meteorological Administration reported on Friday. XIONG QI / XINHUA

Bodies ID'd as sisters missing in Japan

By **CAI HONG** in Tokyo and **ZHAO XINYING** in Beijing

Japanese police have confirmed that two bodies dumped in the mountain woods in Hadano, Kanagawa prefecture, are the Chinese sisters who disappeared in Yokohama on July 6, the Chinese embassy in Tokyo has said.

Autopsies showed that Chen Baolan, 25, and Chen Baoling, 22, were strangled, Japan's Kyodo News agency quoted police as saying. There were also bruises on their bodies.

The women probably died in early July. Their room, with their purses and money, showed no signs of fighting. The door was locked, police said.

The two sisters had been in

contact with friends on the members-only website SNS until July 6, according to police.

Chen Baolan worked at a restaurant, and Chen Baoling studied at a vocational school.

A surveillance camera for the apartment where the sisters lived in Yokohama showed a 30-something Japanese man entering the building on July 6 and leaving on July 7 with two suitcases, according to Tokyo News. The man was a frequent diner at the restaurant where Chen Baolan worked.

An investigation found that the man's vehicle had passed through Hadano, which is 50 kilometers from Yokohama.

The sisters' father, identified only by his surname Chen, told Fuzhou Evening

News on Saturday that the women are his second and third daughters and had been in Japan for years since they graduated from high school in Fujian, China.

Chen said they were lovely girls who worked hard and treated their family well. They often contacted relatives through WeChat and mailed them gifts from Japan.

Chen said the last time his daughters contacted him was the day before they disappeared. The women had returned from a trip to Yokohama with friends and had a WeChat video call with their father. He told them he had mailed them some food.

"Now there's nobody there to sign for the parcel. My girls will never have the opportunity to taste hometown food

sent by parents," Chen said. He added that he got his passport on Saturday and wished to go to Japan as soon as possible.

In an interview with China Central Television, Liao Xiaoying, of the Chinese embassy's consular section, said they are cooperating with Chinese authorities to help the sisters' family members come to Japan.

"We've reached the Japanese consulate in Guangzhou, asking for humanitarian visas for the victims' family members," she said. "And we will assist the family in dealing with their loss."

On Saturday, the embassy warned Chinese in Japan to stay mindful of their safety.

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Arson suspect held after blaze kills 22

By **CANG WEI** in Nanjing cangwei@chinadaily.com.cn

Police in Jiangsu province said they have arrested an arson suspect after a fire that engulfed a house claimed 22 lives on Sunday morning.

The fire broke out about 4:30 am in a two-story residential house in Yushan, a town in Changshu, leaving 22 people dead and three others injured, none of whom had life-threatening wounds.

Seventy-one firefighters and 14 firetrucks were dispatched and the blaze was extinguished by 5:30 am.

According to the Jiangsu Provincial Public Security Department, traces of gasoline were found at the scene and all the doors of the building were locked from the outside.

Police identified a suspect, surnamed Jiang, by analyzing the scene and surveillance cameras around the building.

Police said the suspect had been taken into custody, but they released no further information.

Twenty-four teams with psychologists, legal experts and civil administration workers were sent to help relatives of the victims and the injured.

The State Administration of Work Safety dispatched a team to Changshu for investigation.

The administration

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firefighters

and 14 firetrucks were dispatched, and the blaze was extinguished by 5:30 am, one hour after the fire broke out in a residential house

ordered the provincial work safety department to cooperate with the Changshu government in aiding the injured and determining the cause of the fire.

Jiangsu's Party chief Li Qiang and Wu Zhenglong, acting governor, hurried to Changshu to assist.

Li said at a news conference in the city on Sunday that information on the fire will be released to the public as soon as possible.

According to local residents, the building served as a dormitory for employees of Siage Private Dishes Restaurant.

Twenty-nine employees, including cooks and waiters, had lived in the 200-square-meter building for more than two years.

Most of the dead were in their 20s and had left their hometowns to find work in Changshu.

Five burn wound specialists have been sent to the local hospital to help treat the injured.

An investigation of the fire is under way.

Changing lives



Marty Clayman, an anesthetist from the United States, prepares a young patient for surgery in Lhasa, Tibet autonomous region. Eighty children with cleft lips and palates will receive free treatment in the three-day "Smile Action" initiative. HE PENGLEI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Chen Min'er appointed Party chief of Chongqing

Sun Zhengcai will no longer concurrently hold the position of secretary of the Chongqing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, according to a decision of the CPC Central Committee.

Chen Min'er has been appointed secretary of Chongqing Municipal Committee of the CPC.

Sun Zhigang has been named secretary of Guizhou Provincial



Chen Min'er



Sun Zhigang

Committee of the CPC, replacing Chen Min'er.

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Financial conference resets course

Panel will oversee development and revise regulatory structure

By **LI XIANG**

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Better coordination among regulators to guard against systemic financial risks and more policies improving the financial sector's efficiency to serve the real economy can be expected after a top financial meeting of Chinese policymakers, analysts said on Sunday.

In a speech at the two-day National Financial Work Conference, which ended on Saturday in Beijing, President Xi Jinping emphasized three key tasks of the financial sector: strengthening its ability to serve the economy, preventing systemic risks and deepening financial reform.

One accomplishment of the meeting is China will set up a committee under the State Council, China's Cabinet, to oversee financial stability and development.

Analysts said this is an encouraging sign of efforts to fix the fragmented regulatory structure and to improve the cohesiveness of financial regulation.

"The central bank will play a bigger role of containing financial risks. Its coordination with the three regulators of banking, securities and insurance will also be strengthened," said Li Shaojun, an analyst at Guotai Junan Securities.

The financial meeting, held every five years, was considered a tone-setting gathering for China's financial policies and reforms in the coming years.

Policymakers at the meeting also emphasized the need to develop the direct financing market to fund businesses and reduce the debt of State-owned enterprises.

Further development of China's financial markets was encouraged to better serve the real economy, so more debt and equity offerings may be supported, predicted Hong Hao, chief strategist at BOCOM International.

China's financial industry

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Li Shaojun, an analyst at Guotai Junan Securities

has grown rapidly in the past years, with its share in the country's GDP reaching 8.4 percent in 2015, up from 4 percent in 2005, according to a Chinese Academy of Social Sciences study.

The financial industry's expansion, coupled with credit easing to bolster growth, has led to rising systemic risks, capital speculation and a surge of shadow banking, existing sometimes in a regulatory void.

Shen Jianguang, chief economist of Mizuho Securities Asia, said several occurrences that posed threats to China's financial markets since 2015 have highlighted the necessity to improve the regulatory system.

"We expect more policies to deepen financial reforms will be rolled out in the next five years after the financial meeting," Shen said.

Cheng Shi, chief economist at ICBC International, said the meeting's results will help China achieve "stable and gradual breakthrough" in the financial reforms as the leadership has sought to lift the efficiency of financial regulation, maintain market order and stability, and to clarify the core function of the financial sector.

Xi: Nation to prioritize reducing SOEs' leverage

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systemic financial risks is the eternal theme of financial work and the government should make a stronger effort to monitor, warn against and deal with risks in a timely manner.

China will accelerate developing laws and regulations governing the financial sector, improve macro prudential management and emphasize functional as well as behavioral regulation, Xi said.

The government will continue to deleverage the economy by firmly taking a prudent monetary policy and making it a priority to reduce leverage in state-owned enterprises, Xi said.

The country also will deepen financial reforms, including improving financial regulation coordination and shoring up weak links in supervision.

China will set up a committee under the State Council to oversee financial stability and the central bank will play a stronger role in macro prudential management

and guarding against systemic risks, Xi said.

The introduction of the State Council financial stability and development committee will help improve regulation effectiveness and address regulation challenges brought by increasingly mixed financial services, according to Lian Ping, chief economist at the Bank of Communications.

Reforming the financial regulation framework should be based on China's domestic conditions and all financial businesses will be put under supervision, according to Premier Li Keqiang.

The world's second-largest economy will further open up its financial market to promote the internationalization of the yuan and capital account convertibility in a steady pace, Xi said.

China also will increase efforts to improve legal framework, credit mechanisms and talent development for the financial sector to help the Chinese economy expand steadily, Li said.

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