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Wang Dawei, vice-president of the Chinese Athletic Association

## Rules set for recovering stolen money

Regulation specifies scope, standards for confiscation of funds in graft cases

By ZHANG YI  
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The top court has issued a legal interpretation regarding the criterion for confiscating money and property from accused who are deceased or have fled overseas.

Pei Xianding, head of a criminal court of the Supreme People's Court, said the move is mainly to facilitate the

nation's anti-graft drive in recovering stolen money in corruption cases.

Pei said rules for confiscating money and property were first written into law in 2012, but the provisions were not specific enough and in certain circumstances were inapplicable.

The interpretation issued on Thursday specified the scope, standards and procedures for confiscation.

Cases in five categories are subject to the legal interpretation, which include corruption cases as well as those involving bribery and terrorism.

According to statistics from the top court, 908 suspects involved in corruption cases were brought back to China from about 70 countries and territories in the first 11 months of 2016. More than 2.3 billion yuan (\$33 million) of illicit money was recovered in these cases.

By the end of last year, 38 cases regarding requests for confiscation of money and

### 908 suspects

involved in corruption cases were brought back to China from about 70 countries and territories in the first 11 months of 2016.

property had been filed in courts across the country.

Pei said some of these cases are stuck in a preliminary stage and hindered the

nation's efforts in fighting corruption.

“Cases involving accused who are either deceased or absconded are more complicated than normal criminal cases because judiciary departments can't bring them to face court trials, which means their ill-gotten money has to be processed without their appearance in court. Therefore, regulations regarding these circumstances should be in place,” said Wang Xiaodong, an official with the criminal court of the top court.

In the latest incident, one of China's most wanted economic fugitives, Yang Xiuzhu, returned to China in November last year after she illegally stayed in various countries for more than a decade.

Accused of taking bribes of 250 million yuan in 2003, Yang is the latest name to be crossed off Interpol's list of 100 major Chinese economic fugitives.

Around one-third of the fugitives on the list had returned to China, either by force or of their own volition, by the end of last year.

### Briefly

#### BEIJING Nation prepares to host military games

China on Thursday launched the organizing committee for the seventh World Military Games. The event, which is organized by the International Military Sports Council and has been held every four years since 1995, will be held in Wuhan, Hubei province, in October. More than 10,000 soldier athletes from 130 countries will participate in 24 sporting events, Vice-Premier Liu Yandong said at a launch ceremony in Beijing. It will be the first time China has hosted the event.

#### HENAN AI developer beats top Go players

Google-controlled AI developer DeepMind on Thursday revealed the identity behind a recent secret online winner in the world of Go. DeepMind founder Demis Hassabis said on Twitter that the player called “Master”, which has defeated top Go players from China, Japan and South Korea, is an improved version of AlphaGo. It beat South Korea's 9-dan professional player Lee Sedol, one of the best Go players in the world, in a five-game match in January last year.

#### HENAN 5 killed, 7 trapped in colliery outburst

Five people were killed and seven others were left trapped after a colliery gas outburst in Dengfeng on Wednesday. Rescue work is ongoing at the Xingyu Colliery. The incident, which occurred at 5:35 pm, saw 39 miners escape to safety. Gas density in the colliery reportedly was lowered to safe levels by Thursday afternoon, making it possible for rescuers to enter the shaft. The dead included three colliery officials who rushed into the shaft to rescue trapped miners after the outburst, but were suffocated due to high gas levels, according to the chief engineer of the colliery.

#### XINJIANG Official put under investigation

The Party chief of Hotan prefecture is under investigation on suspicion of “serious disciplinary breaches”, the regional anti-graft watchdog said on Thursday. Zhang Jinbiao, 53, is also being investigated for dereliction of duty, the Xinjiang Discipline Inspection Commission said. The commission did not give details of Zhang's suspected wrongdoing.

XINHUA—CHINA DAILY

## Fast walking tops popular exercise list

By SUN XIAOCHEN  
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A recent survey by social networking app QQ has unveiled that fast walking topped all exercise activities in China in 2016 due to its accessibility and low cost.

According to the results of more than 30,000 questionnaires, nearly 37 percent of respondents chose fast walking as their favorite exercise, while more than 23 percent selected running and more than 14 percent picked cycling.

The report also featured a city exercising index, which evaluated facilities, fitness services and residents' participation in exercise to determine how active they are.

Despite abundant sports infrastructure in cities like Beijing and Shanghai, it was Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, that proved the most sports-engaged city last year.

Lin Citong, Tencent QQ senior PR manager, said the app's physical-tracking functions, such as counting users' daily steps, helped provide data to generate the index.

“As a relatively new concept, the city exercising index might not be authoritative enough to reflect the comprehensive status of exercise participation in a city. But it's a valuable reference for exercise availability in a city and locals' activeness in doing exercise because of the metadata collected firsthand from our vast user base,” she said.

The findings showed that outdoor events such as long-distance running, hiking and cycling are enjoying a boom in popularity.

According to the Chinese Athletic Association, 328 marathons were held across China last year, attracting 2.8 million participants.

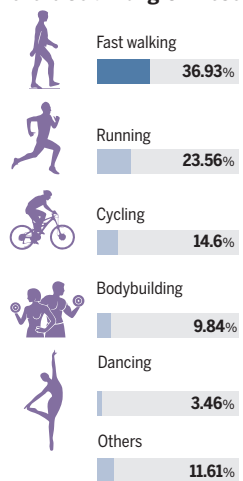
The number of long-distance running events, including half and mini marathons, is expected to hit 600 by the end of this year, with an estimated 5 million participants, according to the association.

“Running and walking are easily accessible ways of exercising, which is why they are attracting so many people every year,” said Wang Dawei, vice-president of the association.

“Chinese, especially the health-conscious urban middle class, are more prone to do exercise outdoors in nature rather than being stuck in gyms,” Wang said.

“It's not strange that some relatively remote cities with better environments and clean air have begun landing major events and providing better fitness facilities,” he said.

### Most popular types of exercise among Chinese



Source: Tencent Big Data  
YANG LIU / CHINA DAILY



A runner exercises along the Songhua River in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, in April. ZHANG SHU / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Laba congee at Yonghe Lama Temple



A monk gives Laba congee to people at Yonghe Lama Temple in Beijing on Thursday, which marked the Laba Festival, a traditional Chinese holiday on the eighth day of the 12th month of the lunar calendar. It's customary on this day to eat Laba congee, or eight-treasure porridge, usually made with at least eight ingredients, representing people's prayers for harvest, happiness and peace. ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

## Dig hopes to uncover ancient treasure

By HUANG ZHILING  
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Dykes have been built to surround an area about 1,000 meters long and 100 meters wide in the Minjiang River in the Pengshan district of Meishan, Sichuan province.

Water in the area has been drained away in preparation for an archaeological dig, which will be completed by the end of March.

“We hope the dig will provide evidence to verify whether the area is where Zhang Xianzhong (leader of a farmer's uprising) fought against general Yang Zhan in 1646 and left countless treasure in his sunken boats,” said Liu Zhiyan, head of underwater archaeology at the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics

and Archaeology Research Institute.

“The evidence should include remains of boats, weapons, helmets and armor,” Liu said.

Zhang Xianzhong (1606-46), a native of Shaanxi province, captured Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, and declared himself emperor in 1644. When a rival army approached Chengdu in 1646, Zhang deserted the city planning to move to neighboring Hubei province.

Local chronicles show Zhang and his troops were ambushed in the Minjiang River by Yang Zhan, who set Zhang's boats on fire. The boats, which contained treasure, sank.

From the 1950s to the 1990s, silver was found on the shores of the Minjiang River from time to time, which was believed to come from Zhang's boats.



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people wishing to strike it rich to dig the river course,” said Li Keqi, a resident of Pengshan.

“About five or six years ago, many people with metal detectors were found wantonly exploring the riverbed,” she said.

In October last year, police in Meishan announced that after a more than one-year investigation, they had found 10 gangs of illegal relic diggers and nine illegal relic trading networks involving 70 people who had traded more than 300 million yuan (\$44 million) worth of relics from the riverbed.

“One single gold seal in the shape of a tiger, which was believed to have belonged to Zhang Xianzhong, according to its inscription, was sold for 8 million yuan,” said Xu Lili, an information officer in Pengshan.

Building a water diversion project for Pengshan, then a county, in 2005, excavators found a hollowed-out log with seven silver ingots from a site about 2.5 meters below the surface of the riverbed.

In 2011, workers found substantial amounts of gold and silver items and coins while digging sand for construction purposes.

“The discovery prompted

## Chinese scientists develop fireproof, waterproof paper

By CHENG YINGQI  
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In January 2015, a fire in one of Russia's largest university

libraries damaged more than 1 million historical documents, an incident which some media described as a “cultural Chernobyl”.

Important documents of our age can probably avoid the same fate in the future thanks to a new fire-resistant paper developed by a team of scientists at the Shanghai Institute of Ceramics affiliated to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Zhu Yingjie, a researcher from the institute, and his team developed a set of methods to produce paper with a new material, hydroxyapatite, the inorganic constituent of tooth enamel and bone.

“Hydroxyapatite nanowires are an ideal building material for paper.”

Zhu Yingjie, researcher from the Shanghai Institute of Ceramics

The invention was reported on ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, a peer-reviewed scientific journal of the American Chemical Society.

The inorganic material is both fire resistant and water resistant.

“Traditionally, paper is made of plant fibers, which are easily destroyed by liquid. Previous research attempts to produce waterproof paper found it was difficult to achieve fire retardancy and water repellency at the same time,” Zhu said.

In 2013, a doctorate student of Zhu was preparing hydroxyapatite nanowires. While he wanted to filter out the water and continue the experiment, he found that instead of getting hydroxyapatite powder on the filter paper, a film formed on the paper.

The discovery inspired Zhu. He conducted more experiments to improve the material's physical properties.

“Traditional papermaking damages natural woods and damages the environment. Hydroxyapatite nanowires are an ideal building material for paper,” Zhu said.

The newly published paper shows that the inorganic material behaves like paper, but with excellent thermal stability and with astonishing mechanical wear resistance, according to an anonymous referee of a peer reviewer of ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, which was provided to China Daily.

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