

## Police in SW China investigating orphan 'fight club': report



Reports say that two 14-year-old orphans from Liangshan had been adopted by the owner of a fight club in Sichuan's capital, Chengdu, for the sole purpose of becoming cage fighters. [Screenshot: qq.com]

Education authorities in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, have dispatched a team to try to recover orphans who have allegedly been adopted into a human 'cockfighting' ring, reports thepaper.cn.

This follows reports that two 14-year-old orphans from Liangshan had been adopted by the owner of a fight club in Sichuan's capital, Chengdu, for the sole purpose of becoming cage fighters. Video has reportedly surfaced showing the teenagers fighting each other in an iron cage while surrounded by people yelling and taking pictures.

Local police in Chengdu have reportedly launched an investigation as well.

Officials with the Education Bureau in Butuo County, Liangshan, say the two teenagers will be returned to their boarding school if it's proven they've been adopted for the sole purpose of becoming fighters.

Local authorities in Liangshan have also ordered investigations to determine if others may have been adopted from the city by the same owner of the 'fight club.'

The man who adopted the teenagers is reportedly a military veteran who has taken in around 400 children since 2000.

The man who is in charge of the club responded that the previous reports of the club displayed incomplete information.

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## **HK to implement one-stop boundary control at cross-border railway station**

The government of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Tuesday announced a one-stop boundary control arrangement at the cross-border railway station in West Kowloon.

The move allows passengers to go through the customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) procedures of both Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland successively at the West Kowloon Station (WKS) in Hong Kong, according to the implementation plan announced at a press conference.

The implementation plan was approved earlier Tuesday by members of the Executive Council of the HKSAR.

Under the arrangement, CIQ officials from the Chinese mainland will work in a designated area at the WKS building after the commissioning of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

The arrangement is similar to the co-located immigration and customs facilities at the Shenzhen Bay Port, which has been welcomed by many travelers since it was commissioned in 2007.

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## **Police investigate illegal gathering of pyramid scheme members**

Beijing police are investigating some members of Shanxinhui, a company suspected of organizing and leading a pyramid scheme after they gathered in Beijing on Monday, authorities said.

According to a statement by Beijing police, "some members of Shanxinhui were incited by those with ulterior intentions to illegally gather in Beijing, seriously disturbing the capital's social order."

The gathering is suspected of breaking laws and rules, it said.

The statement also said police persuaded the demonstrators to leave in an orderly manner. Those who "took the lead in creating trouble and refusing to listen to police orders" have been taken away for further investigation.

Police said the activity was illegal and those who incite, organize and participate in illegal gatherings in China will be punished.

Previously, Chinese police have cracked down on Shanxinhui, which allegedly manipulated and talked people into taking part in pyramid selling and swindled them out of huge amounts of property under the guise of helping the poor.

Zhang Tianming, legal representative of the company, and other suspects have been put under coercive measures, which may include summons by force, bail, residential surveillance, detention or arrest.

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## Natural disasters kill 402 in China this year

Natural disasters across China have left at least 402 people dead and 129 missing since the beginning of the year, an official with the Ministry of Civil Affairs said Tuesday.

The most notable events were floods and landslides, said Pang Chenmin, head of the disaster relief division of the ministry, adding that other disasters also occurred, including drought, hail, typhoons, earthquakes, mudslides, snowstorms and forest fires.

In total, natural disasters caused 170.46 billion yuan (25.3 billion U.S. dollars) in direct economic losses and 3.58 million residents were relocated. More than 200,000 houses were severely damaged and 12.33 million hectares of crops were affected, with 1 million hectares destroyed.

Total damage in the first seven months of the year was less than that over the same period in the years from from 2009 to 2016, Pang said.

The central government has allocated funds of about 1.2 billion yuan to help people in disaster-hit areas, and sent disaster relief materials to guarantee basic living needs.

The ministry and the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction have sent nine emergency teams to assist relief work on the ground.

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# Xi calls for united efforts to deepen military reform

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for all-out efforts to push forward military reform with the support of the entire nation and the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks Monday afternoon at a group study attended by members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The group study focused on reform of the military in size, structure, and formation.