

# Judges to receive better protection

By CAO YIN  
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Guo Jie, judge in Fujian province

cized and penalized, “as it threatens the authority of courts and judicial credibility.”

“Danger posed to judges threatens the rule of law, and damages public order and social stability,” it said.

Guo Jie, a judge from Fujian province who specializes in cases involving divorces and children’s disputes, described Fu’s death as shocking, adding that the case reminded her of another tragedy in Beijing last year in which former judge Ma Caiyun, 38, was shot in the stomach and face at home. She was taken to hospital, but died.

One of the suspects was a litigant who was discontent with the division of property in a divorce verdict given by Ma.

“I feel increasingly unsafe, especially outside of my working environment,” Guo said.

Although the government issued a rule to ensure judges’ safety in July, aiming to severely punish those taking revenge on judicial officers, “no severe punishments have been announced publicly,” which is why lots of judges remain anxious, according to Guo.

“A safe environment is crucial for us to properly handle cases,” she added.

China’s top court issued a guideline on Tuesday aimed at severely punishing those who disturb judicial work or take revenge on legal officers, after a grassroots judge was killed by one of his litigants at the end of last month.

The guideline stipulates that those found guilty of interfering in judicial affairs, including threatening, insulting or harming judges, will face severe punishment, to ensure justice is served and to protect the safety of judges.

On Jan 26, the day before the Spring Festival, Fu Mingsheng, a retired judge from a court in Luchuan county, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, was stabbed to death in his home by the defendant in a divorce case Fu handled in 1994.

Long Jiancai, 67, the attacker, has been detained on suspicion of homicide.

Fu, 63, began working as a judge on domestic dispute cases at the county court in 1978, retiring in November 2013.

After a preliminary investigation, the Supreme People’s Court said on its micro blog on Monday that Long’s motivation was his dissatisfaction with the verdict given by Fu in 1994.

“The suspect’s actions touched the legal bottom line and disturbed public order. No matter how discontent he is with the judgment, he has no right to harm the safety of others,” the top court said.

“If judges, the last line of defense against injustice, have their safety put in danger, how can they protect litigants’ rights and push forward the rule of law?” it added.

The China Judge Association said on Monday that Long’s actions must be criti-

## New year headgear



People put chick-shaped decorations on their heads as they visit Fuzi Temple, also known as Temple of Confucius, in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on Tuesday. A series of similar decorations have been used to welcome the Year of the Rooster. YANG BO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

## ENVIRONMENT

# Ecological zones prioritized

‘Red line’ aims to safeguard soil, water, forestry and biodiversity

By ZHENG JINRAN  
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China has issued a guideline calling for an “ecological red line” around areas where development is prohibited, with the nationwide initiative expected to be completed by 2020, the central government said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and provinces along the Yangtze River will take the lead in drawing the red line to protect the environment by the end of this year.

By 2030, China will see the system working effectively, with noticeable improvements in ecological functions across the country, the statement said.

The regions mapped out by the “ecological red line”, which are of critical importance for natural functions and the protection of water, soil, forestry and biodiversity, should be

strictly protected and free from development or exploitation.

“The ecological red line aims to safeguard national ecological security,” the statement said, adding that the country must closely monitor it.

When local governments draw the red line, they should consider natural boundaries such as rivers and mountains, as well as administrative lines like protection zones under unified standards to help form a national map.

The country’s top economic planner and environmental authorities will lead the “drawing” of the red line along with other governments and departments, the information of which will be made public.

In addition to the principles and process of drawing the red line, China will build a new monitoring network and a platform to analyze data and assess risks in the mapped out regions by the end of this year,

**“It is appropriate for the country to keep 35 percent of its territory inside the ecological red line to better protect the environment.”**

Ouyang Zhiyun, director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Center for Environmental Studies

the statement said.

The central ministries will assess local governments’ performance and any official found violating red-line protection measures will be severely punished.

Since the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively

Deepening Reforms approved the guideline on Nov 1, provinces have been planning their red lines, with some such as Jiangxi and Hubei having already finished their plans and awaiting approval, Chen Jining, minister of environmental protection, said at the annual meeting on environmental protection last month.

On Monday, Guizhou province released its “ecological red line” plan, which accounts for 31 percent of the province’s total area.

“I think it is appropriate for the country to keep 35 percent of its territory inside the ecological red line to better protect the environment,” Ouyang Zhiyun, director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Center for Environmental Studies, said on Tuesday.

Ouyang said he is confident that provinces will reach their targets for drawing the red line and environmental protection because of the growing attention the system is receiving and other supplementary policies that will support its implementation.

# Children urged to greet, visit parents

By TAN YINGZI  
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Adults in Chongqing who do not live with their elderly parents should regularly visit or greet them via phone, internet or letters, according to new draft legislation released on Monday. The draft is seeking public opinion until March 6.

As more Chinese seniors aged 60 and older live by themselves, they are facing a vacuum of emotions and say they often feel lonely. Those empty-nesters have become a social problem for Chinese society.

The draft states that legal dependents and other family members should pay attention to the spiritual needs of the elderly, respect their religious beliefs and lifestyles, and should not neglect or isolate them.

**20 percent**

of Chongqing’s population is aged 60 or older.

The problem of aging is obvious in this southwestern city. There were 6.77 million seniors aged 60 and older in Chongqing at the end of 2015, representing about 20 percent of the municipality’s population. For the whole country, the number was 222 million, or more than 16 percent of the population.

Chongqing’s new draft measure follows a national law passed in 1996 by the country’s top legislative body on the “protection of the rights and interests of the elderly”. According to the latest amendment in 2015, family members are required to care for the elderly and visit them regularly.

Ma Rongli, 29, a tour guide in Florida, visits her parents in Chongqing once or twice a year. She calls them every other day and keeps them updated via WeChat.

“I think the draft measure is a good one, and it is necessary to require people to think more about their parents,” she said. “In Chinese society, piety is the foundation of all virtues.”

But Liu Ting, 30, who works in Tianjin, said the government should not force people to take care of their parents by law.

“Parents should first look after and educate their children with their heart and soul, then their children will naturally return the gesture in the future,” she said.

Zhao Wenkai, a lawyer at Chongqing Grandall Law Firm, said the draft measure blurs the boundary between law and morals.

“The wording of the measure is also very ambiguous,” he said. “If it is put into practice, it is very hard for the court to define a violation and hand down a punishment.”

## Snapping a sculpture



A visitor takes a photo of a sculpture displayed at a Chinese folk arts exhibition in Baofeng county, Henan province, on Tuesday. The annual Majie Storytellers and Balladeers Fair will be held in the county on Thursday. HE WUCHANG / XINHUA

# Solar drone pushes limits in near-space

By XINHUA

**40 meters**

Wingspan of China’s largest solar drone

**200 km/h**

Top cruising speed of the solar drone

China will test how its largest solar drone performs near-space flight this year, the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics announced on Tuesday.

With a wingspan of more than 40 meters, wider than that of a Boeing 737 passenger plane, the Caihong, or Rainbow, series of drone has just passed its first full-scale test flight, according to Shi Wen, chief engineer of the CAAA drone project.

The drone is the second-largest solar-powered drone in the world, beaten only by a model by NASA, Shi said, adding that its performance index and technological capacity are among the most advanced in the world.

The drone is capable of flying at an extremely high altitude for a long time, while its maintenance is simple, he said.

The chief engineer did not elaborate on details, but said such drones can usually ascend to an altitude of 20 to 30 kilometers, and cruise at a speed of 150 to 200 km per hour.

The unmanned aerial vehicle will be used mostly for airborne early warning systems, aerial reconnaissance, disaster monitoring, meteorological observation and relay communications, according to Shi.

# China to invest 1b yuan in national park

By XINHUA in Xining

Construction of the Sanjiangyuan National Park to protect the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang (Mekong) rivers will start this year with the building of roads and installing of surveillance cameras to assist protection work.

The park’s administration bureau said on Monday that it would have a budget of 1 billion yuan (\$145 million) this year for infrastructure construction.

The bureau began trial operation of the management of the national park, a vast wetland and grassland area on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, in April last year. It is scheduled to officially become China’s first national park administered by the central government by 2020.

More than 10,000 wardens will be employed to patrol more than 120,000 square

kilometers, an area bigger than the US state of New York.

Zhai Jinquan, a planning official with the bureau, said that this year, the park would build roads, control facilities, visitor centers, preservation stations and sewage treatment facilities.

“The park is massive and sparsely populated. Most areas in the park do not have roads. Herdsmen can only ride horses to traverse the land,” he said.

Zhai said that in order to enhance ecological protection and law enforcement work, the park would build roads and install a network for remote monitoring.

Sanjiangyuan means “the source of three rivers”, and it is the water tower for all major rivers in China. However the ecology of the area has suffered degradation due to human activities such as overgrazing.

The Sanjiangyuan Nature



Buddhists release colorful prayer flags in the wind to extend good wishes in Qinghai province, where the Sanjiangyuan National Park will be built. WU GANG / XINHUA

Reserve was established in Northwest China’s Qinghai in 2000. The decision to turn the area into a national park managed by the central government was made at a meeting of the Central Leading Group for Reform at the end of 2015.

Under national park management, herders and farm-

ers will be the central forces behind environmental protection at Sanjiangyuan. The work is expected to provide jobs, boost farmers’ incomes and give them an incentive to protect the environment.

The park is rich in wildlife, including endangered species such as the Tibetan antelope and the snow leopard.

# Police arrest 77 over organized prostitution in nightclubs

By CHINA DAILY

Beijing police have arrested 77 people on charges of organizing prostitution at three nightclubs in downtown areas.

According to an announcement by the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau on Tuesday, the police are investigating the case and those who

have been arrested are likely to be prosecuted after the investigation is concluded.

The announcement has received wide public attention because one of the clubs is located in the Poly Plaza, a landmark building in Chaoyang district that is owned by a State-run conglomerate.

Beijing police conducted

raids on the three clubs — Baoli Club in the Poly Plaza, Landai Club and Lihaimingyuan Club — on Dec 23 in an operation that involved 400 police officers and auxiliary personnel. The three clubs were closed down after the raids.

China Poly Group Co has said that Baoli Club, which used the same Chinese charac-

ters as the Poly brand, had infringed on its trademark and was not authorized to use the name.

The conglomerate said it was independent of all consequences and liabilities caused by any entity that illegally bears its trademark.

A job advertisement for hostesses on the club’s website

said it was looking for women aged 16 to 28, offering daily payments of 1,000 to 1,500 yuan (\$140 to \$215).

In March 2015, two people were sentenced to life in prison for running a gambling and prostitution ring at Royal No 1 Nightclub in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province. Another 85 people were also jailed.