

Supervision of police increased

Prosecuting officials told to work more closely with law enforcement

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Prosecuting authorities across the country will be required to send officers to stay at, or pay regular visits to, police stations to ensure justice by beefing up supervision over criminal investigations.

The move, issued in a circular by the Supreme People's Procuratorate on Wednesday, aims to better monitor public security departments to prevent police misconduct such as forcing confessions, according to the top procuratorate.

"Tightening the supervision over police criminal probes is to prevent torture and illegal evidence collection, thus better protecting the rights of suspects and ensuring accusations against them are proper," said Dai Peng, a professor of criminal investigation at the People's Public Security University of China.

In recent years, a number of miscarriages of justice have been reported around the country, many of which result-

ed from forced confessions. Such wrongful cases have triggered heated public discussion and criticism.

Since 2015, the top procuratorate has operated a pilot program to send prosecutors to police stations in 10 provincial regions.

Data from the Supreme People's Procuratorate show that officers from 1,064 prosecuting departments have been deployed to 8,370 local police stations in those areas. They have put forward 15,162 rectification suggestions and helped to ensure standardized police actions, according to the SPP.

"Through the supervision, the quality of police probes has greatly improved and the number of wrongly charged cases has sharply dropped," Sun Qian, deputy procurator-general of the SPP, said previously.

The top procuratorate has required the practice to be extended to all police stations in the pilot regions in the first half of this year, and procura-

torates in other parts of the country have been told to follow suit by the end of this year.

Special attention will be paid to stopping illegal evidence from being produced. Cases that have caused, or may cause, strong public sentiment also will be watched closely, SPP officials said.

Police use of criminal means to handle economic disputes, and the protection of suspects' personal and property rights, will also be closely watched, according to the SPP.

Last month, a local procuratorate in Lanshan district in Rizhao, Shandong province, set up an office at the district police bureau, local media reported.

Qin Xiaolei, a senior officer at Lanshan district procuratorate, said the office enabled prosecutors to monitor police work in a timely way, particularly in major or complex cases. Prosecutors issue targeted suggestions if they discover illegal conduct, Qin said.

"The office has built a communication bridge between prosecutors and police to timely share information and plays an active role in standardizing law enforcement," she said.

Spinning for a record



A total of 331 women are thought to have set a new Guinness World Record on Wednesday by simultaneously using spinning wheels to make thread, organizers said. The event, at a school in Wangmo county, in the Qianxinan Bouyei and Miao autonomous prefecture in Guizhou province, included women between ages 40 and 88. ZHANG HUI / XINHUA

Chinese doctors to help Pakistanis see

By YANG WANLI
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Free eye surgeries done by Chinese medical teams will help 500 cataract patients in Pakistan see better this year, under a plan released on Thursday by the Chinese Foundation for Lifeline Express.

The medical aid — the fund's second such trip outside China — is expected to bring a higher quality of life to more people in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, according to Nellie Fong, who started the foundation.

Last year, the foundation sent nine physicians from Peking Union Medical College Hospital to Sri Lanka in November to perform more than 500 free surgeries for impoverished patients.

"The patients were from the poorest place in Kalutara district in western Sri Lanka. Power supplies were unstable, and once we completed a surgical procedure despite losing electricity eight times," according to one of the doctors, Zhao Chan.

More than 800 patients registered to be considered for surgery in the month after the medical team arrived in Sri Lanka, said Yin Dakui, a member of the foundation's board and a former vice-minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission. They



Doctors from Peking Union Medical College Hospital perform cataract surgery last year in Sri Lanka during a medical aid trip organized by the Chinese Foundation for Lifeline Express. HUANG HAIMIN / XINHUA

were able to help 506 of them.

"The number of surgeries we can perform a year is limited, but we aim to train local doctors during our annual visits, which will benefit more patients in the future," Yin said.

The foundation, established in 1997, has helped more than 181,000 patients in 28 provincial areas and autonomous regions of China during the past 20 years.

"Sri Lanka was our first

pilot project overseas. We wanted to help patients not only in China, but also along the Belt and Road routes," Fong said, referring to the initiative based on the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

This year, four trains outfitted as mobile hospitals will leave Beijing on an eight-month mission to help thousands of people around China to see again. The rainbow-colored trains, carrying high-

tech surgical equipment and experienced doctors, aim to provide free cataract surgery to more than 10,000 people in remote areas.

They will call at 10 cities, including Ledu in Qinghai province, Baishan in Jilin province, Guangyuan in Sichuan province, and Kezilesu Kirgiz autonomous prefecture in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

By the end of last year, the foundation had built 69 permanent cataract medical centers, which also provide training to doctors from local hospitals in the treatment of common eye diseases. Another seven centers will be built this year, offering long-term medical assistance to low-income patients, Fong said.

Diabetics in those 10 cities will also get access to free screening for retina damage and information with their diagnosis if they are found to have a problem.

"China urgently needs a system to detect early diabetic retinopathy, which can save many people from future sight loss," Fong said.

About 92.4 million people are living with diabetes in China, and 40 million to 60 million are estimated to have diabetic retinopathy, or damage to the retina, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Record payment in execution

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Nie Shubin

The parents of Nie Shubin, a man who was convicted of and executed for rape and murder 21 years ago, have been paid more than 2.68 million yuan (\$389,000) in compensation as a result of having had their son's conviction overturned in December, a court in Hebei province said.

The Hebei Provincial People's Court released a statement online on Thursday saying the State compensation covered Nie's funeral expenses and payment for his wrongful detention and conviction and psychological damage to the family.

Of the total, the psychological compensation amounted to 1.3 million yuan, "setting a record for compensation for people wrongly detained or convicted," according to Wang Dianxue, the family's lawyer.

In 2016, Chen Man, who was

wrongfully imprisoned for 23 years for homicide and arson, received 900,000 yuan for mental anguish, while in 2015,

the mother of Hujilutu, a young man from the Inner Mongolia autonomous region who was wrongly executed in 1996, was paid 1 million yuan for her psychological suffering.

"The compensation for my clients' psychological damage ... reflects that the court took the family's suffering in the past two decades into consideration and gave full respect to the victim's life," he said, adding the total amount of compensation is a "breakthrough" for the country.

Zhang Huanzhi, Nie's mother, said after receiving the court's statement on Thursday

that she will not appeal the compensation award. She had applied on Dec 15 for a total of 13.9 million yuan in compensation, including 12 million for psychological damage.

"I can accept the result, and I feel the court's efforts and attitude toward my case," she said, adding that all she wants now is to live a quiet life.

On Dec 2, Nie, 21, a native of Hebei, was posthumously found not guilty at the Second Circuit Court of the Supreme People's Court in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning province, based on unclear facts and insufficient evidence. He was executed in 1995 for the rape and murder of a woman.

Since then, Zhang had appealed to government agencies and courts to clear her son's name. Authorities began reviewing the case in 2005, and in June of 2016, the national top court ordered the circuit court to rehear the case.

Fund to honor life's work of diplomat

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A foundation was launched in Beijing on Thursday to commemorate the late diplomat Wu Jianmin and to improve communication and understanding between China and the rest of the world.

The Wu Jianmin Foundation will set up a program to facilitate exchanges and visits between outstanding young people in China and other countries, said Wu Jiansheng, the foundation's director-general and brother of the deceased diplomat.

The program will finance visits to China of leading young people abroad to improve their understanding of the country, as well as its development path and philosophy. The idea is to nurture a new generation whose members comprehend and hold friendly views toward China.

The foundation also will support and finance research on China's peaceful development, set up scholarships for talented

young people who aspire to a career in international communication, and hold public diplomacy events, Wu Jiansheng said. The foundation's endowment was not disclosed.

Wu Jianmin, a veteran diplomat known for his advocacy of peaceful development, died in June at age 77 in a car crash in Wuhan, Hubei province.

He had served as the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, China's ambassador to the Netherlands and France, and the country's delegate to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

He also had served as president of China Foreign Affairs University.

Wu Jianmin's wife, Shi Yanhua, president of the foundation, recalled that her husband made the most of his life and "loved the cause of diplomacy."

Han Zhiqiang, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's General Office, said Wu Jianmin "had dedicated all his lifetime's efforts and wisdom" to China's diplomacy. Han said he thinks the foundation will "play an important role" in communications between China and other countries.

Taking a leaf from a dragon



A dragon dance is performed in Miaoshan, a village in Miaoxi, Zhejiang province, on Wednesday to celebrate the beginning of the harvest season for fresh tea. Miaoxi produces more than 200,000 kilograms of tea leaves every year. XU YU / XINHUA

Carrier: 'A step toward a world class navy'

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before it could be officially handed to the Navy.

"Nevertheless, China launching its first domestically designed aircraft carrier is a monumental step toward building a world class navy," he said. "The valuable lessons learned from building a carrier from scratch will help China build more carriers faster in the future and enable them to reach combat readiness quicker."

According to the Defense Ministry, the new aircraft carrier is under construction in Dalian, Liaoning province. It will have a displacement of about 50,000 metric tons, as well as conventional engines and fighter jet launch systems similar to those of the CNS *Liaoning* — China's first aircraft carrier.

The most important difference lies in the roles of the two vessels, Zhu said. While the *Liaoning* is primarily for training and research purposes, the new carrier will focus on combat and defense.

The new carrier will have

more cargo room, more sophisticated radar, more advanced weapons systems, and more reliable engines than the *Liaoning*, which was refitted from an unfinished Soviet-era carrier — the *Varyag* — that "did not leave much leeway for optimization and improvement due to its old design," he added. It was commissioned by China in 2012.

PLA Major General Peng Guangqian, a military strategist, said China's carriers, as well as the carriers from other nations, are still far behind US carriers in terms of size, scale and combat capability, "because US Navy doctrine requires unchallenged global dominance, while Chinese carriers are mainly used for self-defense."

When asked about the Chinese military's recent drills on the Chinese side of the Sino-Myanmar border following clashes between Myanmar security forces and ethnic rebels, Wu said the drills were part of the annual training schedule and China had informed Myanmar of the drill before it began.