

BRIEFS

Warning on Manila's 'seven sins' in seas

The state media warned yesterday that a "counterstrike" against the Philippines was inevitable if it continued to provoke Beijing in the South China Sea. The warning came as ministers from both countries attended an Association of Southeast Asian Nations meeting in Brunei that hoped to reach a legally binding code to manage maritime conduct in disputed areas. The overseas edition of the *People's Daily*, the official newspaper of the Communist Party, in a front-page commentary said Manila had committed "seven sins" in the South China Sea. These included the "illegal occupation" of the Spratly Islands, inviting foreign capital to engage in oil and gas development in the disputed waters and promoting the "internationalisation" of the waters. Reuters

Disputes with India to be resolved in peace

Sino-India border rows will be resolved through peaceful negotiations, with the two countries agreeing to seek a fair and rational solution acceptable to both sides, Xinhua cited the Foreign Ministry as saying. The agreement was reached in a two-day meeting attended by state councillor Yang Jiechi (楊潔篪) and Indian national security adviser Shiv Shankar Menon. Staff Reporter

Xi urges action to boost loyalty and discipline

President Xi Jinping (習近平) told the party's organisation department to increase ideological education to make sure all cadres were loyal to the party, and to step up "political discipline" of the rank and file. Earlier, Xi chaired a series of meetings with senior party officials to consolidate his control. He also ordered organisation departments at all levels, which are in charge of party appointments, to groom young cadres and weed out the practice of selling government posts. Staff Reporter

NPC expels member amid bribery claims

Zhou Wenbin (周文斌), former president of Nanchang University, has been expelled from the National People's Congress, the NPC Standing Committee said. The Jiangxi (江西) provincial government dismissed Zhou from his university post on June 18, after an investigation was launched into his alleged serious disciplinary violations. Mainland reports claimed he came under scrutiny for taking bribes during bidding for the university's construction work. Staff Reporter

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SEX WORKERS

Activist pursues 'dirty battle' for prostitutes

Mimi Lau in Bobai, Guangxi
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Activist Ye Haiyan was called everything from a hooligan and troublemaker to a prostitute, feminist, sex workers' rights activist and a pro-democracy crusader.

To Professor Ai Xiaoming, a Guangzhou-based scholar and documentary maker, Ye is "a rare and courageous woman who fights the dirty battle for sex workers' rights in China". But some conservatives have described her as a crazy liar who leads a raunchy lifestyle and colludes with hostile foreign powers to create trouble.

She was released from 13 days of detention on June 12 after she scared off three trespassers to her home, soon after she returned from protesting in Wanning (萬寧), Hainan (海南省), outside a school and a government school where a school principal and a government clerk were accused of raping six girls, aged 11 to 14.

On the day of her release, Ye's 13-year-old daughter lay quietly in bed besides her controversial mother, who was busy being interviewed by journalists.

"I'm just happy to have my mum back," she said.

"I only began searching my mum's name online a few days

CHINA



I was quite surprised, yet rather happy

TAIWANESE FUGITIVE GANGSTER CHANG AN-LO, ON BEING GRANTED BAIL AFTER FLYING TO TAIPEI TO TURN HIMSELF IN

Clear-headed move



This was the moment more than a century of Chinese shame was assuaged when French billionaire Francois-Henri Pinault returned to the nation two bronze sculptures plundered by Western invaders 1½ centuries ago. The heads of a rabbit and a

rat, part of a set of 12 that stood in the Old Summer Palace, were unveiled in Beijing, China sees the 1860 burning of the palace is a symbol of national humiliation. The Pinaults own luxury brands Gucci, Puma and Saint Laurent. Photo: Xinhua

CRIME

'White Wolf' arrested after 17 years

Island's most wanted man Chang An-lo, who fled to mainland in 1996, gets bail after return home

Agence France-Presse and Lawrence Chung in Taipei

A Taiwanese gang leader who has been on the island's most wanted list since he fled to the mainland 17 years ago was arrested on arrival at a Taipei airport yesterday, but was released on bail of NT\$1 million (HK\$258,500), police said and prosecutors said.

Chang An-lo, better known as "White Wolf", is a key member of the Bamboo Union – one of Taiwan's biggest gangs accused of organised crimes including blackmail, extortion, smuggling and money laundering.

"Chang An-lo of the Bamboo

Union has returned to the country to turn himself in ... the Criminal Investigation Bureau and the airport police immediately handcuffed and arrested Chang when he stepped off the plane at Songshan Airport," police said.

He was taken to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office. Prosecutors said he was released on bail after close to three hours of questioning. "I was quite surprised, yet rather happy" for the bail, he said after leaving the prosecutors' office. He said he was going to have a ride around Taipei after a 17-year absence.

Chang, 65, was born in the mainland and moved to Taiwan with his family after Chinese

communists took over in 1949. He joined the Bamboo Union as a teenager and climbed to the top, Taiwanese media said.

He fled Taipei in 1996 after being implicated in blackmail and other cases. On the mainland, Chang reportedly ran a business and set up an association advocating Taiwan's peace-

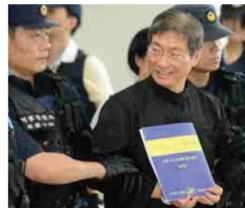
ful reunification with the mainland. Television footage showed hundreds of his supporters outside Taipei's Songshan Airport yesterday amid a heavy police presence.

Prosecutors said Chang told them that he returned to Taiwan because he wanted to promote "peaceful unification of China and one country, two systems".

More than 700 people attended a farewell banquet for Chang in Shanghai on Friday night, Taiwanese media said.

Chang is also known for making public a taped confession of the hitmen behind the shooting of Taiwanese American writer Henry Liu in 1984, an incident which had strained Taiwan's ties with the US, media reported.

Additional reporting by Choi Chi-yuk



Police arrest gangster "White Wolf" Chang An-lo. Photo: AFP

DIPLOMACY

China 'must start journey of trust' with South Korea

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China and South Korea should begin "a journey of trust" that opens up the next 20 years after two decades of economic success, South Korean President Park Geun-hye said yesterday.

The two nations should build a more mature and substantial partnership, Park told 500 students at Tsinghua University in

Shanghai – Chinese president Xi Jinping's (習近平) alma mater – on the third day of her of her visit.

"I intend to pursue dialogue and co-operation in a more forward-moving way based on the deep trust forged with President Xi through the summit," she said.

On Thursday, they pledged to work closely to free the Korean peninsula from nuclear arms, which were held only by the North.

"Beyond the successful

Korea-China relations over the past 20 years, I intend to begin a journey of trust that opens up a new 20 years," said the leader who began her 20-minute speech with some remarks in Chinese.

Park said she was ready to help the North Korea revive its economy if Pyongyang gave up its nuclear weapons programme.

She said a peaceful Korean peninsula would also benefit China's provinces sharing a border with North Korea.

Before her university visit, Park used a meeting with Vice-Premier Liu Yandong (劉延東) to offer the return of the remains of hundreds of Chinese troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean war, Yonhap said.

Park also flew to Xian (西安) in Shaanxi (陝西) province to meet with provincial leaders and visit major South Korean investment sites, including a US\$7 billion Samsung Electronics chip complex.

HUMAN RIGHTS

TOUGH TASK AHEAD FOR BLIND ACTIVIST

Chen Guangcheng will face harsh reality of redefining his role in US now that he can no longer be on front line of rights fight in China

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A year after stunning the world by escaping house arrest and securing refuge in the American embassy in Beijing, Chen Guangcheng (陳光誠) is confronted with a difficult future.

During the past year, the blind legal activist has given speeches and collected human rights awards in Europe and the US, where he eventually ended up after his harrowing flight from his home in rural Shandong (山東).

He still fascinates audiences with his story of exposing forced abortions, and the years of detention and harassment that followed. His two-week visit to Taiwan, where he has advocated democracy on the mainland, has drawn intense media interest.

Despite Chen's public confidence on his future, veteran dissidents and scholars say he faces serious challenges finding a role for himself outside the mainland.

The first signs of this may have come this month, when the legal activist found himself in a public disagreement with New York University, which put him up as a special student since last year.

Chen accused NYU of ending his studies under pressure from Beijing. NYU denied the charge, insisting Chen's stay was always meant to last just one year.

In an interview with the *Sunday Morning Post* in Taipei last week, Chen declined to discuss his earlier statement on NYU or specify his future plans.

He said he registered his foundation in the US, and he wanted to support activists and help develop China's civil society. "There are many ways of doing human rights work," he said. "I'll do it in my own way – we care about all kinds of human rights abuses."

He said he wanted to collaborate with partners "who have genuine concern about human rights abuses", but remained vague about the details.

New York's Fordham University said it was in negotiations with Chen. The Wetherspoon Institute, an American anti-abortion think tank, declined to comment on reports that he has been offered a three-year position. Chen refused to comment on either option.

Some observers raised concerns that Chen has been getting too close to right-wing politicians and risks being used by Washington's anti-China factions.

Before and during his stay in the US, Chen spoke several times at congressional hearings chaired by Republican congressman Chris Smith and both anti-abortion and Christian groups have courted him. But Chen brushed aside such concerns.

"Left or right, as long as they're concerned about human rights, I will collaborate with them," he said. "This does not mean I support everything about them or agree with all their viewpoints. This is very clear."

"I don't want to get involved in the two-party struggle in the US, this is not where my interest lies."

His mentor, NYU law professor Jerome Cohen, said he believed a foundation focused on law reform and human rights would help Chen establish himself as an independent voice.

But he held out hopes for

Chen to play a role in China's future. "We hope for a more open and democratic China that will allow him to come back to China and play a role," he said. "He has the makings of a great politician ... he has a real political future if there is any opening in China."

But despite Chen's strong character, observers say the road ahead will be tough.

Many political dissidents have experienced long periods of disorientation after escaping overseas, said Su Xiaokang (蘇曉康), a writer who fled from China in 1989 after his documentary *River Elegy* was accused of helping to incite the Tiananmen pro-democracy movement.

Su, now living in the US, remembered feeling lost in the limelight after receiving a hero's welcome and invitations to speak about Tiananmen.

"It makes you forget who you are and the longer the flattery goes on, the longer this [confusion] lasts," he said. "The danger is you no longer know your own role."

Hu Ping (胡平), editor of US-based political magazine *Beijing Spring*, who is familiar with exiled dissidents, said life was often difficult once they were removed from the battleground at home.

"Chen was a heroic figure because of his determination and the risks he had taken, but when



When the risks don't exist any more, then his moral aura will fade

HU PING, EDITOR OF BEIJING SPRING

the risks don't exist anymore, then his moral aura will fade," Hu said.

Chen faces more challenges than other exiles because of his disability, lack of English skills and formal qualifications, observers say.

Professor Perry Link, a Sinologist at the University of California, Riverside, who has aided many Chinese dissidents, said Chen belongs to a group of exiles who find the adjustment the toughest.

Chen was too old to reinvent himself and too young to retire, he said. "The limelight that he now enjoys will fade," Link said. "Judging from others who have similar cases, he has a bleak-looking future."

Given his mission and determination, scholars say the best scenario would be for Chen to return to China and play a role one day, but this seems unlikely.

After Chen escaped, his family were harassed. His nephew was sentenced to three years in jail after accidentally injuring an official who stormed into his house to look for Chen. Chen's older brother was beaten by unidentified thugs last month and has been repeatedly intimidated.

"The authorities want to pressure me into saying less," he said. But Chen said he would not be intimidated and insisted there will be a day when he can go home freely. "I will return to China for sure," Chen said.



Ye Haiyan was detained 13 days.

We used to track down a few sex workers who were over 60 years old

FORMER VOLUNTEER

cate, travelling to Europe, the United States, Hong Kong and India for training. She has published more than 200,000 words online and her microblog has more than 70,000 followers.

Ye first became famous in 2005, when she posted a nude photo of herself online. Under the pen name Hooligan Swallow, Ye raised eyebrows with her bold articles on sex.

But she really caught the public's attention in 2010 when the

China Grass-roots Women's Rights Centre – the NGO she set up in Hubei – started a petition drive in Wuhan calling for the legalisation of prostitution. Ye said she was spurred into action because many women who shared her rural background ended up in the sex trade

"Pushing for the legalisation of sex workers' rights contradicts the government's ideology," she said. "The government does not wish to see this topic being promoted and the mainland media are banned from discussing it."

She was forced to move away from Wuhan after her campaigning for sex workers' rights upset the government.

Ye's China Women's Rights Workshop, used to operate in the heart of Bobai county, only a three-minute walk from a bus terminal packed with travellers from rural areas and migrant workers.

A former workshop volunteer who declined to be named said they conducted outreach services each week, giving out free condoms and tissues.

"We used to track down a few sex workers who were over 60 years old and give them a monthly allowance of 50 yuan each, thanks to private donations from internet users," the volunteer said.

A woman who used to run a

brothel said she had never heard of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/Aids before Ye started the outreach service.

"At first we were only after her for freebies such as tissues and condoms but we became friends because she genuinely cares about our sisters," the woman said. "My girls would attend her talks about safe sex and some even became volunteers."

To experience the life of a grass-roots sex worker, Ye worked in a local 10-yuan sex shop briefly in January last year – without charging her clients. Dubbed the "free sex for migrant workers" campaign, it became an online sensation.

"Every sex worker I have been in contact with has been either threatened or arrested and brothels which I visited were shut down," said Ye, who has since distanced herself from local sex workers to make it easier for them to carry out their work. "I'm too much of a target here."

From May last year her workshop was constantly wrecked by thugs, leaving her no choice but to shut down.

A Bobai policeman who recently arrested Ye asked her why she was advocating prostitutes' rights. "He asked if I was crazy. I told him we come from two different worlds and that he would never understand."



Activist Chen Guangcheng at a Taipei book launch. Photo: Reuters