

## CHINA

## Prosecutors strive to recover workers' wages

By YANG ZEKUN  
yangzekun@chinadaily.com.cn

Procuratorial departments across the country approved the arrest of 1,599 people for refusing to pay wages in 2019, the Supreme People's Procuratorate said on Thursday.

They also prosecuted 2,609 people in 2,396 cases and supervised public security organs in filing 203 cases, helping workers recover a total of 250 million yuan (\$36.3 million) in wages.

The SPP in November issued a document asking procuratorial organs at all levels to intensify the handling of cases in which employers refuse to pay wages and improve the quality and efficiency of handling such cases.

The procuratorial organs have been making good use of the sharing platforms of the administrative law enforcement and criminal justice departments to promptly uncover evidence in the cases. The procuratorial organs, public security departments and human resources and social security departments have improved the information sharing system, said Miao Shengming, the head of the first procuratorial office of the SPP.

Procuratorial organs are urged to correctly grasp the policy of tempering justice with mercy to severely crack down on those who maliciously refuse to pay wages and protect the legal rights and interests of the enterprises while handling such cases.

In 2019, procuratorial organs denied the arrest of 1,115 people accused of refusing to pay wages and decided not to sue 1,073 people in 917 cases. Another 1,627 people were granted leniency upon the admission of guilt and acceptance of punishment.

"Procuratorial organs should intensify the examination of the necessity of custody, minimize the adverse impact on the normal production and operation of enterprises, and make good use of the system to achieve win-win results," Miao said.

In one case released by the SPP, the defendant owed more than 200 workers over 4.4 million yuan for a local project in Wuhu county, Anhui province, in 2016. The local human resources and social security bureau ordered him to pay the remuneration in January 2019, but he failed to do so before the deadline.

Wuhu county people's procuratorate approved the defendant's arrest in February last year, and prosecuted him in March. He was also urged to pay the wages before sentencing. After he paid all the money, the county's court in May sentenced the defendant to one year and six months in prison with two years probation and a fine of 20,000 yuan.

The Supreme People's Court issued a circular on strengthening the trial and execution of cases for refusing to pay migrant workers' wages at the end of 2019.

It urged courts at all levels to establish and improve a one-stop litigation mechanism for such cases, and fully implement the registration system of filing cases to ensure all such cases involving migrant workers' wages be dealt with in a timely manner.

The circular stressed that such cases should be handled fairly and efficiently in strict accordance with law by applying convenient ways to minimize the cost to workers. Meanwhile, courts were also asked to use combined ways to urge enterprises to fulfill their legal obligations promptly.

## Zhao Zhongxiang, famed television host, dies at 78

By CHEN NAN  
chenan@chinadaily.com.cn

Zhao Zhongxiang, one of the most recognizable and popular TV anchors in China for more than four decades due to his trademark TV shows — including the annual Spring Festival Gala, *Animal World* and *Human and Nature* — died on Wednesday, his 78th birthday, at a hospital in Beijing.

Zhao's son, Zhao Fang, confirmed on Jan 16 via a post on Sina Weibo that Zhao Zhongxiang died at 7:30 am on Wednesday.

"At the end of 2019 my father was diagnosed with cancer, which had already spread," Zhao Fang

wrote. "My father was passionate about his job and was loved by many millions of viewers of his popular TV shows ... He respected his job and his audience," Zhao Fang wrote. "After retirement, he enjoyed a variety of hobbies, like calligraphy, painting and cooking. He was also dedicated to training the next generation of TV anchors."

On Sina Weibo, the topic with hashtags of Zhao Zhongxiang's death had attracted more than 1.5 billion views and 338,000 comments as of 5 pm on Thursday. Many netizens said in their condolences that they grew up with his show and have his voice etched in their memories.

"Such an unexpected and tragic way to say goodbye to you. Your shows were some of the best parts of my childhood memories," one fan wrote on Sina Weibo in a tribute to Zhao.

Chinese veteran actress Liu Xiaoqing mourned Zhao's death on her Sina Weibo, saying: "Rest in peace. We miss you!"

"I feel grateful to have known you for nearly 40 years. You learned fast and kept me inspired," said CCTV anchor Dong Hao.

Zhao's funeral will be held at the Babaoshan Funeral Center in Beijing on Monday morning.

In recent years, some Chinese reality TV shows had invited Zhao for dubbing, which usually conjured nostalgic feelings.

Along with his longtime partner, Chinese TV host Ni Ping, Zhao appeared in a Chinese reality show on April 13 entitled *My Brilliant Masters* on the Hunan Satellite TV Station. During their appearance, they shared their memories about their TV careers and their friendship. The show, which was believed to be his last public appearance, was shot at Zhao's home in Beijing.

"He was very professional and a reliable partner. He had a great tempo whenever we hosted a show onstage," said Ni during the show. "I didn't need to worry about lacking words or saying something wrong because he was always able to help me out."



Zhao Zhongxiang

known as China Central Television — as an anchor in 1959, becoming the first male TV anchor in the country and second Chinese TV anchor after Shen Li.

When China's former leader Deng Xiaoping made a historic visit to the United States in 1979, Zhao traveled with him to cover the visit. Zhao also visited the White House and interviewed then US president Jimmy Carter, making him the first Chinese journalist to do so.

Since 1984, he had hosted the Spring Festival Gala — one of the most-watched TV shows in China broadcast on Lunar New Year's Eve — 13 times, which made him a national celebrity.

On Dec 31 that year, CCTV launched *Animal World*, a weekly show about wild animals, which Zhao hosted. In 1994, he hosted the TV show *Human and Nature*. Both of those shows helped raise awareness about animal and environmental protection, and they have been enjoyed by Chinese audiences for years.

## Hero lauds harmony



Du Fuguo (right), who lost his eyesight and both hands trying to protect his fellow soldiers from a landmine explosion last year, cheers for an orchestra made up of visually-impaired students at the Chongqing Special Education Center in Chongqing on Tuesday. Awarded "Heroic Demining Soldier" in July, Du was named by the school as a special counselor. Du presented the children with Spring Festival gifts and encouraged them to overcome their physical challenges and chase their dreams. LIU CHAN / XINHUA

## Strict governance of Party to be maintained

### Inspections and supervision of power should be strengthened, president says

By ZHANG YI  
zhangyi1@chinadaily.com.cn

Attendees of a key meeting of the Party's top disciplinary agency agreed that strict governance of the Party plays an important role in ensuring the building of a more prosperous society and the success of the fight against poverty.

President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said that "strict" governance of the Party must be maintained for a long time, while addressing a plenary session of the country's top anti-graft watchdog on Monday.

Xi stressed strengthening inspections and supervision of the exercise of power and demanded strict governance of the Party. He urged the building of a system under which officials "don't dare to, are unable to and have no desire to commit acts of corruption."

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Commission

for Discipline Inspection was held in Beijing from Monday to Wednesday.

Wang Lishan, the top disciplinary inspection official in Hubei province, said, "To maintain strict governance over the Party conforms to the rule of Party management. The fight against corruption has won an overwhelming victory, but the situation still remains complex."

"General-Secretary Xi stressed the main tone of strictness and called for long-term adherence to it, which shows the central leadership's determination to govern the Party with strict discipline is consistent and firm," he said.

Bian Jianlin, a law professor at China University of Political Science and Law, said that supervision plays a fundamental role in governing the Party, running the country and ensuring the operation of public power.

"We need to innovate oversight methods, taking the intra-Party supervision as the main role and promoting the coordination of all kinds of methods, to truly put pow-

er and personnel under institutional oversight," he said.

The three-day session of the top disciplinary body considered that 2020 is a particularly important year — the final year for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the last year of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20).

Disciplinary inspection and supervisory organs should focus on addressing prominent problems that have aroused strong public concern and help promote the fight against poverty, according to the communiqué of the session.

Wang Yanfei, the top disciplinary inspection official in Sichuan province, said poverty alleviation is an important political task in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and disciplinary departments can play a role in curbing corruption in the field of poverty alleviation.

Song Fulong, head of the CCDI team stationed at the Ministry of Transport, said road building is important to poverty alleviation, and this year the team will increase oversight over the ministry's road building work in villages to improve people's sense of gain.

## 15 supervisors invited to watchdog's meeting

By YANG ZEKUN  
yangzekun@chinadaily.com.cn

Fifteen special supervisors were invited to attend the second meeting of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on Monday.

The 15 come from different sectors including the staff of central and State departments, cadres at the grassroots level, experts from universities and research institutions, and media representatives.

Last year, 13 special supervisors were invited to attend the Third Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection for the first time.

The CCDI issued a document establishing the special supervisor system for the National Supervisory Commission to lead and regulate

special supervisors' work in September 2018. It stipulated the qualifications required and the recruitment procedure for special supervisors, as well as their term in office, duties, rights and obligations.

The selection of the special supervisors gives priority to deputies to the National People's Congress. They may also be selected from another seven categories, including members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress National Committee, experts and scholars, and members of the media and art industry.

According to the document, the special supervisors should oversee the disciplinary inspection and supervision organs as well as their personnel's execution of their duties. They should also submit opinions and suggestions for enhancing and improving the dis-

cipline inspection and supervision work.

The establishment of the special supervisor system is an important measure to introduce external supervision. Inviting special supervisors to attend the plenary is a concrete manifestation of the top anti-graft organs' effort to create conditions for them to perform their duties, which shows that the disciplinary inspection and supervision organs consciously accept the supervision of all aspects with an open attitude, said a statement from the CCDI and NSC.

Before the reform of China's supervision system, supervisory organs had been inviting special supervisors since 1989. The CCDI also formulated a measure for engaging specially invited supervisors in 2013, and 40 people were invited then.

## Virus: WHO urges nations to intensify preparedness

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People confirmed to have the illness mostly displayed symptoms of fever and coughing at the early stage of the disease, it said.

Although investigations have shown no clear evidence that the new coronavirus can be transmitted between human beings, the possibility of human-to-human transmission cannot be ruled out, it said earlier.

Japan confirmed its first case of the virus, public broadcaster NHK reported on Thursday, quoting officials from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The man was released from a hospital after his condition improved, and no related sickness has been found in his family or among the medical staff who treated him, the report said.

Earlier this week, the World Health Organization urged all countries to intensify monitoring and preparedness following the confirmation of the first case of the virus outside China.

"The possibility of cases being identified in other countries was not unexpected," it said in a statement following the case in Thailand.

The US State Department issued a health alert update on Wednesday about travel to the Wuhan area. It referenced a Watch Level 1 Alert by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which urged people traveling in the region to avoid contact with animals, animal markets and animal products, among other precautions, Reuters reported.

Thai health authorities said on Wednesday they were stepping up monitoring of passengers arriving at airports ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, when 800,000 Chinese tourists are expected to visit the country, the report said.

China's National Health Commission and the WHO did not respond to questions from China Daily on Thursday.

Wang Yuedan, an immunology professor at Peking University's Health Science Center, said he thought the virus would not spread globally to any great extent, due to the limited capacity of its human-to-human transmission.

In addition, the disease control and prevention measures taken by the authorities in Wuhan, such as temporary quarantines of people who have had close contact with patients, are very strict, and a pandemic similar to the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak in 2003 is unlikely, he said.

Contact the writers at  
wangxiaodong@chinadaily.com.cn

### Briefly

#### Man who killed doctor sentenced to death

Sun Wenbin, who fatally stabbed a doctor at a hospital in Beijing last month, was sentenced to death by the Beijing No 3 Intermediate People's Court on Thursday. Doctor Yang Wen was working in the emergency department at Civil Aviation General Hospital on Dec 24 when Sun stabbed her in the neck with a knife. The doctor died the following day. Sun, 55, is the son of a patient at the hospital who has been bedridden for years after a stroke. The court said that although Sun confessed after giving himself up to police, the nature of his brutal crime caused serious consequences and great social harm. It is not known whether Sun plans to appeal.

#### Military recruitment to take place twice a year

China will change its military conscription from once a year to twice a year, starting from 2020, according to a statement from a teleconference on the recruitment work on Thursday. Recruitment will run from February to March, and again from August to September. Retirement for military personnel, therefore, will also change to twice a year, according to the statement. It said the total number of recruits will remain stable compared with previous years.

CHINA DAILY — XINHUA

## It's hammer time

Relocated residents celebrate the upcoming Spring Festival by making *ciba*, or glutinous rice cake, in Danzhai, Guizhou province, on Wednesday. It is the first Spring Festival since their relocation as part of the nation's poverty alleviation program. *Ciba*, often hammered after steaming to create a soft texture, is a popular festive food across southern China.

HUANG XIAOHAI / FOR CHINA DAILY

