

## Applicants for public service



Applicants line up to enter classrooms at Nanjing Forestry University, a National Public Servant Exam testing center, in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on Sunday. Nationwide, more than 1.1 million people took the test. More than 28,000 positions are available for examinees, but only one of every 39 candidates is expected to land a government job this year. SUN CAN / XINHUA

# Baby sitter held for abuse

Assault in elevator captured on video; child was struck 14 times in 1 minute

By CAO YIN  
caoyin@chinadaily.com.cn

A baby sitter who allegedly struck a baby multiple times in an elevator in Zhengzhou, Henan province, has been detained after a video of the assault aroused public outrage during the past week, local police said over the weekend.

The public security bureau on the city's Dongfeng Road posted a statement on Saturday evening verifying the suspect as a 42-year-old baby sitter surnamed Li. It said the woman is under administrative detention for assault.

"We received a report saying the woman hit the baby while taking an elevator in her community at around 6 pm on Tuesday," the police said in the statement. "We quickly came to the scene and controlled the baby sitter.

Surveillance camera footage we obtained clearly showed her offense in the elevator."

Further investigation is underway, it added.

Information about the baby, including the age, gender and the health condition, were not disclosed.

Beijing News quoted a community management officer as saying on Sunday that the child is doing well. A neighbor of the family told the paper that the child is currently being cared for by a relative.

The case aroused intense public attention as the video, which showed the woman in the act of assault, spread online over the past week.

In the video, the woman, wearing a black down jacket, red pants and glasses, picked up the baby from another person on the 29th floor of the building. After the elevator's

door closed, she first struck the crying baby's belly, followed by its head and back. Within one-minute in the elevator, she struck the baby 14 times, the video showed.

Many netizens, together with members of the Chinese media, expressed anger and forwarded the video to police, hoping the authorities would investigate the case and identify the woman.

Cases of baby sitters abusing infants have come to light more than once this year.

Last month, an official website in Shandong province reported that a baby sitter was given 14 days of administrative detention after she slapped a 1-year-old child. The baby sitter's company also paid 3,000 yuan (\$453) in compensation to the child's family.

Chutian Metropolis Daily, a newspaper based in Hubei province, also reported in April that parents of a 2-year-old girl called police after they found that their baby sitter

had assaulted the child — kicking her and pushing her down — when they were not home.

Hong Daode, a professor of criminal law at China University of Political Science and Law, said the punishment for such baby sitters depends on how seriously they hurt the child. "If the damage is severe, the offender may face criminal liability for intentional injury," he said.

If the harm is not great, administrative detention and compensation are the more common means of punishment, he said.

## Water quality improvements visible with river chief system

By XING YI in Wuxi, Jiangsu  
xingyi@chinadaily.com.cn

China's river chief system — in which government officials are assigned to take charge of protecting waterways in their area — is steadily being rolled out nationwide as part of a broad effort to prevent pollution.

The central government pledged in December last year that the system would cover the entire country within two years.

Now at the halfway point, river chiefs have been installed in the key Taihu Lake Basin, covering Shanghai and parts of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui and Fujian provinces.

More than 34,000 river chiefs have been appointed in the area at each level of government, according to the Ministry of Water Resources' Taihu Basin Authority.

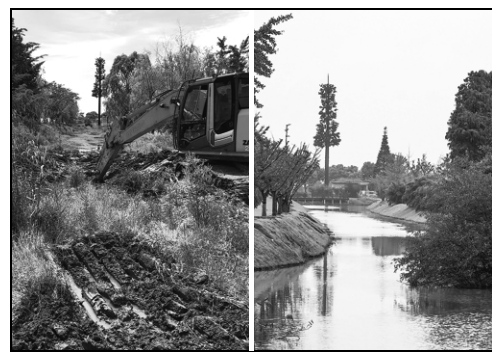
"We are assisting in the evaluation of the system by those provinces," said Wu Wenqing, director of the authority. "The ministry will organize a third-party evaluation whose results will be submitted to the provincial river chief offices in January."

The system had its beginnings at Taihu Lake, answering a crisis a decade ago in Wuxi, Jiangsu province.

Liu Xia, the vice-mayor of Wuxi, remembers it clearly.

Wuxi, on the northern shore, depends on the lake for its water supply. In the summer of 2007, large quantities of foul-smelling blue-green algae contaminated the local water supply for several days, affecting more than 1.5 million residents and sparking panic buying of bottled water.

"Wuxi officials and residents developed strong environmental awareness from that incident," Liu said.



Left: The Gujiadu River in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, was nearly blocked by mud during dredging in August last year. Right: The river in October after the dredging. It has become a place of leisure for nearby residents. SHEN BOHAN / XINHUA

### ENVIRONMENT ACTION IN A NEW ERA

In response, the Wuxi government released water quality targets and assessment measures and appointed top city and district officials to be responsible for the water quality of 79 sections of waterways under city jurisdiction.

Those officials got the informal title "river chief", and the system spread in Jiangsu and later to nearby provinces.

Because the river chiefs are usually highly placed in the local government or Party committee structure, they have an advantage in coordinating interdepartmental efforts to solve water problems.

Liu is river chief of the 9-square-kilometer Lihu Lake, which links to Taihu Lake. Her name and contact information are posted on a sign at the lake listing her as responsible for preventing water pollution.

"I come to inspect the lake every week," Liu said. "The water quality has become so good that I've recently had to

deal with many cases of illegal fishing reported by local residents."

Wang Suxiang, deputy director of the Houqiao sub-district, is river chief of three rivers in the area. He said he knew little about water pollution when he was appointed in 2009 but has since learned a lot. He summarized 10 common causes of declining water quality, including over-use of fertilizers and factory waste disposal.

Wuxi resident Ji Beilei, 33, said she could tell the water was getting better by sight and by the improved smell over the past decade.

"After the 2007 water incident, we installed a water purifier at home. At first, we had to replace the filter seven times a year, but now we only replace it twice," she said.

Since 2007, the average water quality in Taihu Lake has risen from below Grade V, the lowest level of China's water grading system, to Grade IV. More than half the lake's 22 major feeder streams have reached Grade III, according to the Taihu Basin Authority.

## Safe: Gun crimes down sharply

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public order studies at People's Public Security University of China, said continuous joint efforts on fighting crime, the deployment of technological tools to track crimes and the inclusiveness of the Chinese culture, are all reasons for China's high safety level.

"The Chinese culture has been an integration of cultures of different ethnic groups in the long history of the country. People raised in such a diverse cultural environment do not hold discrimination or hostility toward people from other cultures, making people from other countries feel secure and comfortable," he said.

Armando Raphael Lydon Busquets, 20, of California, US, said he constantly heard gunshots, police sirens and similar noises back home.

"You'd see a lot of shady people, and it would always be in the local news about something bad happening with someone," said Lydon Busquets, a student at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

Data from the Ministry of Public Security show that China has seen a stable number of gun-related crimes in recent years and the number of gun-related violent crimes, such as murder, robbery and kidnapping, has dropped sharply.

Between August 2016 and

July, police cracked about 3,800 illegal weapons cases and fire-arms purchases and detained 25,000 suspects, the ministry said.

The ministry launched a campaign targeting gun-related crime in July, which will run through the end of the year.

Apart from gun-related crime, the number of other violent cases in 2016, such as homicide, arson and robbery, also declined 43 percent since 2012, the ministry said.

Cao Yin and Zheng Yumeng contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at  
zhaoxinying@chinadaily.com.cn



### What they say

A lot of the infrastructure in China is really up-to-date, so in that sense it's quite modern and safe. It doesn't seem to have any problems with drugs, drunkenness, street violence or anything like that. I feel quite safe here. If I have been on a night out, I will quite happily walk around until I find a taxi.

Alex East, 23, from Suffolk, United Kingdom, moved to Beijing in October

In my experience, Beijing is a very safe city, much more so than the countries in the West that I've lived in. In terms of safety, violent crime is not something that I've seen to be very common here. At least in

my experience, violence is generally quite rare. Theft is another story. For instance, many of my friends have had their bike batteries or bicycles stolen.

Fionn Clifford, 18, from Ireland, has lived in China for seven years and has visited many cities

In terms of public safety, I think China is probably the safest place in the world right now. In my opinion, after what's going on in Europe or America, I feel way safer in Asia especially China. I've been living in Paris for one year, and I can say that during the daytime it's pretty safe, but during nighttime there's a lot of people who will try to rob or abuse you. In Beijing I feel

very safe walking the streets at 3 am without being scared at all.

Eugene Mommejac, 18, from France

It's overall a safe place. I forgot my bag with my passport and laptop on a local bus, but I found it with only two or three calls. So I think China is safe compared with many other countries, especially my country. If you lose something on a public bus in my country, it's not possible to get it back.

Soilesh Karmacharya, a 27-year-old Nepalese who is studying for a doctorate in business management in Beijing

— STEVEN RIBET AND ZHAO XINYING

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