

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“We want to support China in this endeavor ... We are now promoting awareness of farm animal welfare.”

VINCENT MARTIN,

the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization representative for China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, saying China has made quick progress in farm animal welfare, although it is taking time for full public recognition of the issue.



ON THE SUBJECT OF ADMINISTRATION

Confucius said: 'There are three things that a superior person venerates. He venerates the law of cause and effect. He venerates virtuous people or people with superior status. He venerates the teachings given by saints and sages. A petty person on the other hand, is ignorant of the law of cause and effect and therefore does not venerate it. He also treats his superior frivolously and ridicules the teachings of saints and sages.'

Scroll 9: Lun Yu

Editor's note: This is an extract from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*, based on 360 passages excerpted from the original compilation of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. *Qunshu Zhiyao* or *The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, commissioned by Emperor Tang Taizong of the Tang Dynasty in the seventh century, contains advice, methods and historical notes on the successes and failures of the imperial governments of China. Today it continues to be relevant as a source of inspiration for self-improvement, family management and interpersonal relations.

Researcher who edited human gene suspended

He Jiankui, the Chinese researcher who claimed to have created the world's first gene-edited babies, has been suspended from any scientific activities amid mounting questions from government agencies and academicians about the experiment.

In a fertilized human egg cell, He sought to disable a gene that forms a protein doorway that allows the HIV virus to enter, intending to make the resulting person resistant to HIV.

“The case, as media have reported, is a blatant violation of China's laws and regulations, and it breaks the bottom line of academic morality and ethics,” Xu Nanping, vice-minister of science and technology, said in an interview with China Central Television. “It's shocking and unacceptable.”

Xu said the ministry has ordered relevant authorities to suspend all scientific activity of people involved with the case, and will mete out punishments based on the results of the investigation.

Industrial profits continue to slow

Profit growth among China's industrial firms cooled for a sixth straight month in October due to softening factory prices and a high comparative base effect, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Nov 27.

Analysts said the weakening trend may continue into next year amid overall economic growth easing.

Profits of China's major industrial firms rose 3.6 percent in October from a year earlier to 548 billion yuan (\$78.9 billion), a seven-month low, down from 4.1 percent in September. Industrial profits grew 13.6 percent year-on-year in the January-October period, down from 14.7 percent for the January-September period.

“The slowing profit growth was mainly due to falling factory prices of industrial products and the high base the previous year,” He Ping, a senior NBS official, said in a statement.

Li calls for close ties with ROK, Britain

Premier Li Keqiang called for the long-term healthy development of relations with the Republic of



Tianjin Symphony Orchestra conductor Tang Muhai (right) plays ping-pong with a musician from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the Tianjin Grand Theatre in North China on Nov 26. Other members of the two orchestras also participated in the match. The Vienna orchestra later performed with Chinese pianist Lang Lang at the theater to kick off its China tour, which ended on Dec 3. TONG YU / FOR CHINA DAILY

Korea (ROK) and the United Kingdom during meetings with guests from the two countries.

On Nov 27, Li met with 17 participants in the second governors' meeting between China and the ROK.

The premier said China and the ROK have continued their stable development of ties with the steady promotion of exchanges at the local level and other areas.

The event was sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Governors Association of Korea. The first such event was held in Seoul in June 2016.

Also on Nov 27, Li met with former British prime minister David Cameron.

He told Cameron that China is willing to work with the UK in boosting cooperation and to safeguard rules-based multilateralism and free trade.

New aircraft carrier being built: Report

China is building its third aircraft carrier, according to a Xinhua News Agency report, the first confirmation of the project.

While the nation's second — and first domestically designed — carrier is undergoing sea trials, a “new-

generation carrier” is being constructed at a shipyard on schedule, according to an article published on Nov 26 on Xinhua's WeChat account.

The article, marking the sixth anniversary of the first takeoff and landing by a Chinese fighter on the country's first carrier, CNS *Liaoning*, did not elaborate.

Chinese weapons enthusiasts and foreign observers have long said that China had begun to build its third carrier at China State Shipbuilding Corp's Jiangnan Shipyard Group in Shanghai.

Publicity officers of the People's Liberation Army Navy and China State Shipbuilding declined to comment.

China, Vietnam fight drug trade together

Joint efforts by police from China and Vietnam have awed and frightened drug dealers in the border region, helping to improve the fight against contraband smuggling, the Ministry of Public Security said after transferring a Vietnamese national suspected of drug trafficking to Vietnamese police on Nov 26.

Nong Van Khoi is accused of helping gang members traffic over 100 kilograms of heroin to China. He was apprehended in Huizhou,

South China's Guangdong province, on Oct 25 before being handed over to Vietnamese police on Nov 26.

“The successful transfer of the Vietnamese drug kingpin reflects the fruits of enhanced law enforcement cooperation between China and Vietnam in cracking down on cross-border drug trafficking rings,” said An Guojun, deputy director of the Narcotics Control Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security.

E-tickets for fast trains to go national

All high-speed railway stations across the country will allow passengers to check in without a paper ticket next year, China Railway Corp said.

Trial operations kicked off in South China's Hainan province on Nov 22, and the results will help the railway operator improve its e-ticket service before launching it nationwide sometime next year, the company said.

Passengers who succeed in purchasing an island-looping high-speed train ticket in Hainan will have access to an information sheet that includes a QR code.

They need only swipe an identification card — a second-generation ID card for Chinese mainland

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