

“ I teach farmers about the latest cultivation technology, face to face. It is our duty to help farmers out of poverty.”

Li Bingzhi, professor at Northwest Agriculture and Forest University in Shaanxi province

## Briefly

### BEIJING ROK to return soldiers' remains

The Republic of Korea has agreed to return more remains of Chinese soldiers killed in the Korean War (1950-53), the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Thursday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a news briefing that the ROK will transfer the remains of about 20 soldiers on March 22. Since 2014, the ROK has handed over the remains of 541 Chinese volunteer soldiers killed in the war.

### Website to help bring relics home

China plans to set up a website to release information on missing artifacts to help retrieve them from overseas, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage said on Thursday. The administration said it sees the plan as its priority for this year, adding that it includes measures to improve the security of cultural relics and the issuing of harsher punishments for relics-related crimes.

### Train trips during travel rush rise

The Spring Festival travel rush, which runs from Jan 13 to Feb 21 this year, had seen 302 million rail trips made by Chinese passengers as of Wednesday, China Railway Corp said on Thursday. This represents an increase of 10.1 percent compared with the same period last year, according to CRC.

### HUNAN Coal mines halt work after blast

Operations at all small coal mines in Hunan province were suspended and two officials were dismissed after a coal mine blast on Tuesday killed nine and injured three. Coal mines with annual capacity of less than 300,000 metric tons were ordered to suspend operations for two weeks for safety inspections, according to Yang Guangrong, deputy governor of Hunan, during a video conference on safety production on Wednesday. Both the Party chief and head of Doulishan township, where the accident occurred, have been dismissed.

### HAINAN Police seize over 1 ton of meth

Authorities have seized 1,060 kilograms of methamphetamine, sometimes referred to as ice, the largest-ever haul of the drug in the province, police said on Thursday. Nine suspects, including the alleged ring-leader, surnamed Zhuang, and drug producers were arrested on Jan 8, a police officer with the provincial public security department said at a news conference.

### SHANGHAI Four killed in house fire

Four people were killed in a house fire late on Wednesday, the city's fire department announced on Thursday. The fire broke out at a rented house on Zhongshanbei Street in Putuo district at about 11:30 pm and was extinguished in half an hour. The four victims are related, police said, pledging to step up an overhaul of rented houses.

XINHUA

## Running in the wind



Tourists run through lines of windmills at a cultural innovation park in Guiyang, Guizhou province, on Thursday. A total of 120,000 windmills are displayed at the park to mark the International Windmill Tourism Festival, a two-day event that starts on Saturday.

QIAO QIMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

## TCM product naming regulations could cost manufacturers billions

By GUO KAI  
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Thousands of traditional Chinese medicine products face having their names changed due to a draft regulation issued last month by the China Food and Drug Administration, with the deadline for submissions on the guideline falling on Wednesday.

By May last year, about 1,000 people had left comments on the e-shopping site Amazon praising Mayinglong Musk Hemorrhoids Ointment Cream, describing it as “fantastic” and “like applying rose-colored ice cream to your bum”.

However, it is one of thousands of products that falls foul of the draft naming rules, which state that TCM products should not be named after people, places or companies, or use superstitious or vulgar words.

Product names should also not include words that refer to pharmacology, anatomy, physiology, pathology or therapeutics, such as “anti-inflammatory” and “cancer”, the draft guideline states.

Overstating, boastful and unrealistic words should also not be used in the names, such as *ling* (very effective), *suxiao* (quick acting) or *yuuzhi* (made by emperor order).

The regulation would apply



A worker handles traditional Chinese medicine at a pharmaceutical company's workshop in Bozhou, Anhui province.

LIU QINLI / FOR CHINA DAILY

to both old and new TCM products, meaning the new policy would affect thousands of products. More than 2,000 products alone use the word *ling*, according to the administration's database.

Li Jin, quality director of Yunnan Baiyao Group — a TCM manufacturer based in Southwest China's Yunnan province — said that the company has seven TCM product series that use the company name, as well as tens of other products that use other soon-to-be-banned words.

“If Yunnan Baiyao had to change the name of its products, its brand and reputation

established over the past 115 years would be damaged, and financial losses might exceed 10 billion yuan (\$1.46 billion),” Li said.

Beijing Pharmaceutical Profession Association Vice-President Fu Lijia said that name changes would also require changes to packaging, introduction booklets and other related products, which would be extremely costly. Companies would then have to invest more in promoting their newly named products.

Liu Yue, an elementary school teacher in Yunnan's Kunming, said that people

are familiar with names such as Yunnan Baiyao and Mayinglong ointment, adding that if the names of products changed, buyers might feel uneasy about purchasing them.

China has been regulating the names of TCM products since the 1990s to address issues such as different products having the same name.

An industry insider said some companies use words in product names which overstate the effects of the product or mislead buyers, especially senior citizens.

Fu said it is necessary to have regulations addressing the naming of TCM products. “In the past, names of TCM products were approved by local governments, with no universal standard.”

Chen Qiguang, a research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that using names of people and places for TCM products is a common practice, which shows respect to their contributions.

Zheng Jin, head of Yunnan's TCM management bureau, said that the names of TCM products should be regulated, but that traditional brands should also be respected, adding that the new regulations should only apply to new TCM products.

## War against poverty fought in farmlands

By XINHUA in Xi'an

Rather than having an office on campus, Professor Li Bingzhi's classroom is on a stretch of farmland.

Each year, Li, a professor at Northwest Agriculture and Forest University in Shaanxi province, spends nearly 300 days in the orchards of isolated Qianyang county.

“I teach farmers about the latest cultivation technology, face to face. It is our duty to help farmers out of poverty,” Li said.

In the past year, Li and his team organized more than 30 training activities, benefiting more than 8,000 fruit farmers.

Since 2012, the apple

orchards in the county have tripled in size to cover 6,700 hectares and apple output per hectare has quadrupled, raising the annual income of farmers to 50,000 yuan (\$7,300).

“The projects with less investment and quick returns can really help farmers out of poverty,” Li said. “This year, we are determined to help them cut the costs of planting in half by breeding high-quality trees.”

Qianyang has attracted several agricultural enterprises to set up fruit manufacturing factories in recent years, creating jobs and offering farmers new sales channels.

E-commerce is booming in the poverty-hit region.

Han Xiao is a household



name in Shanyang county. In 2015, he started an online shop on Taobao, receiving lots of orders for his honey products.

More farmers followed

Han's success. In Shanyang, online sales hit 1 billion yuan last year, creating more than 2,300 jobs and helping 560 families out of poverty.

“E-commerce in rural areas has become an increasingly important means of reforming agricultural development and has helped reduce poverty,” said Zhang Hong, a professor at Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications.

Shaanxi expects to achieve its 2017 target of lifting 885,000 people out of poverty. In order to win the war against poverty, local governments have adopted means such as e-commerce, financing, industry relocation and infrastructure improvement.

## Courts urged to better serve ethnic people

77 judges in Gansu are multilingual, up from fewer than 10 three years ago

By CAO YIN  
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China's top court said on Thursday that it will take a series of measures this year to educate more ethnic judicial talent in order to solve legal disputes in regions inhabited by ethnic groups more efficiently.

The major measures include judicial exchanges and the publication of legal materials in ethnic languages, according to the statement by the Supreme People's Court.

Under the Constitution, ethnic litigants have the right to use their language to file a lawsuit.

“We will send more judges from the highest justice chamber and courts in developed cities to western regions, while welcoming those from areas inhabited by ethnic groups to eastern regions to educate them on case hearings,” said Xu Jiaxin, director of the SPC's political department.

The exchange will help narrow the gap in legal resources across the country, Xu said.

Meanwhile, the top court plans to publish legal materials — such as law dictionaries and judicial interpretations — in ethnic languages later this year, the statement said.

“We want to increase the number of people who can provide legal services for ethnic litigants and ensure access to justice in regions inhabited by ethnic groups,” Xu said.

In 2015, the top court

launched a project to train 1,500 judges to speak ethnic languages by 2020, “and we've made further efforts since then”, he said.

Last year, for example, the top court went to the Tibet autonomous region to provide training sessions to more than 1,500 local judges and cooperated with three colleges, including Minzu University of China, to educate ethnic students on law.

“Dealing with cases in ethnic languages will ensure ethnic litigants can better understand laws and accept verdicts. Moreover, it's a way of protecting their rights,” Xu said.

He Zijun, a judge from Northwest China's Gansu province, where the ethnic population is about 2.4 million, said that the number of people who can hear cases and translate legal documents in ethnic languages increased to 77 last year, compared with fewer than 10 three years ago.

“Judges in our province have received a total of 74 training sessions on how to speak Mongolian and Tibetan languages, which helps them to communicate with ethnic litigants,” He said.

In the past, some Tibetan litigants mistook a suspended death sentence to mean the release of a defendant, because the legal jargon has no equivalent wording in their language, he said.

“The language barrier made it difficult to communicate and state facts clearly during case hearings,” he added.

However, after learning some Tibetan languages in the training sessions, “it's easier for us to explain verdicts to Tibetans and to solve their disputes”, he added.

## Zoo denies viral video reveals abused tiger

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and HOU LIQIANG in Beijing

A private zoo on Thursday dismissed allegations that a tiger shown in a video that went viral was abused.

Videos showing a keeper pulling a tiger's tail and sitting on him at an animal park in Xiuwen county, about 30 kilometers from the provincial capital of Guiyang, Guizhou province, have been reposted by media outlets and individuals on Sina Weibo and WeChat.

One of the videos starts with a keeper pulling a tiger's tail. The keeper then walks behind the animal several times around a small artificial hill. The keeper was also shown sitting on the tiger's back and pulling its ears.

A red line on the body of one tiger later aroused suspicion that the tiger was injured by the keeper. Some netizens also said they saw no teeth in the tiger's mouth.

“The video is clipped from a live-streaming video done three months ago. They were in a training session,” said Wang Shulin, manager of the zoo. “It didn't receive much attention when the live streaming was being done. I don't know why it suddenly went viral.”

The zoo, which was established in 2006, has 30 tigers.

Yao Shiming, the keeper seen in the video, has been with the 2-year-old tiger since it was a cub and “it's common that they play in that way”, Wang said, adding that they “didn't interfere with the live streaming” done by employees.

“I spent at least one hour and, at most, four hours a day with the tiger for more than two years. It sometimes bites me for fun, but never injures me,” Yao said. “It just considers me a tiger and we have a very good relationship.”

“I asked my colleague to take the video and I only wanted to share that in my WeChat. Others are afraid of the animal, but I can play with it.” Ren Yuewu, director of Xiuwen's ecological civilization department, said an investigation by police found no evidence that the keeper had abused the animal.

“The red line on the tiger was not blood, but red paint, and there is no problem with the tiger's teeth,” Ren said.

However, supervision of the zoo will be strengthened, while keepers' behavior will be regulated to avoid future misunderstandings, he added.

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