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# Ctrip day care center abuse suspects held

Video footage shows staff members at facility treating young children roughly

By CAO CHEN in Shanghai  
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Prosecutors specializing in crimes against children in Shanghai's Changning district have taken up a case of child abuse that allegedly took place at the in-house day care center

of Ctrip, a major online travel agency.

Video footage, which has gone viral since Monday, shows staff members at the center treating children roughly, causing some to fall. Some children were forced to swallow a substance investiga-

tors identified as mustard. Ctrip alerted police to the incident on Tuesday.

According to the police, the children involved are between 18 and 24 months old.

Three suspects — a custodian, a day care worker and the teacher in charge of the class — have been detained and charged with child abuse. A fourth person, the head of the center, is being charged with dereliction of duty.

Ctrip has formed its own investigative team that will review the center's surveillance footage over the past three months.

All classes at the center were suspended on Thursday.

Operations at the center are managed by a company called Modern Family Magazine, Ctrip said.

The Shanghai Women's Federation, which is a shareholder in the company and a direct

supervisor, announced on social media on Thursday that the four suspects have been fired. It also apologized to the families of the affected children.

The case provoked public shock, anger and discussion.

More than 18.7 million netizens joined an online discussion group on Sina Weibo to comment on the case.

While condemning the suspects involved, some netizens

said they thought supervision of the child care center was lax. Others questioned whether the day care staff and others were sufficiently qualified to take care of children. Many saw regulatory and supervisory negligence as the main problem.

A comment from one netizen was popular: "We want justice for the victims and protection for children in day care."

## Chinese scientists identify genetic pathway in aging

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai  
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Chinese scientists studying a worm have found the first genetic pathway underlying natural variation in aging, which could provide insights for the development of interventions to slow down the process in humans.

They found that the combination of a certain neuropeptide coding gene and its receptor gene controls the stress reaction of a "longevity gene", which regulates the rate of aging.

The more active the coding gene and the stronger the receptor gene, the more rapid aging occurs, according to the team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Neuroscience.

An article about their study, which took more than five years, was published on Thursday in the journal Nature.

Uncovering the genetic secrets of the aging rate is significant, as the average age of the global population is rising fast. Aging is also a major risk factor for diseases, such as cancers and diabetes, the researchers said.

According to the United Nations, the number of people age 60 or older hit 1 billion worldwide this year and will rise to 3.1 billion by 2100.

"When people live longer, they begin to care more about healthy aging, which means keeping healthy and youthful and having a better quality of life in their twilight years, like some lucky ones do," said Cai Shiqing, the team's lead researcher.

One peer review of the article said the results will be of interest to the readers of Nature because of the general lack of information about how natural genetic varia-

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tion regulates aging, and the role of neuromodulatory signaling in the process.

Lab experiments were conducted on *Caenorhabditis elegans*, a transparent worm about 1 millimeter in length that lives in temperate soil environments. It is the basis of the animal model widely used for age-related research because of its clear genetic profile and short life span — an average of three weeks.

The tiny free-living worms from different parts of the world show varied rates of decline in virility, eating and locomotion during aging.

Researchers said they have not yet found the worms' neuropeptide in the human body.

"But we know that animal evolution is conservative, and if we carry on with further studies we're confident that we will probably find that the mechanism underlying the aging rate of mammals is the same as for the worms," said Mu-Ming Poo, director of the institute and an academician of the science academy.

"Healthy human life can be extended if there is a way to target these genes in the future," he said.

## Lighting up public awareness



Firefighters participate in a rescue exercise in Xingyi, Guizhou province, on Thursday. The date, Nov 9, reflects China's emergency telephone number for fires — 119 — making it the ideal day to raise public awareness of fire safety. LIU CHAOFU / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Beijing casts recruiting net overseas for talent

By LI LILEI  
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Beijing is offering 17 government posts to highly qualified people overseas to improve the decision-making capacity and global perspective of the local government.

The jobs, which were offered recently, are part of the city's third round of overseas talent recruitment that targets both qualified foreigners and Chinese nationals who are living overseas.

The 17 positions include four in the municipal government and 13 divided among 10 of Beijing's district governments, according to a report on Thursday in Beijing Daily.

For detailed job information, applicants can visit

bjrcgz.gov.cn, bjrbj.gov.cn, 8610hr.cn or juxian.com.

The first round of recruitment began in 2012. At that time, only seven high-level posts were available.

According to Beijing's regulation on government jobs for overseas talent, "high-level" refers to individuals who have earned a doctorate at a prestigious university outside China, and have held a high position at well-known institutions of higher learning, enterprises, financial institutions, law firms, international organizations, NGOs or governments.

Successful candidates will be eligible for a salary in line with international standards and will be included in the Beijing overseas talent gather-

ing project. Participants in the project are eligible for favorable policies, including salary, Beijing household registration and social security benefits.

Ge Wei, marketing manager of Lockin China, a website that provides job information to Chinese students overseas, said workers in Chinese governments who were trained outside the country can help domestic enterprises develop overseas markets because they understand both China and the world.

"Many of them have studied at the world's top universities or worked in the top 500 companies, so they know the trends and direction of each field well. Their presence in government will drive

progress in different fields," she said.

As many still lack clear expectations about working in government, only a small percentage of highly qualified foreigners or Chinese nationals will choose to do so. Therefore the program is bound to improve the situation, she said.

"The Lockin China survey shows that foreign enterprises would be the first choice for the majority of overseas students if they come back to China. The second-most-popular choice is State-owned enterprises," she said.

"People who choose to work for government are few and far between. I believe the move will promote understanding and draw more overseas talent to the government sector."

## Guard gets 15 years for armored truck heist

By WU YONG in Shenyang  
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An armored truck guard who stole 6 million yuan (\$904,000) was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a court in Liaoning province on Thursday.

Li Xuyi was hired by a security company in July last year and was responsible for transporting cash from the Yingkou branch of Agricultural Bank of China to a storage center.

In September last year, Li diverted an armored truck he was escorting from its normal route and disarmed the guard in the passenger seat by threatening him with a "black gun", which was

**6 million yuan**

was stolen by Li Xuyi, a security guard who was responsible for taking cash to a storage area.

found later not to be a real firearm.

Li took 1 million yuan with him and stashed the rest in two locations, one near the crime scene and another in an adjacent neighborhood.

He was detained at his home eight hours after the robbery. All the money was recovered by police. Li pleaded guilty to robbing the truck.

By CANG WEI in Nanjing  
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Many provinces and cities on the Chinese mainland are introducing favorable investment policies to help young people from Taiwan start their careers, especially in technology-intensive industries.

The Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council has set up 53 cross-Straits youth employment and entrepreneurship bases in 12 provinces and cities across the country to support young people from Taiwan. The bases provide consultation and financial support.

Many local governments also offer preferential policies, including tax deductions, and some even invite successful entrepreneurs to give lectures and advice to new arrivals.

"A growing number of young people from Taiwan are



A visitor in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, checks artwork made of cartons by an exhibitor during an exhibition of products manufactured on the Chinese mainland by Taiwan-invested enterprises on Tuesday. CUI XIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

choosing to work or start their careers on the mainland," said Li Quanlin, former vice-governor of Jiangsu province and one of the organizers of the recently convened 2017 Cross-Straits Entrepreneurs Zijin Mountain Summit.

"It has become a trend. The younger generation is the future of cross-Straits cooperation," Li said.

According to the official website of the government of Jiangsu, which attracts about 33 percent of Taiwan's total

investment on the mainland, the province approved 351 investment projects from Taiwan between January and August.

So far, the province has attracted 26,000 such projects. In more than 6,000 of those, the investment exceeded \$10 million.

"The mainland has a larger market and more opportunities," said Wang Tsun-huang, executive vice-president of the Taiwan Youth Entrepreneurship Institute, which was established in Nanjing in July.

"Many young people from Taiwan have come to the mainland and do well in many areas, including the cultural and creative industries."

According to the provincial government, about 2,800 young people from Taiwan started businesses in Jiangsu in 2016.

Lou Qinjian, Party chief of Jiangsu, said the province will

### Briefly

#### SICHUAN 3,800 kung fu masters gather

About 3,800 kung fu masters from around the world converged on Mount Emei in Sichuan province to participate in a world martial arts competition on Tuesday. The 7th World Kung Fu Championship kicked off in Emeishan city and will run until Saturday. Of the athletes at the biennial event, 2,400 are Chinese and 1,400 are overseas competitors from 56 countries and regions, according to the organizers.

#### ZHEJIANG Balcony killer gets death sentence

A man surnamed Xue was sentenced to death for killing a woman he had pursued for eight years, Hangzhou Intermediate People's Court announced on Thursday. Xue, 27, pushed the woman, 26, off a 19th-floor balcony on March 21 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province. The incident occurred after Xue discovered that the woman had a boyfriend, and after she rebuffed his physical advances. The two were high school classmates.

#### CHONGQING Monitors spot cellphone misuse

A high-tech highway monitoring system in Chongqing can tell if drivers are using their cellphones. The system, which is being tested in one district in the city, automatically captures images of drivers with unfastened seat belts or who are talking on the phone. So far, 145 cases of cellphone misuse and 307 cases of unfastened seat belts have been reported. The Chongqing traffic police are considering expanding the system to the rest of the city.

#### GUANGDONG 1,420 detained in gang crackdown

Police in Guangdong province said on Thursday that they had busted more than 130 gangs and detained about 1,420 suspects in a major crackdown on organized crime. The police began preparing the anti-gang operation in the first half of the year by probing gangs accused of terrorizing local people over issues including land leases, construction, private lending and mining. Detentions started in late September.

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## Cross-Straits youth employment, entrepreneurship bases created

By CANG WEI in Nanjing  
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Many local governments also offer preferential policies, including tax deductions, and some even invite successful entrepreneurs to give lectures and advice to new arrivals.

"A growing number of young people from Taiwan are

continue to offer preferential policies and establish more entrepreneurship bases to help people from Taiwan study, work and live on the mainland.

"We encourage universities and young people from Jiangsu and Taiwan to form effective communication systems," said Lou. "Through communication they can become good friends and good partners that grow together."

Wang Jianmin, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of Taiwan Studies, said that businesspeople from Taiwan should focus on the so-called new economies — the digital, sharing and green sectors.

"They should not rely on cheap land and labor provided by the mainland to develop labor-intensive industries as they used to do," Wang said. "They need to adapt to new circumstances and innovate."