

## China on yellow alert for heat wave

China's meteorological authority maintained its yellow alert Friday, as a heat wave is expected to sweep across many regions of the country.

Temperatures are expected to rise above 35 degrees Celsius in Beijing and Tianjin as well as parts of Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning and Shandong, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said.

Some areas will see temperatures reach between 37 and 40 degrees Celsius, it added.

The NMC advised people in affected regions to take precautions against heat stroke and fire.

China has a four-tier weather warning system, with red representing the most severe, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

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## Teenager 'robbed to get himself detained'



A 19-year-old sought to have himself sent to a detention house in a desperate bid to overcome his gaming addiction. [File Photo]

A 19-year-old who sought to have himself sent to a detention house in a desperate bid to overcome his gaming addiction has been jailed for two years with a two-year reprieve for robbery.

Putuo District prosecutors said the defendant, identified as Xiaogang, had

followed and attempted to rob a young woman surnamed Wang outside her home in the wee hours last November 23. He fled after being told Wang's relatives were nearby.

On February 12, he followed another woman surnamed Wu and tried to drag her away as she was about to enter her home. She called for help and Xiaogang was subdued at the scene.

He told the court he was a high school student but he had quit schooling because he was addicted to computer games.

He said he came up the idea to have himself detained because he had seen an online post stating detention houses were quite comfortable. And he thought they would enable him to buckle down to study in a place where there would be no access to the Internet.

He expressed regret at causing suffering to the two women.

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## [Survey: Most Chinese want more education](#)



As many as 98 percent of Chinese workers said they aspire to take educational programs. [File Photo]

The ratio of Chinese workers with a plan for further education is double that of workers in the United States, a survey by U.S.-based networking website

LinkedIn has found.

As many as 98 percent of Chinese workers said they aspire to take educational programs, either degree programs or skills courses, according to a report published on Thursday.

A 2015 LinkedIn survey of workers in the U.S. found only 49 percent wanted more education.

Among the workers who intend to pursue advanced studies, 65 percent of Chinese respondents said they will carry out the plan within one year, compared with 51 percent of the U.S. respondents who wanted more.

Nearly half of the Chinese workers who desire further education said they will spend more than 100,000 yuan (US\$14,700) to follow through. It takes an average of 100 days from having such an idea to paying the tuition, according to the survey.

More than 500 people took the online survey, which was conducted by LinkedIn in January.

The top three reasons given by Chinese workers for adding to their education were to improve their professional skills, make themselves more competitive and enrich their life experience.

Only 21 percent of Chinese respondents said they wanted further education to get a higher salary, which was the top choice—ticked by 54 percent of the respondents globally, according to a LinkedIn survey two years ago.

“Chinese workers, especially the middle-aged ones who have reached a certain point in their career paths, show incredible passion for further education. They have a strong consciousness of crisis and want to have more control of their career development,” said Zhou Xiaodan, head of marketing solutions for LinkedIn China.

The survey also found that 4 in 10 Chinese workers preferred online education to a traditional classroom when considering programs for a career boost.

Among those who favored online education, 85 percent said it is more flexible and 64 percent said it doesn't require them to stop working.

Nearly 70 percent of women wanted to take language courses online, and 60 percent of men aimed to pick up skill training, according to the survey.

Experts believe that as technology in big data and video transmission continues to advance, the online education market will continue to boom.

Twenty percent annual growth has been seen in the online education market on the Chinese mainland since 2013, when the market size was nearly 84 billion yuan, according to local consultancy iResearch. It is expected to break 200 billion yuan in 2018.

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## Blast at kindergarten gate wreaks havoc



Medical workers transfer an injured man to hospital after an explosion at the gate of a kindergarten in Fengxian county, Jiangsu province on June 15, 2017. At least seven people were killed and 66 others injured.  
[Photo/Xinhua]

An explosion at the gate of a kindergarten in Fengxian county, Jiangsu province, at 4:50 pm on Thursday left at least seven people dead and 66 injured, nine of them seriously.

Two people were killed at the scene, and the five others died after being taken to a hospital, the Xuzhou city publicity office said in a statement. Xuzhou administers Fengxian county.

It was not yet known late Thursday what caused the blast and there was no clear information on the identities of the dead and injured, the statement said. Neither was there information on how many of the dead and injured were adults and how many were children.

Officials and police officers rushed to the scene and a preliminary investigation of the incident had been completed, the statement said.

The Fengxian county government posted online that no teachers or students were injured or killed during lessons inside the kindergarten. Photos and videos online showed many people lying outside the kindergarten gate after the blast, some of them covered in blood and burned.

A businessman near the kindergarten said he heard the explosion and that many parents were standing outside the gate waiting for their children when it occurred, Beijing Youth Daily reported online.

The newspaper also posted a video showing some injured parents holding their children and sitting on the ground after the blast.

The injured were sent to hospitals in Fengxian and Xuzhou, the Xuzhou publicity office said, adding that medical workers assisted in the rescue work.

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## Interview with Tom Elliott, 3AW

**TOM ELLIOTT:**

Joining us on the line is the Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull. Mr Turnbull, good afternoon.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Good afternoon Tom. Great to be with you.

**TOM ELLIOTT:**

Is this unusual for three of your ministers to be hauled into court to explain themselves?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well it certainly is unusual but it is not unusual for Victorians to express real concern about public safety in their state.

Those three ministers, yes they are ministers in my government, they are Members of Parliament but they are also citizens of Victoria and residents of Victoria and you know, as your listeners do, that there is real concern about law and order and the failure of the state government and the system in Victoria to protect people.

Look, I think it is a matter of the justice system, the legal system in Victoria, the criminal justice system is a matter of real public interest and my ministers are focused on public safety, they are working with me and the rest of our team and our agencies to do everything we can to keep Australians safe and defeat Islamist terrorism.

**TOM ELLIOTT:**

Will the three ministers appear in court on Friday?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

I can't answer that. I am sure they would be represented but whether they appear in person, that is a matter for them. I am not sure what arrangements they've made.

**TOM ELLIOTT:**

It is a civil or a criminal matter that they are asked to confront?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Look, it is very unusual but let me just make this point – the courts of justice are not immune from public criticism. The courts cannot be and are not immune from criticism which may extend to robust observations of a particular decision or penalty. Now that is not my words, they are the words of Justice Forrest of the Victorian Supreme Court in a case only last year.

And time and again, our courts, the High Court, every court has defended the rights of Australians to criticise trenchantly, strongly, vigorously the decisions of the courts.

And you know I have to say that I and every member of my government absolutely respects and defends the independence of the judiciary and I would never imagine that public comments or criticism, whether it is by a politician in Parliament or a newspaper columnist or a radio host like yourself would influence a judge in their deliberation.

The independence of our judiciary Tom is secured by the character of our judges – strong, independent, good character, strong character who focus solely on the matters that are relevantly and properly before them and make their decision in good faith and in good conscience based on those matters that are before them.

**TOM ELLIOTT:**

Yeah but if they can haul three senior ministers of your government, the federal government into the courts – I mean, does that mean if I criticise them which I have done many a time, does that mean I'll be headed into court next?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well, Tom, who knows. Look, you know, the criticisms, the concerns that have been expressed about sentencing in Victoria are not new. And of course concerns are expressed about sentencing as you know in every jurisdiction at different times but this is a very unusual case for these ministers to be brought before the court. And I just want to emphasise that we absolutely stand for and respect the independence of the judiciary. But it is, you know



the idea that you can protect the independence of the judiciary by prohibiting criticism of the judiciary is just wrong, and that is inconsistent with a long tradition of vigorous debate, robust debate. As Justice Forrest said only last year, robust observations can be made, criticisms can be made – they are made, but judges do their duty. You know let justice be done with the heavens falls they say.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

If these ministers, or indeed any other ministers, want to criticise the judiciary here in Victoria, or possibly in other states in the future, will you advise them to do so, to speak their mind?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

My position Tom is that I stand for an independent judiciary, the rule of law, democracy, freedom, freedom of speech, and in a free society a person is entitled to criticise the conduct of the courts or of a judge. And courts and judges are open to criticism, that's not my words, they're the words of Chief Justice Sir Antony Mason in a case in 1992 in the High Court.

So you know, it's very clear that we are talking about the conduct of the judiciary and judicial decisions people are entitled to criticise them. Obviously, a different standard applies when you are talking about cases that are before a jury.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

No but this is a general issue –

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yes that's right

**TOM ELLIOT:**

Alright, well on the side in fact, I've already done an interview with Channel Seven News which will be playing tonight. So look, now another thing that's come up – and I'm sure you've heard about this – so you gave, I guess an amusing speech at the Canberra Mid-Winter Ball last night. Somehow it's been leaked, I've listened to a bit of it, you mock yourself and you mock Donald Trump. Are you disappointed that it's been leaked to the media?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well it is a great tradition, you know it's a big charity fundraiser, they raised nearly \$400,000 and it is a good humoured sort of roast really. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition give a speech and poke fun at themselves and you know, often other politicians and so forth, but my speech was light-hearted, affectionately light-hearted and off the record.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

And is it meant to be off the record? It is meant to be off the record.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yes of course.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

Are you disappointed that it's leaked?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yes I am, well I am disappointed and I think it's, I guess what that means is that next year at the Mid-Winter Ball I will read selected passages from Budget Paper number 2.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

Well it will be good.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

That will pack them in (Laughter).

**TOM ELLIOT:**

I think it's been leaked by Channel 9 correspondent Laurie Oakes. No? Well he's spoken about it.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Yeah, well I believe so – he's apparently put it on.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

Will he be invited next year?

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well I don't think he was there this year, but he has taken it on himself to do that.

But look, listen it's a breach of protocol, it's a breach of faith and all those things, but you know it's light hearted, it's affectionate, good natured and the butt of my jokes was myself.

**TOM ELLIOT:**

And Donald Trump.

**PRIME MINISTER:**

Well I wouldn't say that, I think it was more good-natured than that I think. But listen it's fun, you've got to have a laugh, we've got to lighten up. It's stressful business, politics Tom. You've got to be cheerful.



**TOM ELLIOT:**

Thank you Prime Minister we will let you get back to it. The Prime Minister  
Malcolm Turnbull.

**[ENDS]**