

## “QUOTABLE

“The celebration of my mother's birthday is the personal affair of my mother and me. As the president of Peking University, should I be deprived of that right?”

**ZHOU QIFENG**, president of Peking University, said on Tuesday. On July 13, Zhou returned to his hometown, Liuyang, Hunan province, to celebrate his mother's 90th birthday. He knelt down in front of his mother and cried. After the video and pictures of the birthday appeared online, his behavior was the topic of widespread public discussion.

## THE NUMBER

1

YUAN

Zhang Xian, an agent representing a victim in a hit-and-run case, was asked to apologize and give 1 yuan (17 US cents) in compensation to the father of Yao Jiaxin, the criminal executed for the crime, according to a verdict of the Yanta district court in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, on Tuesday. Yao, a conservatory student in Xi'an, stabbed a female migrant worker named Zhang Miao to death in 2011. After he was executed for the murder, his father Yao Qingwei sued Zhang Xian for violating his right of reputation.

## ON THE WEB

Highlights from chinadaily.com.cn



**Culture:** Discover the art of *kangweihua*, which are paintings traditionally drawn around the walls of brick-built beds known as *kang*. It was common in villages in Shanxi province up until the 1980s.

**Video:** The latest episode of *Superbodies 2012* looks at how the muscles react during a dive.

**Bilingual:** Find out which countries are rewarding athletes with large sums of cash for Olympic success.

**Buzzword:** Escape call, which is a planned call or beep from a co-worker or friend that allows you to feign an emergency to escape a boring meeting or bad blind date.

On China Forum

<http://bbs.chinadaily.com.cn/>

**Pictures:** Selection of entries for the 24th National Geographic Traveler Photo Contest.

**Discussion:** Do mosquitoes like certain blood types?

Scan it!

Read more on chinadaily.com.cn



# Military dismisses islands war fear

## Beijing hopes negotiations can resolve disputes, experts say

By **LI XIAOKUN** and **ZHAO SHENGNAN**

The military dismissed conjecture that Beijing is preparing for war to defend national territory in the South China Sea, saying the PLA opposes any armed intervention in the region.

**Inside**  
• Special coverage of PLA, pages 10, 12  
• Editorial, page 7

Defense Ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng was speaking on Tuesday at a news conference on the eve of the 85th anniversary of the PLA.

All nine members of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, in a rare appearance on Tuesday, attended a reception to mark the anniversary.

Geng's comments further clarified that Beijing wanted to solve territorial disputes through negotiation even though it has the capability to resort to armed force, experts said.

“China has indisputable sovereign rights over the South China Sea islands and their adjacent waters, and the military opposes any outside military intervention in this area,” Geng said when asked about the possibility of conflict.

China's territorial disputes with the Philippines in the South China Sea escalated sharply earlier this year after a Philippine warship harassed fishing boats in waters near China's Huangyan Island. The Philippines disputes China's sovereignty.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino announced on July 23 plans for a 75 billion peso (\$1.8 billion) fund to

upgrade the military and asked his nation to “speak with one voice” on the issue of Huangyan Island.

One day later, China officially established the city of Sansha on Yongxing Island in Hainan province, and also established a military garrison.

A regular combat-readiness patrol has been established in waters under China's jurisdiction, Geng said.

The patrol is not targeting any specific country but will protect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights, he said, adding that the PLA is “confident that it is capable” of performing the task.

A legitimate move by the navy, to protect national interests, should not be interpreted as adopting a hard line against other countries, Geng said.

“At least we can tell from Geng's remarks that, at present, China is not willing to resort to armed force to solve disputes in the South China Sea,” said Niu Jun, a professor of international politics at Peking University.

The stance is consistent with the government trying to solve the issue in a peaceful way, Niu said.

“There are hawkish voices at home, but in my view they are just acting in an irresponsible way which does not help the situation.”

Zhai Dequan, deputy secretary-general of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, believed Geng's comments are a message to Vietnam, the Philippines and Japan not to use intrigue or deceit to increase the risk of military conflict in the South China Sea or the East China Sea.

No one will benefit from war, he said.

The news conference also heard senior PLA officers address other issues.

Colonel Lin Bai, with the General Armament Department of the PLA, dismissed reports that China's aircraft carrier is ready for service, saying it will continue to undergo tests.

The military announced the aircraft carrier, the first in the

navy, exactly one year ago.

“The Great Wall was not built in a day. I hope the question can be treated in a rational and objective way,” Lin said.

Wang Yongsheng, from the PLA General Political Department, stressed China resolutely opposed any suggestion concerning the de-politicization of the army, adding that these stem from “ulterior motives”.

“The PLA was founded by, and is under the leadership of, the Communist Party of China, and the CPC's absolute leadership over the army is the army's fundamental system and principle,” said Wang.

“Our army belongs to the Party, but it also belongs to the State and to the people,” he said.

Wang said some people in other countries criticized China's military system. That criticism spread erroneous ideas. Some even suggested the Party should end its leadership of the army, according to Wang.

“Those ideas stem from ulterior motives,” said Wang. “We will resolutely oppose them.”

At the reception held at the Great Hall of the People on Tuesday evening, Defense Minister Liang Guanglie proposed a toast that “this is a year of special significance in the development of our Party and our country”.

The CPC is going to hold its 18th National Congress later this year.

The PLA will “unswervingly follow the basic principle and system of the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces”, Liang said.

“We will firmly stay committed to the path of peaceful development, follow an independent foreign policy of peace and continue to conduct friendly exchanges and cooperation with the armed forces of other countries,” the minister said.

Contact the writers at [lixiaokun@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:lixiaokun@chinadaily.com.cn) and [zhaoshengnan@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:zhaoshengnan@chinadaily.com.cn)

Xinhua contributed to this story.

## around china

BEIJING

### Red Cross urged to have spokesperson

The Red Cross Society of China should have its own spokesperson to disclose information in a timely manner, the central government said.

The State Council issued a reform guidance for the Red Cross Society of China on July 10, which was posted on the central government's website on Tuesday.

In it, the State Council asked authorities at provincial and ministry levels to straighten out relations with the Red Cross Society of China so that the latter can play a bigger role in humanitarian aid.

“The Red Cross Society should establish and improve its spokesperson system in order to disclose information to the public in a way that is timely, comprehensive, true and precise,” said the reform guidance, which required governments at provincial levels to improve the information disclosure of local Red Cross branches.

The guidance also suggested establishing an audit system for the Red Cross Society of China to strengthen the inspection of how the donations are used.

### Police chiefs complete training

The Ministry of Public Security said on Tuesday that more than 1,400 county- and city-level police chiefs who have been appointed since 2010 have finished their training.

The police chiefs were trained in three groups successively in Beijing from June 26 to Tuesday, according to the ministry.

Public Security Minister and State Councilor Meng Jianzhu said on Tuesday at the closing session of the training program that the police should improve their work in grassroots areas and innovate in order to maintain national security and social stability.

The police chiefs should also enhance their sense of urgency and responsibility, clarify their job-related goals and intensify measures to achieve these goals, he said.

### 17,000 grads to serve in W China

A total of 17,000 graduates will be sent to western China to conduct volunteer work and hold positions at the community level, according to a statement from a symposium held by the Central Committee of the China Communist Youth League on Tuesday.

To date, 170,000 graduates in 10 groups have volunteered for one to three years in communities in central and western China under a plan established in 2003 by government bodies including the ministries of education and finance.

Fourteen groups, or more than 6,500 young volunteers, have been sent to teach in poverty-stricken areas for one year since a first group of volunteer teachers was dispatched in 1999.

According to the symposium, 429 graduates were selected from China's leading universities as “excellent contributors to the western regions”, and they will serve in various positions in government offices and enterprises in the western regions.

QINGHAI

### 7 dead in truck, pickup collision

Seven people died and 12 others were injured when a heavy truck collided head-on with a pickup truck early on Tuesday in Northwest China's Qinghai province.

The two vehicles crashed at 4 am near Da Qaidam township, Haixi Mongol-Tibetan autonomous prefecture, on National Highway No 315, which runs from Xining to Kashgar, the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, a provincial traffic police officer said.

Four people were in the cab of the large truck, and the pickup was carrying five in the crew cab and 13 on the truck bed, the police officer said.

Seven people died at the scene, and the 12 seriously injured were rushed to hospital, he said.

### Lake protection plan adopted

China has approved a conserva-



### TEARS OF JOY

PHOTO BY LIU XU / XINHUA

Suo Shijun, a miner who was rescued from a collapsed coal mine in Pu'an, Guizhou province, hugs his wife in the Qianxinan Bouyei-Miao Autonomous Prefecture People's Hospital on Monday. Five miners, who had been trapped in the Anlilai Coal Mine since the accident on July 25, were all rescued on Sunday.

tion program for an inland plateau lake in Qinghai province, local environmental protection authorities said on Tuesday.

Under the program, approved this month by the ministries of environmental protection and finance, 430 million yuan (\$68.3 million) will be invested over three years to protect the environment of the Keluke Lake on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the provincial environmental protection department said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 57.4-square-kilometer lake

in the northeast of the Qaidam Basin, Haixi Mongol-Tibetan autonomous prefecture, is the only freshwater lake in an ethnic group prefecture and is a major water conservation area in Qinghai, the statement said.

It has been dubbed “Lovers' Lake” because birds migrate there in spring and summer to reproduce.

Local industrial development, population growth in the Qaidam area and overfishing in recent years have polluted the water and caused wetland degradation.

HEBEI

### State Council approves New Area

The State Council on Monday approved the establishment of the Cao-feidian New Area in Hebei province.

The zone is a 4.59-square kilometer area slated for high-end services and the advanced equipment manufacturing industry, said a statement on the website of the Cao-feidian New Area.

Preferential policies from the central and the provincial government for the zone will promote high-tech

industries with high added value, high taxation-generating potential and comprehensive logistics.

The zone — the first in the province — is now open to investment. A total of 18 projects are already inked with investments of 3.5 billion yuan (\$553.3 million) and 17 projects with a total investment of 4 billion yuan are being negotiated.

The zone neighbors Beijing and Tianjin and will radiate its influence to the northeast, north and northwest areas.

CHINA DAILY — XINHUA

# Key meeting stresses growth still the priority

## Economic goals targeted amid global slowdown

By **LAN LAN**

[lanlan@chinadaily.com.cn](mailto:lanlan@chinadaily.com.cn)

Stable growth was reaffirmed as a priority as were maintaining fiscal and monetary policies to combat turbulent global conditions.

Current economic growth is within expectations, but external conditions remain grim and pose difficulties and challenges, according to a statement released on Tuesday after a meeting of the Political

Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, presided over by President Hu Jintao.

The statement highlighted the importance of understanding the risks and being fully alert to them, according to Xinhua News Agency.

Weakening demand from Europe and other trade partners have hit China's exports and, combined with a cooling property sector, slowed growth to 7.6 percent in the second quarter, the lowest level in three years.

Economists forecast that the economy will rebound in the second half of the year.

The committee pledged to cut taxes and maintain moder-

ate credit growth.

The government will beef up support for key projects and implement policies that allow private capital to play a bigger role, the committee said, adding that foreign trade policies will remain consistent.

It also vowed to expand domestic demand, develop the real economy, accelerate reform and improve living standards in the second half.

At the same time, the committee said it will firmly implement cooling policies to curb speculative demand and increase supplies of smaller apartments and subsidized housing.

And at a meeting with a

number of business leaders and members of democratic parties last week, President Hu called for measures to increase the support of fiscal and monetary policies on the real economy and to expand domestic demand.

Hu also called for more efforts to ensure agricultural production, boost small businesses and stabilize jobs, adding that authorities must remain alert against economic risks and closely monitor the global economy.

And Premier Wen Jiabao said although there are signs of stabilization, the economy still faces “relatively big downward pressures”.

The government will further

step up policy fine-tuning, to make it more “targeted, forward looking and effective”, he said.

China will give a higher priority to maintaining stable economic growth, Wen said.

Further tax cuts will be introduced, value-added tax trials will be expanded and measures implemented to support small businesses, he said.

Wen also said China will encourage steady growth in credit.

The government has cut interest rates twice since early June and reduced bank reserve requirements three times since November.

Some banks have asked their

branches to boost lending to local government financing vehicles, the China Securities Journal said citing unidentified sources on Tuesday.

The branches are being instructed to give credit support to roads, railways, natural gas and clean energy projects, it said.

Measures to increase public investment, to be financed largely by credit, will be the most important ones in the near term to aid growth, Wang Tao, a Hong Kong-based economist at UBS AG, said.

Economists have ruled out the possibility of launching a mass stimulus package as authorities did in 2009. However, some local governments

have announced stimulus plans, with Changsha last week unveiling an 829 billion yuan (\$130 billion) investment plan.

“More local governments may follow suit,” said Zhang Zhiwei, chief China economist at Nomura Holdings Inc.

“The local government will need financing from banks to implement projects,” he said.

But economists also warned of implementing a broader relaxation of credit. Relaxing control of lending to local governments may cause rising local debt. In 2010, local government debt was up to 10.7 trillion yuan.

Xinhua contributed to this story.