

LEADING THE NEWS



Unwelcome guest
Aquino cancels visit to China: Beijing says he was never invited in the first place

> LEADING THE NEWS A3

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Health headache
Migraines can cause permanent brain damage and raise risk of strokes

> WORLD A15

Beam me up
K-pop stars are embracing hologram technology to reach a wider audience

South China Morning Post

南華早報 PUBLISHED SINCE 1903 / VOLUME LXIX / NO 240 Friday, August 30, 2013 / See live updates at www.scmp.com

CORRUPTION DIGEST

TARGET AT THE TOP

Zhou Yongkang facing inquiry

Senior leaders endorse move

Bo Xilai ally of ex-security tsar



Top Communist Party leaders have agreed to open a corruption investigation into former security tsar Zhou Yongkang...

Hebei province. According to sources familiar with the leadership's thinking, President Xi Jinping...

10 Number of years Zhou Yongkang controlled legal and law enforcement affairs from 2002

INVESTIGATIONS

Prosecutor 'looking into' Barry Cheung graft case

Kevin Zervos refuses to elaborate on his review of corruption claims against former Exco man

Hong Kong's top prosecutor is 'looking into' corruption allegations against former executive councillor Barry Cheung...

claims and their dismissal by the ICAC. Zervos said: "I'm looking into this case..."



Barry Cheung in the sights of the prosecutor. Photo: Edward Wong

WORLD

Time for tax dodgers to come clean

US-Swiss deal will worry Americans with cash stashed abroad

WAS A DEAL STRUCK BEFORE BO'S 'OPEN' TRIAL?



THE SPIRIT OF HK

The woman who's a dog's best friend

SPCA volunteer has found homes for hundreds of dumped pets

Audemars Piguet advertisement featuring a watch and the text 'TO BREAK THE RULES, YOU MUST FIRST MASTER THEM.'

DIGEST

Woman in gang rape claim accused of lying

A woman who says she was raped by the son of PLA singers was accused of lying to police...

ICBC, Bank of China post higher profits

Two of China's four big banks posted higher second-quarter profits even as the economy slows...

Abe speaks out on Fukushima leak

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said problems at the crippled Fukushima plant could not be left to the operator...

Maid injuries 'probably not self-inflicted'

Injuries a maid says were caused by her employers were unlikely to have been self-inflicted...

COMMERCE

INVESTMENT TEAMS TO BE REINED IN

Commerce Ministry targets extravagance by delegations sent to Hong Kong and Macau to seek investment for their regions

Daniel Ren ren.wei@scmp.com

The Ministry of Commerce has pledged to rein in extravagance by local government delegations sent to Hong Kong and Macau...

oversated the number of participants and the value of deals signed during their promotional activities.

His remarks followed the flagship newspaper's harsh criticism on Monday of investment delegations travelling to Hong Kong.

Foreign direct investment is a key economic indicator used to gauge officials' performance...

The phenomenon reflects a severe level of artificiality and extravagance

MINISTRY SPOKESMAN YAO JIAN

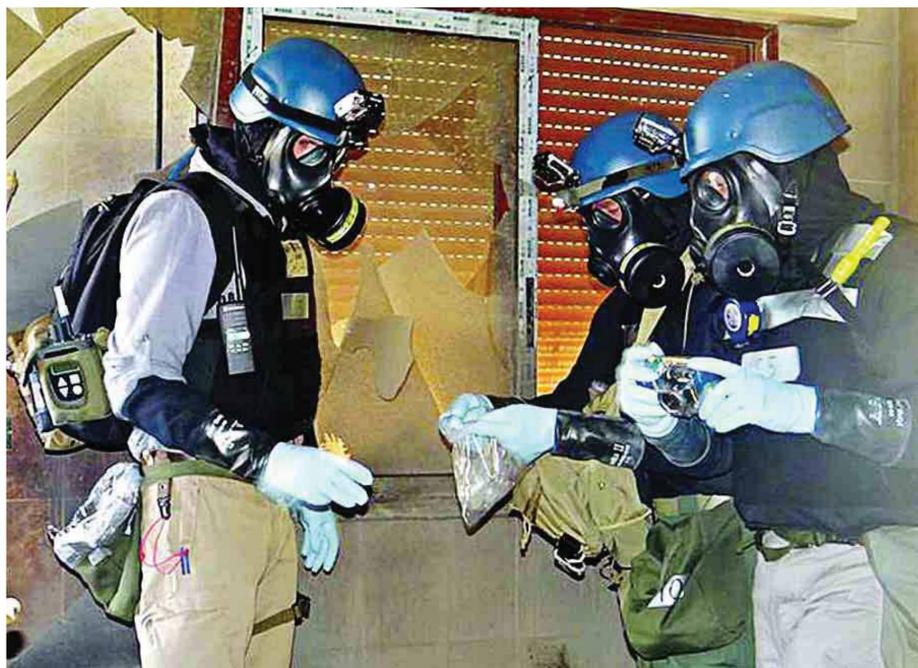
Nanning expo trip snub for Aquino

President urged to visit China at more conducive time; trade minister to go instead

Raisa Robles in Manila Teddy Ng

China has asked Philippine President Benigno Aquino to postpone a visit next week for the opening of a trade fair...

SYRIA



This 'citizen journalist' image from Syria is said to show UN inspectors collecting samples during the third day of their investigation into chemical weapons attacks.

Chinese flee Syria as Beijing urges restraint

Fewer than 20 people from China left in country; minister warns against the use of outside force

Cary Huang and Agencies

With US warships poised to punish Syria for allegedly using chemical weapons, the few Chinese civilians and company employees still in the country...

Black Sea Fleet and a large anti-submarine ship from the Northern Fleet were deployed in the 'coming days'...



Rebel fighters and civilians surround vehicles transporting UN inspectors to the site of a suspected gas attack.

have not made a decision," Obama told PBS NewsHour. Britain said it would still be permitted under international law to take military action against Syria...

only way out for the Syrian issue," Foreign Minister Wang Yi (王毅) said in a statement.

CONTINUED FROM A1

Target at the top: Zhou faces probe

will examine whether Zhou and his family benefited through numerous questionable oilfield and property deals facilitated by his son, Zhou Bin (周斌), and other allies...

may not then be transferred to the government for follow-up. Because of the scale and far-reaching implications of the Zhou case, the investigation may not be publicised before the key-note meeting of the party elites in November.

convicted Shanghai party boss Chen Liangyu (陳良宇) - another ally - when presented with former Suzhou Middle School in Jiangsu (江蘇) province.

funeral of a respected scientist. In July, state media publicised a visit by Zhou to his alma mater, Suzhou Middle School in Jiangsu (江蘇) province.



Zhou Yongkang (second left) stands next to Hu Jintao (left) as he is named party leader for a second term in 2007. Photo: David Wong

between key suspects. Li Chun-cheng (李春城), a former deputy party secretary in Sichuan, became the first senior official targeted in Xi's anti-graft drive.

Oil giants banned from new projects

Beijing makes state energy companies pay the price for failing to meet pollution targets

Eric Ng and Li Jing

China's largest oil and gas producer, PetroChina, has been barred from expanding its refining and chemical production capacity.

The fresh blow came after it emerged last week that three of its senior officials were being investigated by Beijing authorities for alleged discipline violations.

Sinopec and PetroChina said they would strive to meet pollution control requirements and that the ban would not affect their operations in the short term.

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Li Bo, a senior consultant to environmental advocacy group Friends of Nature, said past experience showed that the ministry's bans on new industrial projects were sometimes ineffective...

Earlier this month, overseas media reported that graft investigators had detained Sichuan

Forces within Understanding typhoons from inside the eye of the storm

Temple tribute Family and followers chant for the White Dragon King

Save the trees Monks in bid to rescue forests from destruction

Raring to go Looking ahead to an exciting new racing season

Sunday Morning Post

南華早報

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15 killed in ammonia leak at plant in Shanghai

Stephen Chen

At least 15 people were killed and 25 injured yesterday when ammonia leaked from an industrial refrigeration plant in Shanghai.

The accident, in the city's Baoshan district, is the worst of its kind on public record.

Five of the injured were in critical condition, the Shanghai government said.

Authorities did not name the victims, but it appeared all were employed at the facility, operated by Weng's Cold Storage Industrial Company.

One of the injured, Gu Qijue, who was being treated in the Dachang Hospital in Baoshan, said: "It smelled much worse than smoke from a fire. I sprawled on the ground and could not speak. Then I felt faint."

Gu told Xinhua that she was in a dormitory on the fourth floor when she smelled a strong odour. She was rescued by firefighters.

Most of the workers are women from neighbouring provinces.

It was not known how much ammonia was released, but residents 15 kilometres downwind in

Zhabei district, closer to the city centre, told the Sunday Morning Post that it had smelled it.

By yesterday afternoon, authorities had still not released any information on the cause.

Han Zheng (韩正), the city's party secretary, urged work safety officials to "complete their investigation and make public the results as soon as possible."

A fire safety expert in Wuhan (武汉), Hubei (湖北) said an ammonia leak should not have caused so many deaths if the hazard prevention measures and evacuation routes were in order.

"When such an accident happens, as with a fire, the ventilation system should be activated automatically to suck out toxic gas, and workers should evacuate via a designated route," he said. "It is likely that either the ventilation or escape routes failed, if not both."

It is the second fatal ammonia leak on the mainland this year. A similar cold storage accident in Meishan (眉山), Sichuan (四川), killed four people and injured 24 in April.

CHINA

It's Swede dreams in Beijing store

Sleepy customers make themselves at home in Ikea bedroom section



NEWSMAKER

Tony Abbott's 'Thatcherite' Oxford years

Australian election hopeful remembered as right-wing university activist

FOCUS

HIGH ANXIETY OF DIVING WORLD'S GOLDEN GIRL

> PAGE 4

INSIDE

Minister says ATV chief unfit for job

Commerce minister Greg So Kam-leung yesterday said ATV's executive director James Shing Pan-yu was unfit for his role and must quit.

Mother slams gang rape sentence

An Indian teenager was yesterday sentenced to three years in a reform home for his part in the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a New Delhi bus. The victim's mother denounced the sentence, saying the youth should have faced the death penalty.

Microsoft data battle heads for court

Microsoft says a fight to share more information with the public on secret US government requests for internet user data will have to be resolved in court after failed talks. Microsoft and technology rival Google have stood united over the issue.

Playboy sets up care home for elderly

A former Beijing playboy made a life-changing decision - to open up a nursing home for the elderly. Yan Shuai (颜帅), 26, talks about the severe lack of care facilities in mainland cities.

Little fanfare



Performers demonstrate with tai chi fans at the opening ceremony for the 12th National Games at the Olympic Sports Centre in Shenyang (沈阳), Liaoning (辽宁) yesterday.

than those at previous editions and held in daylight for the first time since 1987 to cut lighting costs. Some 9,770 athletes will compete in 31 events at the Games that run until September 12.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

End of an era for a master craft

The man behind Chow Kee, offering traditional paper lanterns and decorations, calls it a day

Annemarie Evans

Chow Kee, the famous paper craft shop on Elgin Street, Central, is no longer. Master of paper lanterns, gods and offerings Chan Kwei-chow, 95, has retired to the mainland with his wife, Chan Chiu Suk-hing, his advanced age and the prospect of another rent-escalating career of a man who insisted that his detailed items be kept traditional and handmade.

Chow Kee provided paper lanterns and other items in Hong Kong for more than 70 years. Ahead of the Hungry Ghost Festival last week, Chan's daughter, Mady, year, would craft the god king or hellish king for the Hungry Ghost Festival, creating a figure five metres tall, although

she wouldn't take any measurements beforehand. Other figures included the Seven Sisters dummy set, illustrating a melancholy Chinese fairy tale.

The glory days of the trade were the 1950s and 1960s, when Chan's handwork would be used for big advertisements for restaurants and shops during festivals. He used to make paper decorations for Cantonese opera groups and also firecrackers before they were banned. But by the end of the 1990s, paper lanterns had been replaced in large measure by plastic inflatables.

"We came here for many years, years to get our lanterns," said heritage activist Katty Law Ngarning, 46, the convener of the Central and Western Concern Group. "I would bring my young children. It's so sad to see that this area is no longer accommodating these kinds of businesses."

Over the decades, Chan's son Edward wrote in a book about his father's craft. People would suggest Chan use machinery, but he insisted on using only basic tools so he could be involved in every detail of the process.

On Friday, as the local community marked the Hungry Ghost Festival, Wong Kam-oi, chairman of the 30 House Yue Lan Association, said he was sad Chan would no longer be doing his unique paper craftwork or creating the annual ghost king.

"I miss Mr Chan and his work. He had very good craftsmanship, very detailed," Wong said.



Ada Chan, daughter of craftsman Chan Kwei-chow, with items for loyal customers after Chow Kee closed down.

COURTS

BO HAD ORDERS TO DEAL WITH DEFECTION

Removed trial transcript linking him to Zhou Yongkang on handling Chongqing police chief

Staff Reporter

Bo Xilai (薄熙来) claimed at his trial last week that he received orders from a law and order committee headed by China's former top policeman, Zhou Yongkang (周永康), on how to deal with the alleged chemical-weapons attack of August 21, urging Obama not to rush into a decision, but to consider whether strikes would

former ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, who has also served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US strike could hit Assad's military without fundamentally changing the dynamic in a stalemate civil war. At the same time, few expect that a barrage of cruise missiles would help peace talks.

Given that, the sceptics say it may not be worth the risks. Diplomats familiar with Assad say there is no way to know how he would respond, and they question what the US would do if he chose to order a chemical strike or other major retaliation against civilians. That would leave the United States to choose between a loss of credibility and a more expensive - and unpopular - conflict, they said.

"So he continues on in defiance - maybe he even launches another chemical attack to put a stick in our eye - and then what?" Crocker said.

Iran's and Syria's defence ministers have threatened to unleash attacks on Israel if Assad were put in danger, while Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group in Lebanon, could retaliate too. Opposition officials in Damascus said the government had been moving troops, equipment and truckloads of paper files into civilian areas. "We assume that Assad had been doing this to protect his strategic assets from US cruise-missile strikes," said Dan Layman of the Syrian Support Group, which backs the opposition to Assad.

Assad would probably exploit civilian casualties from a strike. "That will completely empty any justification for this" in the eyes of many, said a Western official who observes Syria.

Obama said he appreciated people's scepticism, but "a lot of people think something should be done, but nobody wants to do it", and the United States would send the wrong message to the world if it did nothing. Additional reporting by Associated Press, Agence France-Press

> FRENCH SUPPORT U.S. PAGE 12

SYRIA

SCEPTICS DOUBT U.S. STRIKE CAN CURB ASSAD

Obama considers 'limited' military action against Assad's regime, but critics warn that likely casualties could make situation worse

The New York Times in Beirut

US President Barack Obama says he is considering a "limited, narrow" military strike against Syria, a move that many Middle East experts fear could make things even worse.

Syria was bracing for a missile attack as the departure of United Nations weapons inspectors yesterday opened a window for a possible US-led strike. "We are expecting an attack at any moment," a security official said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin broke his silence on the alleged chemical-weapons attack of August 21, urging Obama not to rush into a decision, but to consider whether strikes would

DD

Our biggest problem is ignorance; we're pretty ignorant about Syria

Ryan Crocker, former ambassador

be worth the civilian casualties they would inevitably cause. Putin also questioned whether the US intelligence gives firm evidence linking him to Zhou, himself now the subject of a party investigation for corruption.

A prosecution statement about the matter - first redacted, then removed from the official trial transcript - suggests Zhou was at least in contact with Bo about his handling of Wang Lijun's (王立军) defection to the US consulate in Chengdu (成都) in February last year.

That incident brought down Bo, then Chongqing (重慶) party secretary, and triggered China's biggest political scandal in decades.

"Our biggest problem is ignorance; we're pretty ignorant about Syria," said Ryan Crocker, a

TOURISM

Website targets Chinese tourists for Greek holidays

Lana Lam lana.lam@scmp.com

The quirks of mainland tourists are being celebrated rather than ridiculed in a novel hotel-ranking system that aims to attract Chinese holidaymakers to debt-ridden Greece.

The ranking on travel website Feel Like Home uses dragons instead of stars to score hotels on a niche set of criteria.

Hotels get points for such things as offering congee at the breakfast buffet and Chinese-language TV. To attain the highest "five dragon" ranking, hotels must have Pateonghua-speaking staff, city maps in Chinese and activities specifically tailored to Chinese tourists.

Feels Like Home was founded by three friends and about 100 hotels have joined the database since February.

Most of the hotels are in Greece, as two of its co-founders are currently based in Europe, while the other works in Beijing. The site also covers destinations such as Morocco, Austria, India, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Co-founder Nicholas Triantafyllidis, 36, has worked in hotel management for 15 years and said the idea was about cashing in on a lucrative market.

"Hotels like the idea, as everyone, in the back of their heads, wants to attract the Chinese because they are big in numbers and they are new," he said.

"Tourism is the number one product in Greece and we've

DRAGON RATINGS

One dragon: Translate hotel's homepage; register on Feel Like Home

Two dragons: Chinese electrical adapters in every room; translate menu, brochures, front desk documents and signs; welcome letter in Chinese

Three dragons: One pair of slippers per guest; instant noodles, chopsticks and tea sets with three types of Chinese tea in every room; one Chinese TV channel.

Four dragons: Breakfast earlier than 7am for city hotels; and before 8am for resorts; must have congee, hard boiled eggs, soy milk, white bread, chopsticks and chopstick holders, dim sum items, and Chinese tea, oyster, black bean, garlic, soy, and hoisin sauces, soybean paste and sesame oil.

Five dragons: At least one Chinese-speaking member of staff; hotel's online booking system in Chinese; city maps and guides in Chinese; offer group activities specifically for Chinese tourists.

Lana Lam

always has Chinese visitors because just like China, Greece has a lot of history and culture, which they are interested in."

Previously, the clientele was only wealthy mainlanders, but "now we want to attract more of the rising middle class", Trianta-

FUNERAL



Spirat Chitvisad, wife of "White Dragon King" Chau Yum-nam, and one of his daughters before his funeral in Pattaya.

Tributes for 'White Dragon King'

Chau Yum-nam, said to have had vision of spirit of great white dragon, was beloved by followers

Ada Lee in Pattaya and Vivienne Chow

He was known as the "White Dragon King" - a guru to Hong Kong's showbiz set, many of whom claimed he was able to anticipate the future and had led a number of struggling actors to stardom.

But to some of his followers, the late Chau Yum-nam was simply a wise man who taught them how to act morally.

"My memories of sifu [master] were not of a god, or anything supernatural like what the media describes," said Lum Chun-yip, 48, who followed Chau for more than 20 years.

"People often call him White Dragon King, but sifu is sifu," Lum said.

He added Chau played the role of White Dragon King only when he was at the altar, and that he could channel what he claimed was a deity to give blessings to his followers and help those in need.

Chau, who died at home on August 17 at the age of 76, was reportedly born to Chinese parents near the Thai seaside resort town of Pattaya and worked as an electrician and perhaps a bicycle salesman. He allegedly had a vision of the spirit of a great white dragon - the White Dragon King - when he was 13. He built a temple when he was 28, purportedly following the dragon's orders, after surviving a fatal car acci-



My memories of sifu [master] were not of a god, or anything supernatural

Lum Chun-yip, follower (above)

Tak-wah and Tony Leung Chiu-wai, who all followed him for decades.

Lam said Chau suggested changing the Chinese title of Infernal Affairs from four characters to three. The film's title was revised from Mo Gan Heng Tso to Mo Gan Doh and it became a smash hit.

At a ceremony held yesterday ahead of Chau's funeral, his family and followers - including Andrew Lau and fellow film director Wai-keung, and stars Andy Lau

PROPERTY



New World's sales event attracted many buyers, including Franky Li (right).

Strong response to Yuen Long flat sales

Peggy Sio and Bien Perez

Flats at the biggest development to come to market since rules on their sale were toughened this year sold briskly yesterday.

Aided by an aggressive pricing strategy, New World Development sold 82 per cent of the 238 flats that were on offer at Park Signature in Yuen Long yesterday.

The flats put on sale were a fraction of the 1,620 in the development. Adrian Cheng Chikong, New World's executive director and joint general manager, said a second batch of flats would be offered for sale last night. The company did not say how many flats the batch would comprise.

The first batch put on sale ranged from studios to four-bedroom flats, with an average price of HK\$18,336 per square foot of saleable area.

Franky Li, a senior marketing executive in his late 20s, said he bought a 302 sq ft flat at Park Signature for about HK\$2.7 million.

dent, so that he could become a portal to the supposed deity. Lum pointed to one of Chau's sayings: "With a kind heart, success will come" - written in calligraphy and hanging in the VIP room at the Shun Tak Centre branch of Lan Fong Yuen, the much-loved Central dai pai dining founded by his father in the 1950s where "silk stocking" milk tea was invented and which Lum now manages.

Lum recalled that Chau taught him to respect his parents, to have a good heart and temper, to keep things tidy and orderly, and to maintain good interpersonal relationships.

"People often call him White Dragon King, but sifu is sifu," Lum said.

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Bo had orders to deal with defection

> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changed within minutes to make no mention of Bo receiving orders from above.

The original version quoted prosecutors as saying that "Bo first approved a forged medical certificate for Wang Lijun, before orders listing six points on how to deal with Wang arrived from a superior body in the hierarchy".

There is now speculation about who gave the orders from above of which Bo spoke.

The charge against Bo of abuse of power centres on his removal of Wang as Chongqing police chief without seeking prior approval from the Ministry of Public Security, which is under the central commission on law and order then headed by Zhou.

Bo issued the order days after Wang had told him his wife, Gu Kaili (谷晓红), had murdered British businessman and Bo family associate Neil Heywood in November 2011. Gu received a suspended death sentence for the crime last year.

Wang's transcript also removed Bo's mention of retired state leaders. In one instance, Bo explained to the court that, while he was minister of commerce, he had briefed then president Hu Jintao (胡锦涛) aboard his state aircraft on how he intended to grant permission to Xu Ming's (徐明) company, Dalian Shide Group, to act as a private importer of crude oil and petroleum, the sources said.

Xu is the tycoon from Dalian (大连), where Bo was once mayor, who was said to have bankrolled the luxurious lifestyle of Bo's wife and their son, Bo Guagua (薄瓜瓜). Xu is also facing corruption charges.

Other details omitted from Bo's final statement included a denial of any ambition to become the country's premier, according to a written statement by a court observer that was circulated after the trial.

One of the three sources who talked to the Post said Bo appeared calm when making what was probably his final speech in public. The source also said that the document, which was authenticated by two other sources, captured the essence of Bo's final statement.

"Some say I wanted to be the premier," Bo said, according to the document. "That is completely untrue. As we all know, the party had determined after the 17th party congress that Li Keqiang (李克强) should become premier."

"Some said I wanted to be [Vladimir] Putin in China, but that is also not true," he added, in reference to the Russian president.

Li became premier in March, but had been tipped for the job since the 2007 party congress.

Bo was widely seen as a challenger for a place in the party's leadership through his leftist political campaigns in Chongqing, which won him much support among blue-collar workers and the lower middle class. Before Bo's fall from grace last year, Zhou reportedly worked behind the scenes to have him installed as a member of the Politburo Standing Committee.

To address the concern of top leaders, Bo also told the court that he had written a letter to the party's central leadership before the official investigation of his political campaigns in Chongqing, which won him much support among blue-collar workers and the lower middle class. Before Bo's fall from grace last year, Zhou reportedly worked behind the scenes to have him installed as a member of the Politburo Standing Committee.

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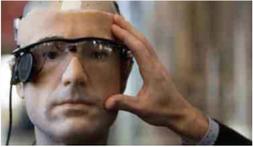
Domestic strife Why forcing your maid to join you in Canada could land you in jail

LEADING THE NEWS A3



Maldives on the brink Islands look like a banana republic just five years after introducing democracy

ASIA A9



A technological marvel The first walking, talking 'bionic man', built entirely out of synthetic body parts

WORLD A12



Hot shot in Macau

Scott Hend keeps Ernie Els at bay to land title

SPORT BACK PAGE

South China Morning Post

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DIGEST

Activists' trial a guide to official tolerance

Rights group says a trial of three activists arrested for pressing officials to disclose their assets will indicate to what extent the new government tolerates dissent.

Filipino sultan is defiant to the end

A Philippine sultan whose armed followers invaded the Malaysian state of Sabah earlier this year, sparking a crisis that left dozens dead, has died of organ failure.

Foreign authors accept cuts to sell in China

Allowing mainland censors to tinker with their work may be an unpleasant but necessary bargain for Western authors.

Wealthy splurge on luxury flats

The latest 35 luxury flats were all snapped up at the Cullinan project over Kowloon Station yesterday.

CITY

It's time to vote for your HK hero

The Post has shortlisted 30 inspiring people; now we must pick 11 winners.



VICTORIA PARK: FROM OASIS TO BUILDING SITE

JPMorgan Chase's record US\$13 billion deal to end US probes of its mortgage-bond sales would free America's largest bank from mounting civil disputes with the government while leaving a criminal inquiry unresolved.



Small player takes on Li Ka-shing

Chun Wo Development in a David vs Goliath court wrangle.

BROADCASTING



Thousands pack the government's headquarters to demand an explanation of the rejection of HKTV's licence application.

Mass rally to 'defend HK's core values'

HKTV chairman Ricky Wong says rule of law at stake as thousands protest over licence decision

Staff Reporters

Tens of thousands of protesters in black T-shirts marched to the government headquarters in Admiralty yesterday claiming that the decision to deny Hong Kong Television Networks (HKTV) a free-to-air TV licence was a threat to the city's core values.

HKTV chairman Ricky Wong Wai-kay, who did not take part in the rally, said the issue was no longer about giving viewers more choice but whether the authorities respected people's needs and whether Hong Kong was still governed by the rule of law.

About 100 HKTV staff formed a 'justice alliance' and said they would camp at the Tamar site until an explanation was given to the company, which lost out last week when the government granted only two licences, to i-Cable's Fantastic TV and PCCW's Hong Kong Television Entertainment.

scmp.com/hktyprotest Check our website to watch video of yesterday's march and protest rally

BANKING

JPMorgan close to US\$13b settlement

Bloomberg in Washington and New York

JPMorgan Chase's record US\$13 billion deal to end US probes of its mortgage-bond sales would free America's largest bank from mounting civil disputes with the government while leaving a criminal inquiry unresolved.

The tentative pact with the Department of Justice increased from a US\$11 billion proposal last month and would be the most paid by a financial firm in a settlement with the US.

\$21.3b JPMorgan's record profit, in US dollars, last year. It reported a \$380m loss last month.

CORRUPTION

TOP BEIJING POLICEMAN TO PROBE ZHOU CASE

Xi Jinping takes unusual step of forming special unit to investigate Zhou Yongkang graft scandal, bypassing party's internal disciplinary system

Staff Reporters

President Xi Jinping (習近平) has set up a special unit headed by a senior policeman and deputy minister of public security to investigate the scandal surrounding retired leader Zhou Yongkang (周永康), bypassing the Communist Party's internal disciplinary apparatus, sources say.

Beijing police chief Fu Zhenghua (傅政華) will report directly to Xi, according to police and graft watchdog sources. Fu is the first person in the party's history to also hold the concurrent posts of head of Beijing's armed police, the Standing Committee member of the party's Beijing municipal committee and deputy minister of public security.

The arrangement is unusual and reflects not only the sensitivity of Zhou's case but also Xi's personal interest in it. Corrupt officials are usually dealt with by the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and kept incommunicado in an extra-legal, internal system of detention called shuanggui for interrogation before being handed to police and prosecutors.

But at least three separate sources with knowledge of recent interrogations widely believed to be part of a larger corruption probe into Zhou's affairs said police were taking the primary roles in these cases.

It is believed that Xi and CCDI head Wang Qishan (王岐山) wanted police who are more experienced with criminal investigations to handle the investigation rather than the CCDI, whose abilities and methods have been questioned recently.

One of the sources said the top leaders were not satisfied with the CCDI's working style and were aware of frequent abuses during inquiry processes.

But it remains unclear if the new practice of having a special unit to investigate Zhou's case is a sign of a more professional approach.

Another source, quoting CCDI officials and police, said: "Xi entrusted Fu to co-ordinate the recent inquiries related to Zhou, while Wang is overseeing the cases and anti-corruption operations in general. Fu is leading a small group of police, mostly from the Beijing Police Bureau, to probe cases such as those of Wu Bing (吳兵) and Guo Yongxiang (郭永祥)."

Wu, a Sichuan (四川) billionaire widely believed to have close ties with associates of Zhou's family, was seized in Beijing in early August. Guo, a former deputy governor of Sichuan who rose through the ranks as Zhou was promoted, was detained in June for "serious disciplinary violations" - a party euphemism for corruption.

Fu, 58, was only promoted to deputy minister post in August after the retirement of Zhou, the former national security chief who ruled over the police and other law enforcement agencies for nearly a decade. Fu is also leading a controversial crackdown on influential commentators on the internet, a prominent plank in Xi's plan to "seize the ground of new media."

A forensic expert, Fu made his name with the high-profile bust of Beijing's Passion Night club months after he was named the city's police chief in 2010.

The massive crackdown on several prostitution operations, including the luxury club, surprised the public as the club owner was regarded as being well-connected to military officials.

Another source confirmed the shift to relying more on police than the CCDI in the Zhou case, adding "Guo Yongxiang was arrested in Chengdu (成都) by police from Beijing."

The source added that at a time when the leadership was calling for greater rule of law, it was important that a special unit investigated corruption cases to avoid the much-criticised shuanggui system.

Under party regulations, discipline inspection units can hold suspects under shuanggui for up to four months. But, in reality, detention is indefinite and reports have emerged of party members being tortured or even beaten to death.

The first source said a series of "bold reforms" of CCDI was expected to be announced after the party's keynote meeting next month.

Authorities endorsed the decision to probe Zhou at the secretive annual party meeting held in August at the Beidaihe (北戴河) resort in Hebei (河北), the Post reported earlier. No Politburo Standing Committee member - retired or sitting - has been investigated for economic crimes since the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976.

Several of Zhou's former aides are now under shuanggui, including Jiang Jiejin (蔣潔敏), ex-chairman of the China National Petroleum Corporation, and Guo, who worked alongside Zhou for 12 years until 2002.

South China Morning Post

CANADA

TRAFFICKING WARNING ABOUT MAIDS

Canada's federal police say Hong Kong vacationers risk arrest if their domestic workers are forced to join them when they are on holiday

Ian Young in Vancouver ian.young@scmp.com

Hong Kong holidaymakers risk arrest for human trafficking, an offence with a potential life sentence, if they force maids to join them on Canadian vacations - regardless whether the helper's visa has expired - Canada's federal police have warned.

The caution comes after Hong Kong emigrant Franco Orr Yiu-kwan was jailed last week for 18 months, convicted of human trafficking in a landmark case for bringing his maid with his family when they moved to Vancouver. Jassy Bindra, human trafficking coordinator for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), said the length of time that an employer and employee were in Canada was not relevant to whether trafficking charges were filed.

When presented with the scenario of a Hong Kong boss who forced a maid to join a vacation to Canada, under threat of dismissal, Corporal Bindra said that all scenarios of potential human trafficking would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"If someone is forcing a person to travel internationally against their will and under threats of any kind, they will be investigated and potentially prosecuted as this would constitute an offence in Canada," she stressed.

Bindra's warning came after recruitment experts suggested last week that employers would only be at risk if a maid's Canadian visa expired. Bindra said this was not the case.

"Whether an individual is victimised for one day or one year is irrelevant. If Canadian laws are being broken, the RCMP would take action," Bindra said.

Bindra added that "the onus upon [the employer]" to ensure that the proper visas were secured for maids.

In the Orr case, he was accused of forcing Leticia Sarmiento to work slave-like hours, denying her access to her passport and keeping her locked in the family home, but Judge Richard Goepel said none of these aggravating factors had been proven. He said

the jury clearly did not believe all of Sarmiento's testimony about these issues but that these factors did not need to be proven to support the trafficking conviction.

Prominent prosecutor Peter LaPrairie, who undertook the case against Orr and secured the first trafficking conviction under Canadian immigration law, said that once the identity of an accused and the timeframe of the offence had been established, two points needed to be proven in a trafficking case: that the accused organised the victim's coming to Canada and that "abduction, fraud, deception, the threat or use of force or coercion" was used in doing so.

In the example of a maid threatened with dismissal from her Hong Kong job unless she accepted a vacationing family, LaPrairie said "what constitutes coercion is a legal argument." "We

Special unit will probe Zhou graft scandal

CONTINUED FROM A1

team headed by a senior policeman would set a pattern. "Many of the CCDI officials have been transferred from other departments and have very little experience of investigations and crime-solving," the source said. "Xi and Wang agreed to use police to lead the probes as they believe the police are more professional."

Another source, quoting CCDI officials and police, said: "Xi entrusted Fu to co-ordinate the recent inquiries related to Zhou, while Wang is overseeing the cases and anti-corruption operations in general. Fu is leading a small group of police, mostly from the Beijing Police Bureau, to probe cases such as those of Wu Bing (吳兵) and Guo Yongxiang (郭永祥)."

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Franco Orr, Leticia Sarmiento

would have to look at the facts of the case to determine if it appears a victim came to Canada by means of coercion or fraud or deception," he said.

LaPrairie pointed out that business-class exemptions to visitor visas allow a maid to legally work in Canada for a visiting Hong Kong family for up to six months.

Sarmiento had claimed she was tricked into coming to Canada on a tourist visa in 2008 with the promise of higher wages, better conditions and the prospect of permanent residency. Orr claimed that Sarmiento, who was paid C\$500 (HK\$3,800) a month in line with her Hong Kong contract before getting a 40 per cent pay rise to C\$700, knew all along that she would be working illegally and was well aware of what her work entailed. He claimed Sarmiento begged him to bring her to Canada because she feared she would not be able to find another job in Hong Kong.

Orr's wife, Nicole Huen Oiling, 36, was also accused in the case but was acquitted of all charges.

Orr and Huen claimed that they tried repeatedly to get Sarmiento to leave Canada after her six-month tourist visa expired and booked her flights out of the country, but she refused to go.

Animated film shows the human side of Mao

Cartoon portrays late leader as a teenager growing up in Hunan province hometown

Keira Lu Huang keira.huang@scmp.com

When director Lei Junlin, 41, came up with the idea of producing an animated film about Mao Zedong's (毛澤東) childhood, she had plenty of doubts. To portray Communist Party leaders in China through cartoon had long been taboo.

But to her surprise, Lei received approval from the party central committee's General Office and her project attracted the involvement of the propaganda flagship *Guangshi Journal* in 2011. A film production wing under Qishi is now co-producing the cartoon with two other official filmmaking companies.

The movie, *When Mao Zedong Was Young*, covers the leader's teenage years. It was selected as one of three films to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Mao's birth, in December.

Lei said the film departed from the practice of treating Mao as infallible and tried to show him as more human.

"Desanctifying Mao is a significant goal of the film. Just like every other child, he was naughty and liked to play tricks. There hasn't been enough coverage of Mao's childhood," Lei said.

To ensure the portrayal was realistic, the production team sent 600 volunteers to Mao's hometown in Shaoshan (韶山) in Hunan (湖南) province and other places to gather anecdotes about him. One of the biggest challenges faced was how to balance the exaggerated expressions

Indian man can't find burial place for wife

Just like every other child, he was naughty and liked to play tricks

Director Lei Junlin

that cartoons use with the solemnity required when dealing with the founder of modern China, according to Lei's husband, Zeng Xiangbo, who is the film's general producer.

While they hoped to offer a new view of Mao, his mother Wen Qimei was treated with such reverence they considered using the term "Virgin Mary" in the English subtitles to describe her. "Mao's mother had great influence on him and she was a Buddhist," Lei said.

The script took more than a year to vet, requiring approval from various departments within the party and the government.

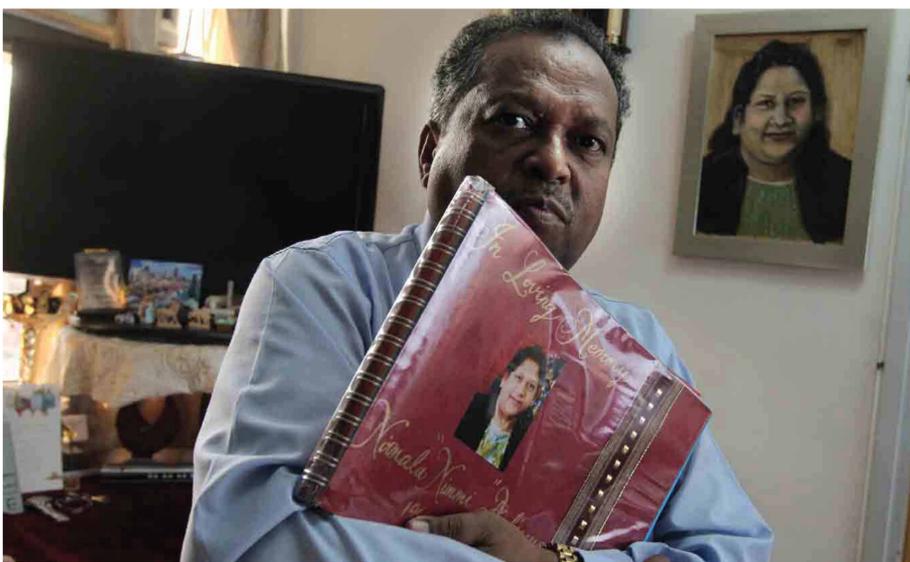
Lei, who is also director of China's longest-running cartoon series on popular science - *3,000 Questions From Bluecat* - said she has heartened that the only changes to the script were minor wordings. But authorities told her not to use the name Shaoshan in the movie title in order to avoid giving too much emphasis to a local place.

President Xi Jinping's (習近平) "Chinese Dream", although not mentioned explicitly, was one of the film's themes, she said. The campaign, which has been a personal project of Xi, seeks to promote the revitalisation of the nation. It would sit alongside the expression in the film of Mao's childhood dream for the nation, and his ambition to leave Shaoshan in pursuit of it.

The movie is in the final stages of production, and the team hope a 3-D version can be made for next year, Lei said.

"We definitely want to screen the film in Hong Kong. We want to show that this kind of movie can break the rules and be different," she said.

CEMETERIES



Mariusasui Andrews poses with a photo of his dead wife, Nirmala, in his home at To Kwa Wan. He cannot find a columbarium for his wife's remains.

spot in the lucky draw allocation of government-run cemeteries in June. The letter informing Andrews of lucky draw arrangements was in Chinese, despite his application being in English.

"It seemed like they were not very earnest. They are not genuine and they are not respecting [us]," he said.

The family, being Christian, is not allowed to use the Hindu cemetery where many Indians are buried.

While being part of a church, the church is not part of the Chinese Church Alliance, which controls Christian cemeteries in the city.

Andrews also approached the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries but was turned down.

A spokeswoman for the management said by law the cemeteries under the organisation only take ethnic Chinese applicants.

Andrews never expected to encounter such discrimination and he said the whole experience had been humiliating. He was extremely disappointed in the government and the Legislative Council - where lawmakers were supposed to speak for the Hong Kong people.

Bringing the ashes back to India is not a choice, considering the family has called Hong Kong home for 30 years, said Andrews.

"Hong Kong is home. I find living in India very difficult [now]. As for the children, it is virtually impossible [for them to settle back there]."

Annika Man from minority rights advocacy group Unison

land leases and would have to abide to those.

"It wouldn't be appropriate to apply the law to this case," he said.

The shortage of niches and columbariums affected the Chinese population in Hong Kong as well, he said.

However, Li hoped the government would take away the exemption on cemeteries from the anti-discrimination ordinance, and grant justice to ethnic minorities.

"I hope [the government] would look at the suffering people go through, due to an unequal law," she said. "These ethnic minorities seriously see Hong Kong as home and when they pass away, they'd like to be buried here."

Andrews failed to secure a spot in the lucky draw allocation of government-run cemeteries in June. The letter informing Andrews of lucky draw arrangements was in Chinese, despite his application being in English.

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POLE PRECISION.

IWC Schaffhausen advertisement featuring a detailed image of a chronograph watch with multiple complications and technical specifications.

54% The percentage of HK's power that comes from coal-fired power stations