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DIGEST

Xi memorial visit 'was never on the agenda'

China's ambassador to Germany says it was never proposed that President Xi Jinping (習近平) visit the Holocaust memorial in Berlin. Reuters news agency reported earlier that Beijing had proposed the idea to highlight Germany's atonement for its wartime past and to contrast it with Japan's stance on the issue. > CHINA A6

US pair guilty of selling trade secrets to China

A US jury convicted two men of selling stolen trade secrets to Chinese firms so they could develop a pigment used to whiten a wide range of products. One of the men was paid US\$20 million by China's Pangang Group in its decades-long effort to secure DuPont's secret method of manufacturing titanium dioxide. > WORLD A9

Conflicting views on route for economy

Two top financial authorities outline contrasting views on where the mainland's economy is heading. Finance Minister Lou

Defiance and defection



The commander of a Ukrainian military unit that refuses to surrender to Russian troops ringing their base near Simferopol, capital of Ukraine's Crimea region, speaks to reporters. The region's legislature voted to join Russia, and Crimea's government called a referendum on the issue, raising the stakes in the east-west stand-off over Ukraine. Photo: Reuters > REPORTS A3, A9

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

BEIJING 'CONCERN' OVER MAINLAND VISITORS TO HK

Top official on city's affairs tells NPC delegates of fears over its tourism capacity and says recent protests were 'derogatory and divisive'

.....
Tony Cheung in Beijing
 and **Jeffie Lam**

Beijing's top official on Hong Kong affairs has acknowledged for the first time that the city's capacity for mainland tourists is a matter of concern for the central government.

National People's Congress head Zhang Dejiang (張德江) – the nation's third most powerful politician – told a closed meeting of Hong Kong delegates at the annual NPC session in Beijing yesterday that the problem had been "taken note of".

Zhang said the Hong Kong

tions by some Hong Kong people against mainland tourists.

Ip added: "Zhang said the recent protests were derogatory, intensified social divisions and were inappropriate."

Zhang expressed his concerns as he reiterated Beijing's stance on political reform, warning the city could face "disastrous consequences" if it adopted Western-style democracy.

Ma Fung-kwok, a Hong Kong deputy to the NPC, quoted Zhang as saying: "You cannot just move or copy [the electoral system] from abroad, otherwise you might very easily find it can't adapt to the local environment

and possibly bring a disastrous result." Ma did not specify what such a disaster might be.

Others at the meeting said Zhang re-emphasised criteria for candidates in the election for chief executive in 2017. He said they must "love" China and abide by the Basic Law, which states that all candidates must be approved by a "broadly representative nominating committee" – a body more than likely dominated by pro-Beijing loyalists.

The pan-democratic camp wants the public to be allowed to nominate candidates, as in Legislative Council elections and in many overseas polls.

Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, a member of the NPC's Standing Committee, said Zhang emphasised that the electoral method must follow the Basic Law and fit the actual situation in Hong Kong.

most senior officials at the top of the National Development and Reform Commission insist that 7.5 per cent is the bare minimum. > **BUSINESS B1**

French street artist's work recreated

There was an outcry when street art was removed by officials from a wall in Tin Hau for "safety" reasons. Now a copy of French artist Invader's public "gift" has mysteriously appeared in the same place. The new work – a mosaic of tiles featuring the characters of the arcade game Pac-Man – strives to recreate the original found on a wall along King's Road near Fortress Hill. > **CITY C1**



Pac-Man is back – on a wall in Tin Hau. Photo: Nora Tam

No reason to fear GM food, farm minister says

Han Changfu's statement most public effort yet to dispel doubts on genetically modified produce

Mandy Zuo
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Agriculture Minister Han Changfu (韓長賦) says there is no reason to fear genetically modified food and that he regularly eats it himself.

The statement was the most public effort yet by a senior mainland official to dispel anxiety about the safety of GM foods.

"I eat food processed from GM crops, soya bean oil to be specific," he said at a press conference yesterday in Beijing, where the National People's Congress is meeting.

Han said most soya bean oil products sold on the mainland were made from imported GM soya beans. He spent over 20 minutes explaining the rigours of the safety assessment and supervision network for GM foods.

The minister also said the outbreak of bird flu should not deter people from eating chicken.

"As agriculture minister, I promise you eating chicken is safe," he said, adding that poultry farms had not been infected with the H7N9 virus. Mainland health authorities have reported more than 120 human cases this year.

According to Han, 17 GM products from five plant species – soya beans, corn, oilseed rape, cotton and tomatoes – are sold on the domestic market. Rules require such products to acknowledge their GM content on their packaging. GM cotton and papaya were the only crops approved for commercial planting on the mainland, he said.

Former state television host Cui Yongyuan (崔永元), who spent months researching GM food, says GM crops have been planted in at least four provinces:

Hunan (湖南), Hubei (湖北), Guangxi (廣西) and Jilin (吉林).

Cui, who is also a deputy to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, urged authorities to release information about a batch of exported rice that Europe refused to accept in 2006 because a GM variety of the grain was found.

"Developed countries are now seizing the leading edge in GM technology studies, and many developing countries are also actively following," he said. "We cannot have the technology monopolised by others, and the market cornered by others."

The minister noted the effects of pollution on agriculture. The government was beginning pilot programmes in the south of the country later this year to treat heavy-metal-contaminated soil, he said, without specifying the exact areas.

About 3.33 million hectares of farmland is too polluted to grow crops upon, according to a land survey released last year.

National Tourism Administration should look at the issue with the Hong Kong government, said sources at the meeting.

Ip Kwok-him, a local NPC deputy who was in attendance, said the NPC chairman wanted to know what resources the city had, so as to ensure trips by mainland visitors were "worthwhile and happy".

Ip said Zhang referred to the recent ill-tempered demonstra-

[Zhang] said HK is not a sovereign state ... so we cannot copy Western models

RITA FAN, NPC STANDING COMMITTEE

copy Western models," Fan said. Zhang was also said to have issued a veiled attack on the pro-democracy Occupy Central movement, which threatens to block roads in the city's financial district if authorities fail to deliver on genuine democracy. Additional reporting by Reuters

> **MORE REPORTS A4-5**
> **EDITORIAL A12**
> **ZERO TOLERANCE A13**

ECONOMY

Li Ka-shing likens Hong Kong to a 'spoilt child'

Ng Kang-chung, Jeffie Lam and Sandy Li

Asia's richest man, Li Ka-shing, has warned that Hong Kong is like "a spoilt child" and said the city was headed down a dangerous path of populism.

If the trend was not stopped,

the city would have gone "totally wrong" in as little as five years.

In his second interview with a major mainland news outlet since November, Li advised the city's government to invest more in innovation and technology to improve competitiveness, and not to focus solely on poverty relief.

The chairman of Cheung Kong (Holdings) and Hutchison Whampoa, who is ranked 20th in *Forbes* magazine's list of the world's super-rich this year, told online news service Caixin.com: "My family was poor and there was a time when we were left completely destitute. I will never forget that. I very much under-

stand what it is like when you need to worry about making ends meet every day.

"And it is also natural that such a situation gives rise to populism. But the important point is that society should find ways to resolve problems and not get stuck in a state of anger."

> **CONTINUED ON A3**

CITY

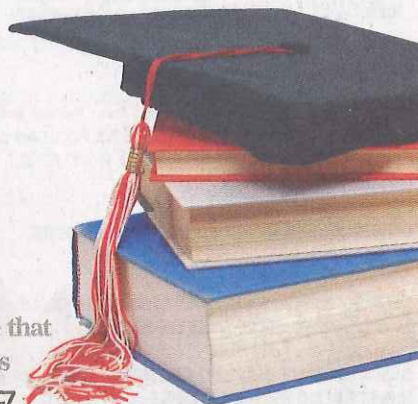
Feuding family back in court

Judges rule against widow of shareholder in famous roast goose restaurant > **PAGE C3**

LIFE

How to go from maid to manager

The Sheung Wan college that enables domestic helpers to move up in life > **PAGE C7**



WORLD

Asian outcry at California college bill

State law would make admission easier for blacks and Hispanics > **PAGE A11**

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FOOD & WINE

Photo: AFP

SAY CHEESE!

Food porn is so popular that even chefs are doing it. But not all are happy with the snacking snappers, writes **Mischa Moselle**

SEA FOOD

Top chefs cook up a storm at sea

Gillian Rhys
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Famous chefs are taking to the high seas and teaming up with cruise companies around the globe. Chef involvement varies widely from one ship, or one voyage (last year, Jason Atherton cooked on a Silversea cruise from Hong Kong to Singapore), to running several on-board restaurants, or overseeing the food on the entire fleet.

Here are some of the world's most glamorous ships' cooks.

DAVID THOMPSON

The Thai cuisine chef, who won Asia's Best Restaurant 2014 for Nahm in Bangkok, has been signed up by luxury boutique cruise company Aqua Expeditions as executive chef of its new Mekong River cruise.

Launching this September, Thompson plans to base the menu on the cuisines of Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. The attraction for Thompson is twofold: "It's close to home – Bangkok, that is – and the trip on the river is so enticing that I was hooked."

Thompson will be visiting Cambodia and Vietnam to source ingredients. "Things like the small rice noodles eaten at every lunch throughout Cambodia, the herbs that garnish every meal in Vietnam, and, of course, the fish of the Mekong," he says.

The chef plans to cook on board on occasion, although the size restrictions mean that cooking classes won't be possible. He's also planning a slightly different menu to the one at Nahm.

"A wider range of tastes must be allowed for when on a cruise. The people on board aren't just there for my cooking but for the trip and the tour," he says with trademark modesty.

NOBU MATSUHISA

Nobu's collaboration with Crystal Cruises came about organically. Nobu's Los Angeles restaurant and the cruise

dates have yet to be announced) to work with the chefs and create new menus. He also hosts cooking demos.

Diners include Nobu regulars who book the cruise ships because of the restaurants, as well as some customers new to Japanese cuisine.

JACQUES PÉPIN

The French chef who found fame in the US is the executive culinary director of Oceania Cruises. As such he oversees all the restaurants across the fleet.

A spokesman for Oceania says that from the outset the two parties shared the intention of "ensuring our cuisine is the finest at sea".

The spokesman says the "intimate" size (in industry parlance they are "mid-size") of the cruise ships lend themselves to Pépin's high level of cuisine. Everything is cooked to order, despite the fact that the restaurants are free seating and complimentary. "Nothing needs to be rushed or prepared en masse."

Jacques Pépin signature dishes such as coq au vin, rotisserie roast chicken and steak frites appear on menus.

Added to that, the chef has two eponymously named Jacques restaurants (on the Marina and Riviera cruise ships) where the menu is straight out of a fine dining restaurant in Paris.

Oceania organises speciality sailings where the chef prepares special menus, holds lectures and prepares cooking demonstrations. The next Jacques Pépin Cruise departs on July 23 from Britain.

LUKE MANGAN

When Luke Mangan heard that the president in charge of F&B at Carnival Australia wanted to change the poor image of food on cruise ships, he suggested opening a restaurant on board.

The Australian celebrity chef now has three seafaring versions of his Salt Grill restaurant concept: on the Pacific Jewel, the Pacific Pearl and the Pacific

Chefs in Hong Kong love their porn. Food porn, that is. While a

photos of their families to snapping the food, in some cases spending up to 10 minutes

astonishing quality and definitely generate extra buzz," says Panek.

dinner table don't bother them. She is aware that flash photography can be annoying,