

## [Fugitive Guo Wengui's company fined, employees sentenced for fraud](#)

A company of one of China's most-wanted fugitives Guo Wengui has been fined 150 million yuan (\$22.3 million) for crimes of fraudulently obtaining loans and bill acceptance, according to a court ruling issued Friday.

Two employees of Henan Yuda Real Estate Company were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 18 months to two years and another employee was exempted from criminal penalty, according to Kaifeng City Intermediate People's Court.

The defendants said they committed the crimes under direction from Guo Wengui.

Guo, the "actual controlling shareholder" of the company, fled China under suspicion of multiple crimes in August 2014 and is currently listed under an Interpol "red notice" for wanted fugitives.

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## [China publishes first encyclopedia of ethnic groups](#)

China has published its first encyclopedia of its 56 ethnic groups.

The 15-volume encyclopedia has more than 45,000 entries and 6,400 color images. It deals mainly with the history, politics, military, religions and customs of the ethnic groups.

The Han ethnic group makes up around 91% of the total population, according to the 2010 census.

Some 1,000 researchers have been involved in compiling the encyclopedia since 1997, according to the editor-in-chief Li Dezhu.

Late ethnologist Fei Xiaotong, also honorary editor-in-chief, said in the foreword that the book will open a window for the world to understand China's ethnic groups.

Fei passed away in 2005.

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# High-speed rail opens in Inner Mongolia

The first high-speed railway in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region was opened on Thursday.



An attendant serves a passenger on a high-speed train at Hohhot East Train Station in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region on Thursday morning. [Photo/China Daily]

According to China Railway Corp, the national railway operator, the new line has reduced the fastest rail journey between Ulanqab and Hohhot, the capital, from 56 minutes to 39 minutes. The cheapest ticket costs 44 yuan (\$6.7).

The bullet train runs at 250 kilometers per hour. Ten bullet train services are scheduled daily.

The new 126-km line will be part of a 286.8-km high-speed railway that will connect Hohhot with Zhangjiakou, co-host of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, in Hebei province.

The finished railway, with a designed speed of 250 km/h, will be a major artery in North China upon its completion.

It is expected to be finished and put into service next year. At that time, the Zhangjiakou-Hohhot high-speed rail will be connected to the Beijing-Zhangjiakou railway, which is currently under construction. Travel time from Hohhot to Beijing will be reduced from an average nine hours to less than three hours.

Last year, China's high-speed network reached 22,000 km, accounting for 65

percent of the world's total high-speed rail.

According to a plan released by the National Development and Reform Commission in July last year, China will expand high-speed rail to 30,000 km by 2020, linking 80 percent of its major cities. By 2030, the network is planned to link all cities with populations of more than 500,000.

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## [Commuters push train to rescue trapped passenger in Beijing](#)

Commuters at Dongzhimen subway station in downtown Beijing made a joint push of a train and free a passenger sandwiched between a carriage and the platform in a dramatic rescue on Thursday night.



Beijing: pushing train to rescue trapped subway passenger

When the person got stuck at around 8 pm, subway staff tried to push the train on their own but failed. Commuters volunteered en masse to help, shouting "One, two, three" to time their efforts.

The incident ended with a round of applause at 8:12 pm when the passenger was rescued.

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# Construction of world's 2nd largest hydropower station begins

Construction started on Thursday on what is to be the world's second-largest hydropower project, the Baihetan hydropower station, which is expected to enter operation by 2022.



A ceremony is held to mark the start of the construction of Baihetan hydropower station in Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, Southwest China's Sichuan province, Aug 3, 2017.

It will be second only to the Three Gorges dam in terms of total installed capacity, weighing in at 16 gigawatts of capacity and an average annual output of more than 62 billion kilowatt-hours, according to China Three Gorges Corp, the dam's builder.

After six years of preliminary construction, the site is ready for the main project work, including building the dam and excavating underground tunnels, the builder said on Thursday.

Experts think the operation of the Baihetan dam, on the Jinsha River, an upstream branch of the Yangtze River, will substantially boost the share of hydropower in the country's energy mix while upgrading the power structure of the country's power grid.

China is rich in hydropower resources, and the Baihetan hydropower station will represent a good utilization of those resources while reducing

greenhouse gas emissions caused by coal burning, according to Wang Hao, academician with the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

“While China is currently still relying on fossil energy, clean energy and renewable energy utilization will be an important direction for China’s energy consumption in the future,” Wang said.

“Hydropower development in the upper reaches of Yangtze River still has a lot of potential to be further tapped.”

As a major west-to-east electricity transmission project and an important move to develop China’s resource-rich but otherwise poor western region, the Baihetan hydropower station, spanning Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, will meet the demand for power in both provinces, while supplying power to the East China Power Grid, Central China Power Grid and China Southern Power Grid, corporation officials said.

The station, located in Ningnan county in Sichuan and Qiaojia county in Yunnan, will replace thermal power generating capacity of more than 62.44 billion kWh and 19.68 million metric tons of coal each year. It also will reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 51.6 million tons, sulfur dioxide by 170,000 tons, nitrogen oxide by 150,000 tons and dust by 220,000 tons each year, officials said.

The dam is built on the main stream of the lower reaches of the Jinsha River, and while it is designed mainly for power generation, other functions include flood control, improvement of downstream navigation and development of transportation via water in the reservoir area.

To meet China’s goals on energy conservation and emission reductions, the country intends to reach an installed capacity for hydropower of 380 gigawatts by 2020 as it seeks cheaper and cleaner alternatives to coal and weans itself off polluting fossil fuels.