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TODAY

MEDIA CORPORATION OF SINGAPORE

SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2015

MCI (P) 021/06/2015

A bumpy ride for the cashless bandwagon

TAN WEIZHEN
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SINGAPORE – From time to time, human resources executive Serene Chan, 36, finds herself out of cash with no automated teller machines (ATMs) in sight. The debit and credit cards that she carries are not of much help either in many situations.

"Some cab drivers will say their terminals are not working or they prefer cash, and till today some cafes accept cash only, and ATMs are not around everywhere," she lamented.

Such a predicament is something that many consumers here can identify with. Despite a push over the years by the industry and the authorities for Singapore to become a "cashless society", there is little to show for: For offline purchases, people are still paying cash in routine transactions except for public transport. Cash is still king.

the BIG read
Near Field Communications (NFC) technology was touted as the next big thing from as early as a decade ago, with proponents talking up the convenience of using mobile phones as payment devices.

In 2006, the Infocomm Development Authority also launched the CE-PAS (Specification for Contactless e-Purse Application) to promote the use of a single card for multiple purposes including paying for day-to-day shopping and transport. Three years later, electronic payment provider Nets launched the FlashPay card which can be used on public transport, Electronic Road Pricing gantries and car parks, as well as at over 2,500 retail outlets islandwide.

Credit card companies Visa and MasterCard have also jumped on the



PHOTO: REUTERS

NORTH KOREA AS YOU'VE NOT SEEN IT The 105-storey Ryugyong Hotel, the highest building under construction in Pyongyang. North Korea will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its ruling Workers' Party of Korea today. The morning will kick off with a major military parade — expected to be the biggest spectacle since Kim Jong-un took power in 2011 — and mass rally in Kim Il-sung Square.

TOP PRIORITY TO TACKLE DISRUPTIONS THAT LAST OVER HALF AN HOUR

Khaw aims for rail network reliability to match that of HK's

Public should be mentally prepared for next disruption, warns Transport Minister

NEO CHAI CHIN
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SINGAPORE – Setting the target to catch up with Hong Kong in rail reliability, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan said yesterday that his immediate priority is to tackle major train disruptions that last over half an hour.

He aims to study the cause of past disruptions and whether repeats can be prevented. He will also cover other possible causes of past disruptions and whether they have been addressed, he wrote on the Ministry of Transport's blog yesterday.

The current situation in Singapore is still "not good enough", he said.

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Elderly woman's hand severed by lift doors in freak accident

AMANDA LEE AND STACEY LIM
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SINGAPORE – An elderly woman's hand was severed in a freak accident yesterday morning after it got trapped between lift doors when she tried to get to her pet dog that was stuck outside.

Members of the public who rushed to the lift landing on the ground floor of Block 322, Tah Ching Road, after hearing shrieks saw the white dog dangling at the top of the shut lift doors, its leash still around its neck.

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**● CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

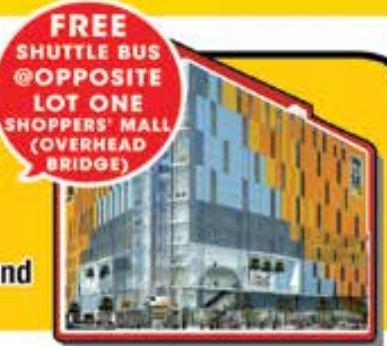


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2 hot news

WARSHIPS TO GO INSIDE 12-NAUTICAL-MILE ZONE AROUND MANMADE ISLANDS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

US Navy's message to China: We'll sail near your islands soon

Beijing seriously concerned, will not condone infringement of territorial sea, airspace, says Foreign Ministry spokeswoman

WASHINGTON – The United States is poised to sail warships close to China's artificial islands in the South China Sea, say Pentagon officials, in a move aimed at signalling to Beijing that Washington does not recognise Chinese territorial claims over the area.

In a sharp response, China yesterday expressed "serious concern" at the development, and called on the US to refrain from any provocation.

The US ships would sail inside the 12-nautical-mile zone that China claims as territory around some of the islands it has constructed in the Spratly chain, the Financial Times and The Washington Post reported.

Asked about the plan, a US Navy spokesman, Commander William Marks, told The Washington Post he could not discuss future operations but added that the US Navy "will continue to operate in international waters in the South China Sea in accordance with international rules of navigation — and do so at a time of our choosing".

Navy Times had reported that US President Barack Obama's approval to send US ships into the disputed areas is imminent, citing anonymous defence officials, while a senior US official had also told the Financial Times the manoeuvres were expected to start in the next two weeks.

White House spokesman Josh Ear-

nest said on Thursday he would not comment on future policy decisions, though he added that any such patrols "should not provoke significant reaction from the Chinese. This is something the US has done on several other occasions because the President is committed to the principle of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea".

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said yesterday that China was "seriously concerned" about the reports of impending US naval action. "It needs to be pointed out that China always respects and safeguards the freedom of navigation and overflight that all countries enjoy in the South China Sea as well as other places around the world according to international law," she said at a regular press briefing in Beijing.

"However, there is no way for us to condone infringement of China's territorial sea and airspace by any country under the pretext of 'maintaining the freedom of navigation and overflight'. We urge (the) relevant party to refrain from saying or doing anything provocative and act responsibly in maintaining regional peace and stability," she said, referring to the US.

Her response was stronger than remarks she had made on Thursday on the issue, when she said: "We hope the US side can objectively and fairly view the current situation in the South China Sea and, with China, genuinely play a constructive role in safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea."

Rival claimants — the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan — have grown increasingly



US Marines and their Philippine counterparts at a joint military exercise named PHIBLEX at Zambales province, north-west Manila, yesterday. The US Navy is tipped to sail close to China's artificial South China Sea islands. PHOTO: AP

alarmed at China's assertiveness in the disputed waters through which US\$5 trillion (S\$7 trillion) in shipborne trade passes every year.

In the past two years, Beijing has reclaimed thousands of acres of land for airstrips and other military installations. Military experts said the island building is aimed at furthering China's goal of building a "blue-water navy" that can operate far from shore to enhance its power projection in the Pacific.

Mr Obama said he told Chinese President Xi Jinping he had "significant

concerns over land reclamation, construction and the militarisation of disputed areas" when Mr Xi made his first state visit to Washington last month.

While the US has routinely sailed ships through international waters in the South China Sea, it has refrained from sending them inside the 12-nautical-mile zone of the artificial features since 2012, which was before China ramped up its construction activities around the Spratlys.

The new tack is intended to reinforce the US stance that China's claims are not consistent with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Speaking in Australia this week, Admiral Scott Swift, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, criticised China indirectly by saying "some nations view freedom of the seas as up for grabs" and as something that could be "redefined by domestic law or by reinterpreting international law".

"Some nations in this region continue to impose superfluous warnings and restrictions on freedom of the seas in their exclusive economic zones and claim territorial water rights that are inconsistent with UNCLOS," said Admiral Swift. He added that the US will defend freedom of movement in international waters through "routine presence, exercises with allies and partners, and freedom-of-navigation operations".

Professor Rory Medcalf, an Asia expert at Australian National University, said there were "no easy or risk-free options for challenging China's passive-aggressive strategy of manufacturing and militarising islands" in the region. "If the US is serious about ensuring that China does not dominate these waters, then the longer it waits, the riskier its freedom-of-navigation activities will become," he said. **AGENCIES**

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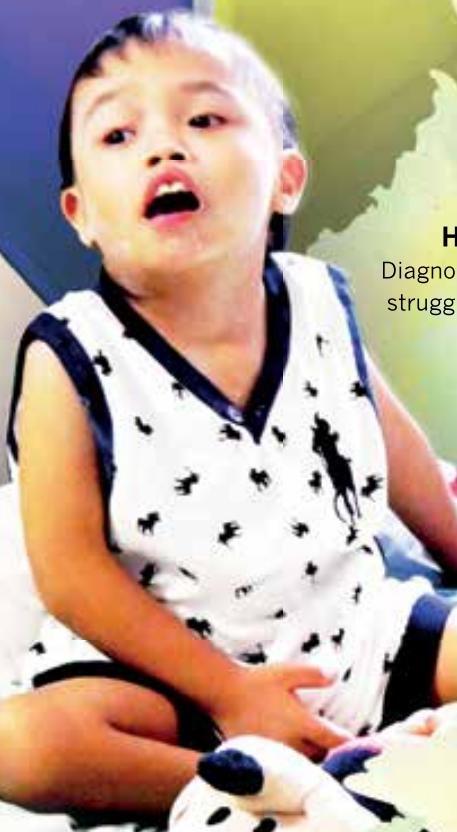
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Intellectually disabled, Huiqun had her mum taken away from her by cancer in 2011.



Lim Jear Chuan (18)

Handicaps Welfare Association

Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Jear Chuan struggles with his physiotherapy sessions.



Syawwal Syreezan (5)

Viriya Community Services

Born with a hole in his heart, Syawwal has kidney problems and Down Syndrome. He was abandoned by his father.

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PUB CHAIR 'BUILT UP CORE OF GOOD ENGINEERS AT AGENCY'

Man 'who made water engineering sexy' to help with rail transformation

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SINGAPORE – In a bid to make rail service here as reliable as the national water agency's services, Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan has roped in PUB chairman Tan Gee Paw as his Advisor on Rail Transformation.

The immediate priority for Mr Tan — the man who "made water engineering sexy", in Mr Khaw's words — is to ramp up rail reliability.

This will require a serious re-focus on strong engineering expertise and capabilities by both transport regulators and transport operators, wrote Mr Khaw in a blog post yesterday.

Mr Tan was the first person Mr Khaw consulted when told of his

new Cabinet posting.

Calling Mr Tan a respected engineer who built up a core of good engineers at PUB and who made smart research and development investments, Mr Khaw said he and Mr Tan shared much in common on how the future transport system could be like.

"We discussed the problem of rail disruptions, its possible causes and how we can make rail service as reliable as PUB services. We also discussed the industry structure for bringing about better alignment of incentives. We wondered aloud on how we would structure our rail companies, if we were to start afresh," he wrote.

"We also discussed the larger vision of a Singapore where public transport could be so convenient, reliable and hassle-free that there would be no

need to own a car. The city should be for pedestrians, as envisaged by our founding (Prime Minister) Lee Kuan Yew decades ago."

At PUB, Mr Tan ensured a steady stream of scholarships to bright students and personally showed that engineering was a meaningful career, said Mr Khaw, who did not mention when Mr Tan's appointment would take effect.

By delivering on NEWater, Mr Tan and his team permanently removed the strategic risk of water dependency on Malaysia, and helped create a new, globally competitive industry for Singapore companies, the minister added.

Mr Tan became PUB chairman in 2001 and was formerly permanent secretary for the environment. According to his biography on the National University of Singapore's (NUS) website, he started out as an engineer in the then Public Works Department and joined the then Ministry of the Environment in 1974.

He was responsible for drawing up the master plan to clean up the Singapore River and chaired the inter-agency committee for the project.

Mr Tan also spearheaded the development of the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System to make the collection, treatment and disposal of used water more efficient and cost-effective.

Both the water and rail systems comprise infrastructure that need maintenance on a large scale, said NUS mechanical engineering associ-

“We discussed the problem of rail disruptions, its possible causes and how we can make rail service as reliable as PUB services ... We wondered aloud on how we would structure our rail companies, if we were to start afresh.”

Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan
ON PUB CHAIRMAN TAN GEE PAW (PICTURE)



ate professor Marcelo Ang Jr.

Mr Tan's experience in ensuring that Singapore's water supply and used-water systems function well will be useful in his latest appointment, said Assoc Prof Ang. "There's the same challenge in maintaining a train system, though it's hard to say which is more complicated."

Mr Khaw also said he welcomes feedback from his engineering friends and called on engineers to unite and get on with "rail transformation and real revolution".

"We are no miracle workers, but given political will, clarity of purpose dogged determination, we are confident that we will arrive at where we want public transport to be," he wrote.

Khaw aims for rail network reliability to match that of HK's

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The average distance travelled before a delay of more than five minutes on the North-South and East-West lines is 137,000 train-km, falling short of Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway's (MTR) performance of about 300,000 train-km.

The MTR had 12 major disruptions last year compared to 10 disruptions in Singapore, but Hong Kong's network is significantly longer than Singapore's, Mr Khaw said.

"We are now behind Hong Kong MTR, but we shall catch up."

According to Land Transport Authority statistics, major disruptions have hovered between 0.03 to 0.05 per 100,000 train-km from 2011 to last year. The rate of delays lasting more than five minutes has improved between 2011 and last year, decreasing from 1.75 per 100,000 train-km to 1.17.

Issuing two blog posts yesterday — the other was on his appointment of PUB chairman Tan Gee Paw as Advisor on Rail Transformation — Mr Khaw stressed his resolve in tackling rail disruptions, even as he appealed for time to "turn around and then stabilise the situation".

The public should be mentally prepared for the next disruption, he cautioned. "We will be very disappointed when it happens, but we shall stand up, lick our wounds, examine the causes and work very hard to prevent a repeat."



Mr Khaw also highlighted the importance of engineering expertise and sought to boost the morale of rail employees. "The consensus view is that we have under-invested in rail maintenance, and our engineering capabilities in this area are still lacking. We will need to ramp up investment in this area," he said. "We will need to recruit and retain more skilled workers. All these are significant challenges, not easy to resolve quickly, but we are determined to overcome them."

Commenting on Mr Khaw's blog

post, associate professor Marcelo Ang Jr of the National University of Singapore's Department of Mechanical Engineering said proper design and maintenance are key in a rail system.

"In maintenance I think it's good to have more preventive measures," he said. "One idea is to perhaps have more sensors on tracks and (train) cars to do 'health' monitoring and to do more data analytics on how well the train is running."

Sensors could measure vibrations and perhaps even sound levels, and

could predict when certain parts may fail and even prolong the life of parts of the train system, he said.

SIM University adjunct associate professor Park Byung-joon said Hong Kong's MTR is probably the world's best in two areas: Financing and engineering reliability. He was in favour of benchmarking against Hong Kong's rail reliability standards but not in financing, as the MTR has the power to do land planning and develop and sell properties around MTR stations.

"Finance-wise, MTR is probably the only line in the world that doesn't need government subsidies to make a profit," he said. "I don't see the Land Transport Authority having the power to (do land-planning) and I don't think it's right to give such power to SMRT and SBS Transit."

Assoc Prof Park also agreed with the need to enlarge the pool of engineers and improve the level of engineering expertise.

"It doesn't mean those we have are not good ... but in terms of the total (number of engineers) we have versus the total we need, the consensus is we're quite thin," he said.

Mr Khaw has blogged six times since news of his appointment as Transport Minister last month. Among other topics, he has explained why he agreed to take on the role and announced a study of third-party ride-sharing apps.

Hong Kong's MTR is probably the world's best in two areas: Financing and engineering reliability, said SIM University adjunct Assoc Prof Park Byung-joon.

PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

The image features the DIGITEX 2015 logo at the top left, with 'BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND' written above it. Below the logo is the text 'DIGITAL & ELECTRONICS EXPO HALL 4B'. In the background, a large sign for 'SINGAPORE EXPO' is visible, with each letter of 'EXPO' in a different color: green, blue, red, yellow, and black.

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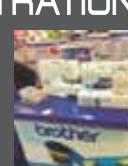
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SKIRMISH BETWEEN M'SIAN LAWMAKER, S'PORE'S AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ESCALATES

DAP's Tony Pua slams S'pore as a mercenary, friend-less nation

KUALA LUMPUR – The verbal sparring between Malaysia's opposition lawmaker Tony Pua and Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large Bilahari Kausikan over whether Malaysian Chinese are delusional in trying to change the political system escalated yesterday, after Mr Pua lashed out at Singapore, calling the Republic a "mercenary prick".

"He did Singapore no favour by cementing the perception of his country as the mercenary prick of Southeast Asia ... And they wonder why they have no friends," the Democratic Action Party (DAP) lawmaker wrote on Facebook yesterday. "I don't care much if this was the view of some academic or armchair critic. But as the Ambassador-at-large, Mr Bilahari is a spokesman for Singapore."

In a commentary published on Tuesday, Mr Kausikan had argued that Malaysia's Chinese youth have forgotten the lessons from the 1969 racial riots and are "delusional" in their perceived attempt to change a

system built around the principle of Malay dominance.

Singapore's former Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs also warned that should they succeed in bringing in a new system, it will only lead to even more rigorous enforcement of Malay dominance with less space for non-Muslims.

When asked by TODAY if he had any response to Mr Pua's latest comments, Mr Kausikan said: "What else is the DAP going to say? He is obviously writing for his own ground. I understand that. But calling me names is not going to change anything."

The envoy later made similar remarks on Facebook.

In an earlier response on Thursday to Mr Kausikan's commentary, Mr Pua had said that the Malaysians who joined August's anti-government rally organised by electoral reform group Bersih 2.0 — believed to be attended mostly by Chinese — were there purely to demand accountability from the

“One must understand that Singapore's wish is to see Malaysia continue to be behind in everything, economy, racial harmony, etc ... It is to prove that the decision to leave Malaysia and be independent was the right one.”

Facebook user Albert Tiong

government and not to pursue racial dominance.

Mr Pua said there needs to be a distinction between the principle of Malay "dominance" and Malay "supremacy" — the opposition is against the latter. The DAP lawmaker added that no one denies that Malays will dominate Malaysian politics and economy since they comprise the majority.

Responding to Mr Pua's comments, Mr Kausikan wrote in a Facebook post on Thursday that "one of the most common forms of delusion in political affairs is to mistake one's hopes and dreams for reality or to believe that if one wishes fervently enough for something it will become reality".

Mr Pua, who received his secondary education in Singapore at Raffles Institution and Raffles Junior College on a Singapore government scholarship, shot back at the envoy yesterday, questioning if the envoy was implying Malaysians should accept the status quo.

"In effect, (Mr Kausikan's) val-

able advice is stop smoking whatever we are smoking, Mr Najib is a nice guy you can cut deals with. Instead, we should all accept the fact that multi-billion ringgit scandals and 'donations' are costs Malaysians have to accept to ensure peace and prosperity," wrote Mr Pua yesterday, referring to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Mr Najib, who is also Finance Minister and chairman of the advisory board for state investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), is under intense political pressure over the more than RM42 billion (\$14.2 billion) of debt that the company has chalked up. The Malaysian premier is also being asked to explain why a massive political donation of RM2.6 billion was deposited into his personal bank accounts by Middle Eastern donors in the lead-up to the 2013 Malaysian general election.

Mr Pua's latest Facebook post drew more than 860 "likes" and 240 comments by yesterday evening, mostly from Malaysian netizens who shared the lawmaker's sentiment.

"One must understand that Singapore's wish is to see Malaysia continue to be behind in everything, economy, racial harmony, etc ... It is to prove that the decision to leave Malaysia and be independent was the right one," commented a Facebook user, Albert Tiong. **AGENCIES**

Elderly woman's hand severed by lift doors in freak accident

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unbeknownst to them, the dog's trapped owner still had the other end of the leash. The woman, in her 80s, was in excruciating pain, her left hand clamped by the doors of lift car B, which had jammed near the third storey.

When they realised what was going on, the good Samaritans dashed to help, cutting the leash to free the dog and calling in paramedics and firefighters.

Officers from the Singapore Civil Defence Force, which was alerted at 7.27am, used rescue tools to pry open the lift doors to get to the elderly woman. Paramedics retrieved her hand, which had been severed, packed it in ice and took it with her to the National University Hospital.

A spokesperson from the hospital said the victim's family requested for privacy and declined to be interviewed. "The hospital will not provide further comment, in view of patient confidentiality," she added.

TODAY understands her hand cannot be reattached.

From accounts of those at the scene during the incident, it appears the lift doors closed behind the elderly woman before her leashed dog could enter and she had attempted unsuccessfully to stop the lift from going up to her 16th-floor flat.

A resident of the block who helped to cut the dog loose said he had stepped out of the other lift with his sister when they heard the animal's cries.

"When I turned to look, we saw the dog trapped by its leash," said the man, who wanted to be known only as Mr Ho, 48. He said the dog was either a terrier or a mixed breed of maltese.

Mr Ho added: "I asked my sister to quickly go up to get a pair of scissors to cut the leash. So while she went up, I was holding up the dog to relieve it from the pressure."

In response to TODAY's queries, the Housing and Development Board said lift doors have a safety mechanism that will re-open them when they hit a hard object.

"They are also fitted with a safety sensor that will stop the doors if they detect sizeable objects in the way. However, the sensor may not be able to detect or respond to thin strips, strings or similar objects."

Mr Seow Eechang, 66, who lives on the same floor as the victim, described her as a "very nice woman" who takes her dog for morning walks religiously although she needs a crutch to walk.

It is understood she has been living alone since her husband died about two years ago. Her son, who lives in the vicinity, visits her frequently.

Mr Seow, who has been living in the block since it was completed in 1996, complained about the lifts. He said the lift cars shake or come to a stop at times, or stops at the wrong floor.

Jurong Town Council, which looks after the block, said the lift was serviced about a week ago, on Oct 1. The lift was certified to be in good work-



ing condition.

The lift also has safety features that prevent the lift landing door and lift car door from closing when sensors near the base detects movement or when either of the doors are not properly closed.

The town council's general manager, Mr Ho Thian Poh, said: "We have checked the lifts within the same precinct and the safety devices are all working. We have also proceeded to check the remaining lifts in our town to ensure that the safety devices are all working."

Mr Ho also said they were "saddened" by the incident. They visited the family yesterday and will provide assistance where possible, he added.

The lift at Block 322, Tah Ching Road where the elderly woman's hand was severed after it was trapped between lift doors. In the interest of public safety, the Building and Construction Authority has suspended the use of the lift.

PHOTO: ERNEST CHUA

In the interest of public safety, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has suspended the use of the lift in question and asked Jurong Town Council to appoint an Authorised Examiner to determine the cause of the incident. The investigation report will be submitted to the BCA.

A spokesperson added: "The appointed Authorised Examiner is also required to propose repairs to the lift, if necessary, and engage a registered lift contractor to carry out the recommended repair works."

The Commissioner of Buildings will allow the lift to be used again only after he is satisfied with the investigations and the proposed measures to be carried out.

VALERIE KOH
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SINGAPORE – Long plagued by a manpower crunch, the hotel industry is getting a boost in the form of a government-led Sectoral Manpower Plan (SMP), which aims to better attract and retain Singaporeans, and groom talent for leadership roles.

Unveiled yesterday as the first SMP launched under the national SkillsFuture programme, it also seeks to improve job quality, and identify emerging skills needs for the hotel industry. The plan will be implemented from now until 2020.

Initiatives include enhanced structured internships with a minimum stipend, the Earn and Learn programme — a government-supported work-study scheme — and study awards for those already working in the industry.

At the launch held at One Farrer Hotel and Spa, Manpower Minister Lim Swee Say warned that the industry faces a stark challenge. By 2018, room inventory figures are expected to grow by more than 20 per cent to 70,470, yet local manpower growth — especially at the rank-and-file level — will inevitably slow down. At the same time, more university graduates are entering the workforce, but only a third of hotel jobs are at leadership, managerial and executive levels.

"If we maintain that better service is only possible with more manpower, there will be no way out of the manpower bottleneck," Mr Lim said. "The old model of manpower-led growth is no longer sustainable. Instead, we need to become more manpower-lean."

Singaporeans form about 60 per cent of the hotel industry workforce, according to estimates given by the Singapore Hotel Association (SHA).

The SMP is about "deepening skills in the local workforce and developing good jobs for Singaporeans", said the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), which is spearhead-

Hotel industry gets boost with national plan to upgrade, retain workers



ing the initiative with the Singapore Tourism Board.

Already, more meaningful internships for polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) students are under way.

Under the internships, which span at least 22 weeks, the student are given a minimum stipend of S\$600. They will also be assigned mentors, and rotated to at least two departments, such as guest relations or housekeeping.

Currently, hotels have varying practices for internships. Stipends

range from S\$450 to S\$1,000, and the duration is between 16 weeks and 24 weeks, said Republic Polytechnic's deputy principal (academic services) Michael Koh. The polytechnic is the sector coordinator for hotel industry.

"We didn't want the industry to be competing with each other (for talent), so we offered a baseline," said Dr Koh. "It's a good start. Everyone comes on the bandwagon to harmonise."

The Earn and Learn Programme, which kicks off next year, has seen 32 hotels and two hotel chains pledge their

A hotel housekeeping staff member making a bed during the Hotel Housekeeping Challenge 2014. The SMP will also seek to improve job quality and identify emerging skills needs for the hotel industry.

TODAY FILE PHOTO

support. Fresh polytechnic and ITE graduates will work and study concurrently, starting as trainees to become executives with supervisory responsibilities, and receive a specialist diploma in hospitality business management at the end of the one-year scheme. They will also be awarded S\$5,000, while participating hotels will receive up to S\$15,000 per trainee.

Other schemes include the Leadership Development Initiative — under which hotel employees earmarked for leadership roles will be given on-the-job training and networking and mentorship opportunities — and study awards of up to S\$5,000. The former is still in the works, while the latter starts next year.

The final initiative is the Singapore Skills Framework, to be rolled out in the first half of 2016. It outlines career progression pathways — be it for someone working in the front desk to someone working in sales and marketing — so that people will not think of hotel jobs as a "dead end", said Mr Christopher Yip, WDA's deputy director for the tourism division.

Whether funding for the Earn and Learn programmes and the study awards will continue after 2020 remains to be decided.

Acknowledging that the SMP remains a guideline for hotels, Mr Yip said: "We cannot force (them). The incentive for the hotel to groom the person is the manpower crunch ... If the hotels don't do this, then they will lose out. And the hotels are not only competing for manpower among themselves, but also with the retail industry, the F&B industry and others. So if you don't step up in terms of human resource practices and talent development programmes, then nobody will join you."

SMPs will also be rolled out for the social services, early childhood care and education, healthcare, retail and food services, and biopharmaceutical sectors.

Manpower plan a 'morale boost' for hotels, hospitality students

SINGAPORE – Hotels are keen to adopt the Sectoral Manpower Plan (SMP), citing manpower crunch and foreign manpower reliance as perennial problems plaguing the industry.

Already, 32 hotels and two hotel groups, including Amara Singapore and Far East Hospitality, have pledged their support for the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn programme — even before it starts next year.

Citing attrition rates as high as 25 per cent and a foreign manpower dependence of up to 40 per cent of their total staff, hotels are pinning their hopes on the manpower initiatives to attract millennials — and more importantly, retain them — in the sector.

Noting that many graduates do not stay in the industry past the five-year mark, Pan Pacific Singapore's general manager Gino Tan said grooming talent straight from their schools — through enhanced internships and the Earn and Learn programme — would

be one way to cultivate interest and prevent staff from moving onto other industries.

Dr Richard Helfer, chairman of One Farrer Hotel and Spa, felt that having strong human resource practices, as suggested under the SMP, would also draw staff. His hotel, which has 250 employees, offers flexible benefits to staff, allowing them to customise their company benefits — such as medical claims or gym perks — to their lifestyle.

But Singapore Hotel Association's executive director Margaret Heng dished out a cold dose of reality: "That (the SMP) alone will not be sufficient to resolve the manpower shortage. Internally ... how do we ensure that existing staff will also be supportive?"

She added: "More importantly, how do we manage with being manpower-lean, and yet ensure that service levels will still be on the high side?"

The solution, say some hotels, lies with technology.

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More importantly, how do we manage with being manpower-lean, and yet ensure that service levels will still be on the high side?

Ms Margaret Heng
SINGAPORE HOTEL
ASSOCIATION'S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Resorts World Sentosa's vice-president of rooms, Mr Chow Keng Hai, decided to improve efficiency by purchasing spray mops — all-in-one mops, complete with a water storage — for the chambermaids. This, among other practices, has bumped up their cleaning speed, allowing them to cover an additional room per day.

While large hotel chains could easily adopt the SMP, Ms Heng acknowledged that smaller hotels — "because they're so lean" — could struggle.

"But small also has its beauty. When you're small, you sometimes have more of a family, caring environment. People would say, I don't mind, I want to stay on," she said.

Several hospitality students, such as Ms Lycia Ang, said they were excited about the SMP.

Ms Ang, 20, who has a Diploma in Leisure and Resort Management from Temasek Polytechnic, said she would have considered entering the hotel

sector had this plan been launched earlier. Although she had interned at Four Seasons Hotel in Mauritius for six months, she felt that "it would have taken a long time to climb up the corporate ladder", and chose to pursue a university degree instead.

With the new initiatives, Ms Ang plans to re-enter the hotel sector after getting her degree.

However, Singapore Polytechnic's Cleon Oh Yun Zhen, 19, was not convinced that the SMP will help to draw students to work in the hospitality industry. "People are reluctant to work in the hotel industry due to unstable work timings as well as work during the weekend and holidays," said the Hotel Leisure and Facilities Management student.

"But, it (the SMP) will definitely be a nice morale boost for interested students like me and help me ensure that I want to work in the hotel industry," he added. **VALERIE KOH AND FRANCIS LAW**

WORK ON HEPATITIS C OUTBREAK TIPPED TO TAKE 2 MONTHS

Panel to review if there were gaps in SGH's handling of outbreak

Issues to be examined include timeliness of response, how crucial data is reported

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SINGAPORE— The independent review committee looking into the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) hepatitis C outbreak will examine whether there are gaps in the hospital's handling of the matter, including the timeliness of its response and how crucial information is reported, Health Minister Gan Kim Yong said yesterday.

Since the news broke on Tuesday, many have questioned the handling of the matter and why it took so long for the public to be informed.

"SGH has provided the sequence of events and the actions taken by the hospital between April and August 2015," said Mr Gan in response to media queries on the sequence of events. "This is an important area that the independent review committee will be looking into critically to determine whether there are gaps in the process, including the timeliness of SGH's response, how crucial information is reported, and whether there are areas that need to be tightened and improved upon, such as safety protocols and information flow."

The committee is expected to take two months to complete its work. Adding that the committee's findings will be made public when they are ready, Mr Gan said: "If there are gaps, we will

ACTIONS TAKEN BY SGH DURING THE OUTBREAK

April: 1st case diagnosed

May: Renal doctors noted increase in frequency. More tests to detect the presence of hepatitis C virus carried out. Infection control was reinforced.

June: Infection control team activated. Renal ward stopped use of multi-dose vials. Subsequently, all wards stopped using these vials.

July: Phylogenetic tests carried out for the first time in SGH lab. Tests were done in three batches. Some past hepatitis C positive cases were also tested as control group.

The results for the first 21 cases were out between July 6 and Aug 21, and showed evidence that this was a cluster of cases.

August: Internal review done by SGH senior clinicians. MOH was informed of the cluster in late August.

Sept 3: Associate Prof Benjamin Ong, MOH's director of medical services, recommended further investigation and verification.

Oct 6: SGH made public the cluster of infections. MOH announced the setting up of an independent review committee.

close them. If there are weak areas, we will correct them. And if there are shortcomings, we will improve. It is important that we remain transparent."

Meanwhile, the vast majority of the 678 patients who could have been exposed to the outbreak have been contacted to go for screenings, with 32 yet to be reached. In an update last night, SGH said it has managed to contact 646 of these patients, of whom 585 have set appointments for their tests.

So far, 186 patients, as well as 202 out of 273 hospital employees who had worked at the renal ward 64A — or Ward 67 when the actual ward was



At TTSH, 13 out of 700 types of 'injectable agents' come in multidose vials. Of these, eight come in containers that are shared among multiple patients. PHOTO: JASON QUAH

undergoing renovations — have been screened. Results of the tests will be available after a week. The hepatitis C virus has an incubation period of between two weeks and six months.

The unprecedented viral outbreak, which was made public on Tuesday, is possibly due to a lapse in the use of multi-dose medication vials. The patients who are to be screened comprise those who had been admitted to the affected ward from January to June.

The outbreak has infected 22 patients, with the first case being detected on April 17. Eight of the 22 affected patients have died. Among these deaths, four were linked to the viral infection, while a fifth is under review. Two of the remaining 14 survivors are still hospitalised.

Meanwhile, 24 more people — bringing the total number to 181 — who did not stay in the renal ward during that period have made enquiries about the hepatitis C cluster. "The hospital reassured them that patients in other wards and visitors need not be screened as the hepatitis C virus is not air-borne," said an SGH spokesperson.

The hospital yesterday conducted a briefing and a media tour of its premises, with its staff showing how infection control is done, including measures such as a month-long orientation for new staff, surprise audits and regular walkabouts by senior management members who would gather feedback from frontline workers.

Every month, the renal, oncology and haematology units, as well as the Intensive Care Units and Immediate Care Areas are audited for infection control. Other units are checked annually. Hygiene practices are also conveyed through pamphlets, and posters put up throughout the hospital and on its shuttle buses. There are also various avenues for staff and patients to provide feedback. Still, SGH medical board chairman Professor Fong Kok Yong said, "no system is perfect".

Apart from stopping the use of multidose vials throughout the hospital since June 23, SGH has also tightened its audit procedures for hand hygiene and environmental cleanliness, said Prof Fong. He added that

his team was "quite confident" that environmental factors did not have a role in the outbreak.

MULTIDOSE VIALS UNDER SPOTLIGHT

Multidose vials, which typically hold several doses of liquid medication that may be shared by multiple patients, have come under scrutiny as a possible source of the viral outbreak.

Despite the World Health Organization's advisory against the use of multidose vials where possible, a small number of drugs and vaccines are still administered through such vials "because there is no better alternative" in the market, said Tan Tock Seng Hospital's (TTSH) medical board chairman Associate Professor Thomas Lew, who was also at the SGH briefing.

In TTSH for instance, 13 out of 700 types of "injectable agents" come in multidose vials. Of these, eight — including insulin — come in containers that are shared among multiple patients. Prof Lew said the hospital is reviewing the use of multidose vials following the outbreak.

In the aftermath of the outbreak, various hospitals said they have reminded staff on the need to adhere to medication administration protocols and infection control practices. The KK Women's and Children's Hospital said its staff have also been reminded of the "importance of observing sterility and correct aseptic techniques". A Khoo Teck Puat Hospital spokesperson said that staff training on aseptic management and infection control strategies are being conducted and regular infection control audits are also carried out on the wards.

The National University Hospital (NUH) said its renal patients are routinely investigated for any symptomatic liver disease or abnormal liver function blood tests results. "We have not observed any unusual trends in (hepatitis C virus) infections," it said.

NUH said that when the independent review committee's findings are made available, it will review its practices and work closely with MOH to adopt any recommended changes.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY VALERIE KOH

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Mr Gan Kim Yong
HEALTH MINISTER

A bumpy ride for the cashless bandwagon

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bandwagon, offering payWave and PayPass respectively, which require no signing or authentication for small purchases.

However, all these initiatives have yet to attain the mass adoption that was envisaged. A recent study by RFi Group found that only 15 per cent of retailers here accept contactless payments, behind a global average of 20 per cent.

In contrast, more than half (54 per cent) of Singaporeans own a credit or debit card with contactless payment capabilities, and only under half (45 per cent) of the population has ever made a contactless purchase. Paradoxically, 65 per cent of Singaporeans still prefer to use cash for low value purchases, and only 38 per cent could imagine a cashless society here. The study found that, in general, consumers across different countries are apprehensive towards contactless payments because they do not trust the technology and there is a lack of merchants who accept the payment mode, among other reasons.

"The evolution of payments in Singapore has been unconventional compared to other Asian or even Western countries," said RFi Group general manager Gerald Ferguson. "Despite the high ownership of ... a contactless payment-supported card and quality of infrastructure to support contactless payments, many retailers as well as the public remain slow to adopt smarter payment options."

In Singapore's case, Mr Michael Sek, senior market analyst at IDC Financial Insights, said it was likely due to consumers not perceiving any need for another payment system beyond the plethora of options that they already have — NETS, credit cards, debit cards and cash.

"The CEPAS system continues to be used for transport applications in both public transport and for motorcycling use but has not really branched out or caught on that much in retail spaces," he said.

"For mature markets like Singapore for which many citizens would be able to qualify for credit cards and certainly debit cards after just starting work, it is hard to displace cards as the de facto non-cash payment," he added. "Coupled with the attractive points and loyalty schemes that they offer plus their widespread availability, it's very hard to provide an alternative to this."

However, industry players and the Government are not giving up, due to the cost of handling cash, the desire to minimise long queues and the need to cut down on manpower such as cashiers. The Land Transport Authority, public transport operators and other partners, including EZ-Link and the three telcos, have started trials for using smartphones to pay for public transport.

Other major players are also trying out new forms of contactless pay-

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NETS still requires a terminal, and it was a hassle because (the hawkers) had to deal with cables and they didn't know where to place the terminals. But if they don't need a sophisticated point-of-sales system, and just rely on an iPad, it will be easier. The ultimate vision is that Singaporeans don't have to stand in line.

Mr Jeremy Soo
HEAD OF CONSUMER BANKING AT DBS BANK



DBS Bank has started a contactless payment trial with Old Tea Hut, using a phone app called FasTrack. Queuing up time has been cut from 20 to six minutes. PHOTO: ERNEST CHUA

ments, in particular for transactions at eateries and hawker centres.

One idea that is catching on is for consumers to place their orders using mobile apps for low-value items — such as food and drinks — and pay first with their credit cards, without the need for authentication, before turning up at the shops to pick up their orders.

DBS Bank has developed a phone application called FasTrack to do this. It has started a trial with drinks chain Old Tea Hut, and found that average queue time has been cut from 20 minutes to six minutes.

Mr Jeremy Soo, DBS Bank's head of consumer banking, said that the bank aims to go commercial with this app by the end of the year. Discussions have been started with chains such as Manhattan Fish Market, Skinny Pizza and Tiong Bahru Bakery. Mr Soo said the bank eventually aims to roll out this initiative for hawker centres.

EXPERIMENTS UNDER WAY

Mr Soo was hopeful that DBS' initiative would fare better than NETS' attempt to introduce cashless payment at hawker centres. From July last year to January, hawkers at Bedok Interchange, Beo Crescent and Clementi 448 Market and Food Centre were issued with NETS FlashPay terminals. The response from customers was lukewarm.

In May, NETS had said that many sectors, such as hawker centres and wet markets, remain traditionally cash-based, and there was "a great deal of inertia in changing a system that they are used to — accepting cash and using it for their expenses".

DBS was part of the FlashPay trial. He said: "NETS still requires a terminal, and it was a hassle because (the hawkers) had to deal with cables and they didn't know where to place the terminals. But if they don't need a sophisticated point-of-sales system, and just rely on an iPad, it will be easier. The ultimate vision is that Singaporeans don't have to stand in line."

Meanwhile, the first phase of the trial for using smartphones to pay for public transport took place last October. It involved 500 users who used smartphones to pay for MRT rides. The second phase started last month with another 500 users who would use

have no motivation to move away from cash. Sure, there's the occasional customer who walks in and doesn't have enough cash but, on the whole, the majority of customers have no issues with cash. So, we don't see the urgency to change the payment mode."

On the hassle and fees associated with handling cash, she added: "It's not like we are handling S\$10,000 to S\$20,000 a day ... so there's no problem."

In fact, Ms Grace Lim, owner of Mercury Mobile at Raffles Place, which sells mobile accessories, said it would be more of a hassle to introduce new payment modes. "There's too much hassle. I'm sure we will have to do extra administration work for such new payment platforms, and there's terminal fees also," she said. Her shop accepts only cash or NETS payments. "Plus, we have to learn how to use it, and maybe even need to teach our customers. At lunchtime, the crowd here can get quite big, and we cannot accommodate it if we have to guide them," she added.

Mr Lee acknowledged that from a business or commercial point of view, "there is no incentive for merchants to push for digital payments, because cash comes so readily to them".

But he added: "There is a cost to handling cash, but it is not very visible to merchants." He said that in countries such as Australia and the Philippines, merchants are given a limited number of times to deposit or withdraw cash from banks before they have to pay a fee.

In Singapore, there is certainly scope for a new payment mode in lower-value transactions such as purchases at a convenience store, said Mr Sek.

"This is where speed and convenience are valued very much," he said, noting the moves by Visa and MasterCard to enter this space.

Visa Singapore said that the total number of contactless Visa payWave transactions crossed 1 million in August 2013, making up one in 10 Visa transactions. Two years later, the figure has exceeded 3.5 million, or almost one in three Visa transactions.

In order for contactless payments to take off, the system has to be interoperable across different platforms and incentivise both consumers and businesses, industry players stressed.

On using smartphones for NFC payments, Ms Ooi Huey Tyng, Visa country manager for Singapore, said: "If it is just a different form factor with not much incremental benefit, there is not much impetus. It has to be a richer interface with scalability and interoperability." For instance, the phone application would also have to track purchases, administer points for rewards and accept all kinds of payments including NETS and credit cards.

She said: "The turnaround time on contactless transactions also has to be brief and with a low error rate. If it is not as fast as it should be, we have to do something about it because people aren't going to use it a second or third time. Merchants are supposed to use it to increase productivity and efficiency, and if there is downtime, they would not promote it."

65%
OF
SINGAPOREANS
STILL PREFER
TO USE
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Politicians entitled to live consistently with their beliefs

FROM **DARIUS LEE**

I do not agree that political leaders or civil service officers should keep silent about their religious beliefs ("Leaders should continue religion-neutral policies"; Oct 9).

Singapore adopts an accommodative form of secularism. It is not antagonistic towards religion, but views religion as a positive factor in society, with important contributions to education, community and social work. It does not privilege non-belief over belief or one religion over another.

An important part of integrity — one of the key "Rules of Prudence" highlighted in the letter from the Prime Minister to People's Action Party Members of Parliament — is living consistently with one's beliefs at all times.

While a political representative has a duty to prefer the interests of the electorate over his own, he ought not to sacrifice his conscience to his constituents.

Like everyone else, public officials are entitled to live with integrity, and to practise and propagate in public

what they profess in private. This remains subject to public order, public health or morality in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution. They should be permitted to peacefully abstain or object if they are unable to discharge their duties in good conscience.

Contrary to the writer's characterisation, Mr S Dhanabalan was not silent about his faith as a politician. In 2013, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong praised him as a man who "spoke and acted out of conviction", whose support for the Maintenance of Religious Harmony Bill as a religious person helped the Bill to be accepted by religious groups and the public.

I share the writer's view that we live in a world torn by religious tensions and extremism. However, the real issue is the fundamentals of one's beliefs.

The more people believe in the ideology of terrorist group Islamic State, which promotes the murder, rape and torture of innocent people, the darker the world will become. But the more people commit to the principles of truth, justice and mercy, the brighter the light will shine.

MOE needs to explain how it arrived at school fees

FROM **KWAN JIN YAO**

Besides the generic explanation that the Ministry of Education (MOE) wishes to "further differentiate fees by citizenship" — the same proffered in 2013 when the fees were last raised for permanent-resident and international students — perhaps more information can be provided on the regularity and details of such fee reviews ("School fees for PRs and foreigners to increase from 2016"; Oct 1).

Most will agree on the need for differentiation between permanent residents (PRs), international students and Singapore citizens, but to what extent? How did the MOE arrive at these numbers, and how have the fees changed over the years?

Less attention has been paid to this announcement by the MOE, because school fees for Singaporean students have not been changed, and education remains highly subsidised. However, clarity on the increases will be useful for some disgruntled parents. Also, the generalisation that PRs and foreigners are wealthy is not true. The fees for education in the primary and secondary schools are significant and could deter these parents from sending their children to local schools.

What might put the rising fees in context is the number of PRs and international students who will be affected. Numbers from MOE would be helpful.

Women's representation in politics here still lacking

FROM **JOLENE TAN**

Programmes and communications senior manager,
Association of Women for Action and Research
(AWARE)

Oct 5 was a big milestone for Singapore. We celebrated 20 years of commitment to gender equality after acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1995.

Despite some commendable steps towards gender equality, one area where Singapore is still lacking badly is political leadership, as became evident in the recent Cabinet appointments.

Disappointingly, only five of the 37 office-holders are women, making up 13.5 per cent of Cabinet. Only one full Minister, out of 20, is a woman. CEDAW recommends that women's political representation should be at least 30 per cent to have a real impact on political style and content of decisions.

The Diversity Action Committee, which aims to increase representation of women directors on corporate boards, clearly recognises the need for gender diversity. The same should

apply to the most important decision-making institution in Singapore, the Cabinet. Of course, it is unreasonable to expect 50-50 representation in Cabinet at this stage, when about a quarter of Parliament is female.

But after 20 years of CEDAW, it is fair to expect the Government to develop a specific roadmap for addressing the barriers to women's participation in politics and ascension to leadership roles.

One issue that may be worth investigating is the barrier of unconscious bias. Unconscious bias affects every area of our lives. We naturally gravitate towards people who look like us, think like us and come from backgrounds like ours. Everybody has unconscious bias, but it is crucial to manage this so it does not affect important decision-making processes.

Research has shown that while people believe they would not reject a female job applicant based on gender alone, many employers have unconscious biases that respond more favourably to the same resume when it

has a male rather than a female name.

Gender stereotypes, in many cases unconsciously held, are still prevalent in the political domain. From one politician calling his rival's new-mother status a "weakness", to another politician's statement that fielding women "puts mother-child relationships at risk", one does not have to look far for pervasive attitudes against women's participation in public life.

Many corporations also suffer from a lack of gender diversity, but, crucially, have taken steps to implement solutions. Multinational companies such as Google and Facebook set targets for women's advancement by acknowledging unconscious bias. Other corporate initiatives include staff training in unconscious bias, creating processes to remove biases through structured interviews and gender-diverse panels, and providing mentorship schemes.

The Government is answerable not only to shareholders, but to a diverse body of citizens with a rich variety of experiences. It is time for the Government to show leadership by setting up its own Diversity Action Committee, and take steps towards finally fulfilling the 20-year promise of CEDAW.

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MOVE IS PART OF BUS SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

More buses and trips added in Q3 to improve services

SBS Transit and SMRT also earned incentives from LTA for improvements under Bus Service Reliability Framework

AMANDA LEE
leeguiping@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE – A total of 690 government-funded buses have been added to the roads here under the Bus Service Enhancement Programme (BSEP) as of last month.

In the third quarter of this year, 30 additional buses were deployed to improve 21 existing services during

the morning and evening peak hours, the Land Transport Authority (LTA) said yesterday. "Some of these services have seen significant improvements in their frequencies," it added. "In total, 450 weekly peak-hour bus trips were added in this period."

Under the BSEP, 1,000 government-funded buses will be injected into the public bus network by 2017 to expand the fleet by around 35 per cent.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing quarterly bus service review process, SBS Transit (SBST) and SMRT have also improved 25 bus services by deploying higher capacity buses and/or adding more bus trips along sectors that experience heavy ridership.



The two public transport operators have added 110 weekly trips during the peak hours for these services in total in the third quarter of this year.

This is on top of the 450 additional weekly peak-hour bus trips added by the Government under the BSEP during the same period.

Seven new routes will be introduced to enhance connectivity in areas such as Bedok, Bukit Panjang, Choa Chu Kang, Jurong East, Jurong West, Marine Parade, Punggol, Sembawang, Tampines and Yishun.
TODAY FILE PHOTO

Separately, the second assessment period of the Bus Service Reliability Framework (BSRF) trial — from last December to May this year — has found that commuters, on average, have benefited from more regular wait times and less crowding. Seventeen out of 22 services reduced their Excess Wait Times, said the LTA.

SBST earned S\$816,000 for reliability improvements to 12 services, and SMRT earned S\$384,000 for improvements to five services.

For the first assessment period of the trial — from June to November last year — SBST earned S\$710,285.71 for reliability improvements to 11 services, while SMRT earned S\$345,714.29 for improvements to seven services.

The LTA said yesterday the incentives help offset costs, such as the hiring of more service controllers, incurred by the public transport operators to support the BSRF.

In June this year, the BSRF trial was expanded by 12 services, with 11 more services joining the trial in December. This brings the total number of services under the trial to 45.

Meanwhile, in the fourth quarter of this year, residents of Tampines/Simei and Marsiling/Woodlands can look forward to the implementation of another two City Direct Services — CDS 664 and 665.

Seven new routes will also be introduced to enhance connectivity in areas such as Bedok, Bukit Panjang, Choa Chu Kang, Jurong East, Jurong West, Marine Parade, Punggol, Sembawang, Tampines and Yishun.

The details of these new routes are currently being worked out.

According to the LTA, about S\$420 million of the S\$1.1 billion Bus Service Enhancement Fund, has been disbursed. The money has gone towards the purchase and operating costs of new buses, the introduction of new bus services, and improvement of existing bus services.



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WALK-IN INTERVIEW

TECHNICAL OFFICERS / TECHNICIANS

Depending on the posting, the scope of work ranges from the operation and maintenance of transmission and distribution network to the implementation of projects. These may involve the supervision of works carried out by contractors and attending to customers' requests and enquires. You may also need to inspect and maintain equipment through technical testing and diagnosis of equipment.

Requirements:

- Diploma in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering from local Polytechnics or Higher NITEC / NITEC in an Electrical / Mechanical discipline
- Possess a valid Class 2 or Class 3 driving licence and preferably own vehicle
- Perform stand-by duties after office hours when required

Date: 10 October 2015 (Sat)

Time: 9am - 3pm

Venue: Mapletree Business City (Multi-Purpose Hall),
20 Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore 117439

Please bring along your resume, copies of educational certificates & transcripts, NS certificate of service, recent payslip, IC or passport and a recent passport size photograph.

Interested applicants who are unable to attend the walk-in interview may send a detailed resume, stating qualifications, experience, current and expected salaries by 23 Oct 15 to recruitment@singaporepower.com.sg.

Please visit www.singaporepower.com.sg for full details of the job requirements

HE OFFERED REFEREE S\$5,070

S'porean gets 30 months' jail for attempting to fix LionsXII match

Ex-project manager also pleads guilty to conspiring with former Malaysian footballer to cheat Singapore Pools

SINGAPORE – The Singaporean who was involved in fixing a LionsXII-Sarawak FA football match three years ago was sentenced to 30 months' jail yesterday for match-fixing and cheating offences.

Former project manager Selvarajan Letchuman, 52, pleaded guilty to three proceeded charges on Sept 15.

The charges included one count of corruptly offering RM15,000 (\$S5,070) in gratification to Shokri Nor, a referee with the Football Association of Malaysia, as a reward for fixing the outcome of the football match.

The match ended in a 3-0 win for LionsXII.

He also pleaded guilty to two counts of abetment by conspiracy with Thana Segar S Sinniah, a former Malaysian footballer, and Shokri to cheat Singapore Pools. Selvarajan was first charged in 2012, but he was given a discharge not amounting to an acquittal as Thana Segar and Shokri

Russian doctor fined S\$1,500 for stealing duty-free wine

SINGAPORE – A doctor was fined S\$1,500 yesterday for stealing two bottles of wine from a duty-free store in Changi Airport. Gromov Alexey, 35, filched a bottle of Cloudy Bay and a bottle of Oyster Bay from DFS Spirits, Wines and Tobacco in Terminal 1, before he and his wife were due to leave Singapore on Oct 4. The wines cost over S\$70 altogether.

The urologist, a Russian national, was spotted entering the shop at around 7.40pm that day carrying a green basket that did not belong to DFS. An employee noticed Alexey leaving the store about five minutes later with two bottles of wine in that basket. She knew the bottles of wine were not paid for as they were not bagged in a Security Tamper-Evident Bag that all paid liquors would have to be sealed in. She tried to follow Alexey but lost sight of him near a cafe.

At about 8pm that day, Alexey approached a part-time service staff at the cafe to help him keep a black plastic bag containing two bottles of wine and two plastic cups. Alexey returned about 15 to 20 minutes later to claim the items.

A DFS security officer and the shop employee later found Alexey and his wife outside the holding room for Gate C14. The security officer noticed Alexey's wife pouring wine into a plastic cup and asked them for a proof of purchase. But the couple could not produce any. The court heard yesterday that Alexey's wife has left the country as there was no evidence to show she was involved in or had knowledge of the theft.

Speaking in court through a Russian translator, Alexey said: "I beg for your pardon and I have no previous records in any countries."

For theft, Alexey could have been fined and/or jailed up to three years. **SIAU MING EN**

had absconded and the prosecution was unable to proceed with the case.

Thana Segar, 40, had jumped bail in 2012, and was apprehended in August last year with the help of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment on April 9 this year. Shokri, 50, who is a former Malaysian policeman, is still on the run.

"Singapore adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption and other criminal activities, and match-fixing of any form is not condoned in Singapore," said the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) in a statement yesterday.

"The CPIB will not hesitate to take action against any party involved in match-fixing related activities."



President Tony Tan with (from left) KK Women's and Children's Hospital's Dr Winnie Goh, Ang Mo Kio MP Koh Poh Koon, Temasek Cares chairman Richard Magnus, parents and staff at the launch. PHOTO: JASON QUAH

S'pore's first one-stop help centre for vulnerable kids, mums opens

SINGAPORE – A one-stop help centre targeted at vulnerable children from birth to three years of age and their mothers was officially opened by President Tony Tan yesterday.

The first of its kind in Singapore, the Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 Centre's aim is to bring together a multi-lay-

ered programme, spanning health, social and educational services. Located at Block 643, Ang Mo Kio Avenue 5, the centre is supported by a team of professionals from KK Women's and Children's Hospital and Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centre.

Through centre-based services

and home visits, these professionals will regularly assess the development of the children and ensure that vaccinations are up to date. Expectant mothers will get prenatal and postnatal care, and will be guided on how to care for their child, such as with advice on proper nutrition, lifestyle adjustments, breast-feeding and how to provide a stimulating environment for early childhood learning.

Families can also get a range of psycho-social support, such as financial and employment assistance as well as mental health services. Beyond such formal support, the centre aims to be a social gathering point for mothers and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

More than 110 families are enrolled in the Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 programme. The pilot programme expects to serve a total of 600 mothers and children over three years, with funding of S\$8.7 million by Temasek Cares.

"Children need the right start in life to reach their full potential," said Temasek Cares chairman Richard Magnus. "The critical window for development is from age zero to three. We initiated the Temasek Cares KIDS 0-3 programme to provide children from vulnerable families with the same start as all other children — good nutrition, early stimulation, cognitive development and emotional security."

"This will help them close the development gap by the time they enter pre-school."

Temasek Cares is the philanthropic arm of government investment firm Temasek Holdings. **IMELDA SAAD**

ComfortDelGro taxis now allow cashless, cardless transactions via booking app

SINGAPORE – Passengers who book ComfortDelGro taxis using the company's booking app can now do away with whipping out cash or their credit or debit cards at the end of their trips.

The largest taxi operator in Singapore said yesterday it is the first in the country to accept MasterCard's digital payment service, called MasterPass, where customers can create

a mobile wallet that is connected to the ComfortDelGro taxi booking app.

Mr Yang Ban Seng, ComfortDelGro CEO (taxi business), said the service, which is accepted on the company's entire fleet of 17,000 taxis, will provide their customers with a "seamless and hassle-free ride".

"They just need to book our taxis using MasterPass, hop into our cab and get off at their destination without any fare transaction," Mr Yang said. "Our drivers will also like it because there's no fiddling of notes and coins and no dipping of cards."

Users will have to register their pay-

ment cards via the MasterPass website to create a MasterPass wallet. This is then paired with the booking app, and payment for a cab ride will be automatically deducted from the mobile wallet.

Ms Deborah Heng, MasterCard's country group head and general manager, said customers' payment information will be securely stored.

The cashless and cardless mode of payment has been made popular by private-transport company Uber and its companion smartphone app that allowed users to book and pay for Uber-affiliated cabs by linking their Uber account to a credit or debit card.

APPROVAL RATING DIVES FROM 75% LAST YEAR TO 46% NOW

Widodo's popularity continues to fall as Indonesian economy falters

JAKARTA – A survey released this week shows that more than 50 per cent of Indonesians are unhappy with the performance of President Joko Widodo, in large part due to Indonesia's rising food prices and slowing economic growth.

The research firm, Indo Barometer, interviewed 1,200 respondents in 34 provinces between Sept 14 and 22 and its results revealed that approval ratings for Mr Widodo have slipped from a similar survey in March.

"Compared to (Mr Widodo's) public satisfaction level six months ago, their satisfaction level towards the President has dropped by 11.5 per cent, from 57.5 per cent (six months ago) to 46 per cent (at present)," said the executive director of the research firm, Mr Muhammad Qodari.

He added that Mr Widodo's disapproval rating has now reached 51.1 per cent, marking the first time that the majority of Indonesians are unhappy with the President's performance.

In contrast, polls done by the company when he was first elected into office showed an approval rating of 75 per cent. The rating of Vice-President Jusuf Kalla's performance has also dropped, from 53.3 per cent six months ago to 42.1 per cent currently.



Mr Widodo (centre) reviewing the handling of forest fires at the Long Rimbo village in Kampar regency, Riau province yesterday.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Based on the polls, the single greatest source of dissatisfaction was the perception that the government could not control increasing food prices, with 17.3 per cent of respondents flagging it as the reason for their lower level of satisfaction with the Widodo administration. This was followed by the perception among 13.3 per cent that the government could not fix the slowing economy, worries about the weakening rupiah at 7.4 per cent, and higher fuel

prices at 4.3 per cent. The remaining respondents cited other factors as the reason for their dissatisfaction.

Indonesia's economy is growing at its slowest pace since 2009, with gross domestic product rising only 4.7 per cent year on year in the second quarter, while in August, the rupiah was at its lowest level against the dollar since the late 1990s.

Commenting on the poll findings yesterday, Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung said the survey reflected the public mood in the third week of September when the country was facing major issues in the economy and environment. "If the survey had been conducted now, I'm sure most of the public would say they are satisfied with the government of Jokowi," said Mr Anung, adding that support for the administration would bounce back once the rupiah strengthens and the haze situation improves.

The rupiah has appreciated almost 7.4 per cent against the US dollar this week. Indonesia on Thursday accepted help from six nations to boost efforts in extinguishing forest fires raging in Sumatra and Kalimantan that have caused the region to be blanketed in hazardous haze for weeks. **THE JAKARTA GLOBE**



INDONESIA MISSES OUT ON TIMBER ROYALTIES

- Unreported forest clearing cost Indonesia up to US\$9 billion (\$12.5 billion) between 2003 and 2014 in lost timber royalties — about three times the royalties it actually received, according to an investigation by the country's main anti-graft agency.

"Where does the money go — it goes to the corrupters," said Mr Dian Patria, the group head of corruption prevention for natural resources at Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). "It could be US\$9 billion, it could be more, because these are quite conservative figures. This is not only a corruption issue, it's also about the long-term environmental impact," he added.

An eight-month investigation by the KPK estimated the value of the lost timber at up to US\$81 billion, with the cleared land often used for growing crops or mining. A copy of its report, seen by Reuters and handed to government ministers yesterday, will put further pressure on Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who has been criticised by green groups and other South-east Asian nations about the country's forestry policy, and for failing to stop the annual transboundary haze problem caused by forest-burning.

Home to the world's third-largest tropical forests, and a major palm oil and pulp and paper producer, Indonesia will be in the spotlight at the United Nations' climate change conference in Paris in December. The country lost 1.5 million hectares of tree cover last year, up from 1.1 million hectares in 2013 due to unregulated land clearing.

In the 12 years to 2014, Indonesia earned just US\$3.2 billion from timber royalties, said the report, which comes as Mr Widodo's government battles sluggish economic growth. **REUTERS**

Slowing growth prompts Beijing to get more hands-on with HK

HONG KONG – Among the magnates who have dominated Hong Kong's economy for decades, Li Ka-shing is first among equals. Like other tycoons in the city, he has made a fortune investing in Hong Kong and China real estate. The billionaire's role in China's development earnt him the gratitude of former Chinese presidents Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao. "He is almost sacrosanct and untouchable," said the chairman of Hong Kong's pro-democracy Civic Party, Audrey Eu.

Under President Xi Jinping, though, even Mr Li — who is worth US\$32.6 billion (\$45.41 billion) — is vulnerable. China's state-controlled media put him in the spotlight last month after reports companies he controls were selling properties in Shanghai and focusing more overseas. Outlets including the People's Daily, the newspaper of the Communist Party, questioned his loyalty.

On Sept 29, Mr Li responded, with his office issuing a three-page statement that said suggestions he was ditching China were "complet-

ly untrue". It said his foundation has put HK\$14.8 billion (\$2.66 billion) into Greater China. His group of companies, led by flagship CK Hutchison Holdings, has opened 1,000 mainland retail stores in the past two years and has more than 215 million square feet of projects under development in the country. Moreover, he expressed his respect for Mr Xi's leadership.

Mr Li, 87, has been diversifying his investments. But other factors make him an easy target. Chinese leaders have relied on the business elite to run Hong Kong since the United Kingdom returned it to the mainland in 1997. But in 2012, Mr Li fell out with the Chinese government over Mr Donald Tsang's replacement, backing a rival of Mr Leung Chun-ying, Beijing's anointed candidate. "Some of the bigger boys did not vote for the current incumbent, and that won't be forgotten," said Mr Steve Vickers, head of Steve Vickers & Associates, a political and corporate risk consulting firm in Hong Kong.

China's sense that Hong Kong is mismanaged only increased when

pro-democracy protests last year embarrassed Mr Leung's government. Then, in June, Hong Kong lawmakers voted down Beijing's proposal to limit voters' choice to pro-Beijing candidates in elections for the next chief executive. The campaign against Mr Li "is a signal that times have changed", said Ms Eu, and a message to other tycoons to ensure Hong Kong behaves. "The attack on Li Ka-shing," she says, "does send shivers down the spines of a lot of businesspeople."

When China was enjoying strong growth, leaders in Beijing could afford to take a smug attitude to the former British colony and its problems, said Professor Michael DeGolyer, a research fellow at Hong Kong-based think tank Civic Exchange and a professor of government and international studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. The country's growth, however, has stalled. Mr Xi's anti-corruption campaign has crimped investment and spending, increasing a sense of retrenchment. That has put the spotlight on Mr Li's moves to



The attack on Li Ka-shing does send shivers down the spines of a lot of businesspeople.

Ms Audrey Eu
CHAIRMAN, CIVIC PARTY

diversify beyond China. The leaders in Beijing "see him doing real injury to a country in its time of need", said Professor DeGolyer. "They're worried."

In 14 of the past 15 months, more money has flowed out of China than in. This year alone, US\$475 billion has left. Because China has reserves of US\$3.6 trillion there is no immediate crisis, but the trend is troubling.

Mr Li's companies have announced more than US\$27 billion in mergers and acquisitions in Europe this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Businesspeople follow Mr Li's lead, said Hong Kong's Democratic Party chairman Emily Lau, and "they think he has the Midas touch". The Communist leadership is therefore "concerned others will follow him and take their money elsewhere".

From now on, China is going to take a more active role in Hong Kong's affairs, said Mr Vickers, and will not be as concerned about hurting the feelings of billionaires such as Mr Li. The tycoons "didn't deliver", he said. "That arrangement is R.I.P." **BLOOMBERG**

China-S'pore economic ties 'set to propel relationship forward'

As Singapore celebrates its founding 50 years ago, TODAY is running a monthly series of interviews with ambassadors of countries that play a key role in Singapore's foreign relations. This month, Albert Wai (albertwai@mediacorp.com.sg) speaks to Chinese Ambassador to Singapore Chen Xiaodong (picture). In a wide-ranging interview, the envoy speaks about the major initiatives to develop stronger China-Singapore ties, major economic projects between the two countries, President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption drive, terrorism and the South China Sea, among other issues.

With the Joint Council of Bilateral Cooperation Meeting coming up next week, what issues are expected to be discussed? What are the areas of focus for Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli's visit?

From Oct 12 to 14, Mr Zhang Gaoli, Vice-Premier of the State Council, will visit Singapore and co-chair with Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean the annual meetings of China-Singapore cooperation mechanisms. It is the first visit by a Chinese leader after the establishment of the new Singapore Cabinet. During the visit, Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli will call on President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. They will exchange views on further promoting bilateral relations and practical cooperation, and prepare for President Xi Jinping's state visit later this year.

The annual meetings of China-Singapore cooperation mechanisms are important platforms for systematic review and comprehensive planning of our bilateral cooperation in various areas. The two sides will take this opportunity to explore the new designation of bilateral relations, reach in-depth agreements on key issues, such as the third bilateral project (after the Suzhou Industrial Park and Tianjin Eco-City), upgrading of the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, economic reform, financial services cooperation, and so on.

These agreements will give strong institutional and policy support to the new chapter in China-Singapore relations. During this visit, we will sign agreements on Singapore's Chinese Culture Centre, the Tianjin Eco-City, Guangzhou Software Excellence Centre and Suzhou Overseas Investment Service Platform.

Singapore and China enjoy long-standing and multifaceted relations, especially in the area of trade and investments. What are some of the major economic projects being undertaken now?

China-Singapore relations have come a long way since the establishment of diplomatic ties 25 years ago. During



PHOTO: EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN SINGAPORE

all these years, economic cooperation has always been the ballast stone and the propeller of our bilateral relations. From January to July this year, trade between China and Singapore achieved 4.4 per cent growth despite a sluggish global economy.

Singapore remained China's largest foreign investor and contributed 82 per cent of all the investment from the One Belt, One Road countries to China. In the same period, China's investment in Singapore has increased four-fold, and the Republic has become the largest destination of China's investment.

With this solid foundation, our economic cooperation projects have been increasingly comprehensive and substantial. For example, the flagship projects between our governments, the Suzhou Industrial Park and the Tianjin Eco-City, have long been the models of bilateral cooperation. Local projects such as Guangzhou Knowledge City, Jilin Food Zone and Sichuan High-Tech Innovation Park are all making further progress.

Now, we are working on the third G-to-G (Government-to-Government) project, which fits in China's national strategies, like the One Belt and One Road Initiative and Western Region Development drive. This third bilateral project will be forward-looking and pace-setting, with distinctive features on geographical scope, planning concepts and cooperation models.

Currently, we have stepped up coordination on the selection of location, instalment of supporting policies, as well as on other details. We believe it won't be long before we reach a final agreement and announce more details on the project.

Since President Xi Jinping came to power, he has embarked on a high-profile anti-corruption drive. Have the efforts been successful? What else needs to be done?

President Xi Jinping recently

ON TRADE

From January to July this year, trade between China and Singapore achieved 4.4 per cent growth despite a sluggish global economy.

ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

The land reclamation project on some islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands (Spratly Islands) has been completed and the main purpose of China's construction is to meet civilian demands.

ON COMBATING TERRORISM

Singapore has good experience and practice in de-radicalising and severing terrorist financing.

emphasised that China's anti-corruption campaign has nothing to do with (a) power struggle. It's nothing like what you see in House of Cards (an American political drama series). Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China has investigated and handled a large number of serious corruption cases, and these efforts have paid off.

In future, we will further institutionalise the anti-corruption campaign and make it more law-based. There will be an effective anti-corruption system where officials dare not, cannot and (are not) corrupt, and the power to investigate graft is put under institutional checks.

What are the priority areas of the newly established Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

How will it dovetail with China's One Belt, One Road initiative?

The purpose of establishing the AIIB is to bridge the funding gap of Asian infrastructure development and promote sustainable development of Asian economies. The AIIB and the One Belt, One Road initiative are closely linked and reinforceable. The AIIB, with the Silk Road Fund, will provide solid financial support for the One Belt, One Road initiative and will provide more opportunities for win-win cooperation and common development.

There have been concerns over China's perceived assertive actions in the South China Sea. Can you shed more light on the reclamation and other construction in the area?

China's positions on the South China Sea issue have been consistent. It was China that first discovered, developed and administered the Nansha Islands (Spratly Islands). After the Second World War, pursuant to the international treaty and declaration, China lawfully and publicly recovered the Nansha Islands. In the following 30 years, the international

community, including the countries around the South China Sea, had never raised any questions. Rather, they recognised explicitly or tacitly China's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands in different ways, such as diplomatic notes and published maps. China's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands has sufficient legal and factual basis.

China's construction on its own islands is beyond reproach, and there is no ground to accuse China of being "more and more aggressive". We are not the first country to build or to deploy military forces on the Nansha Islands. Recently the Chinese side has announced that the land reclamation project on some islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands has been completed and the main purpose of China's construction is to meet civilian demands.

Yesterday, we held the lighting ceremonies for the lighthouses on Huayang Jiao and Chigua Jiao. (Also known as Cuarteron Reef and Johnson South Reef, respectively.) These lighthouses will provide better navigation services for ships sailing in the South China Sea. Next, China will continue to build civil and public facilities on relevant Nansha Islands and provide more public goods.

What were the considerations behind organising the Sept 3 parade commemorating World War II? Was the event successful?

On Sept 3, a grand commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War was held in Beijing. I published an article in this newspaper about the commemoration. President Xi Jinping mentioned the word "peace" 18 times in his speech and stated unequivocally in his speech that the purpose of the commemoration is to bear history in mind, honour the fallen heroes, cherish peace and open up the future.

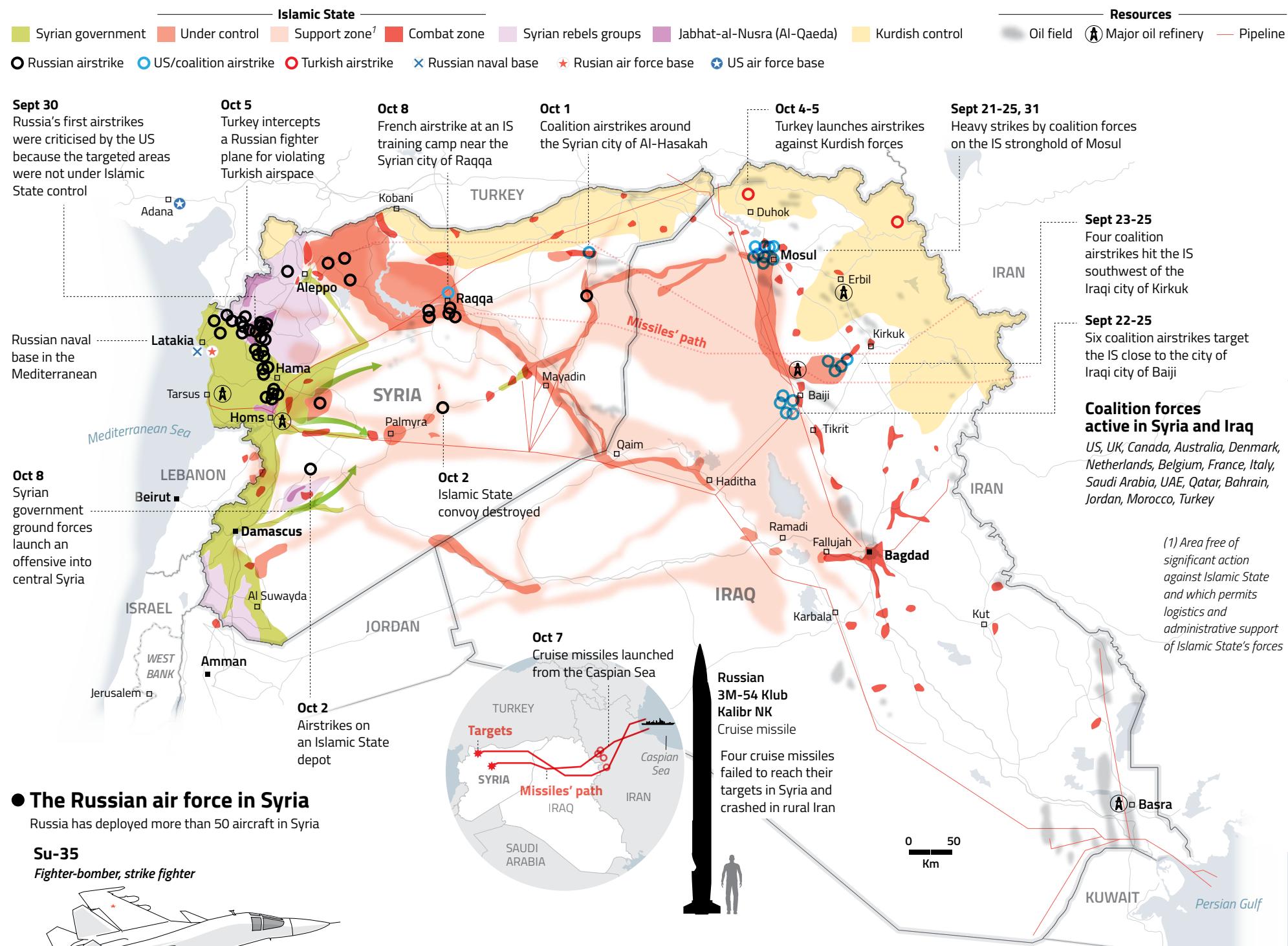
The commemoration has achieved great success and was widely acclaimed. It reflects not only the profound relationship between the Chinese people and the people across the world, but also our respect for history and the great importance attached to peace. We thank the international community, including Singapore, for the participation and support.

Terrorism affects everyone and China has not been spared. What are some of the measures undertaken by the Chinese government to combat the Islamic State?

China opposes terrorism in any form and has been actively participating in international anti-terrorism cooperation. To uproot terrorism, we need to remove its breeding ground, promote economic and social development, appropriately handle regional conflicts, and advocate equal-footed dialogue between different civilisations, religions and ethnic groups. Singapore has good experience and practice in de-radicalising and severing terrorist financing. China would like to strengthen its cooperation with Singapore in this field and jointly tackle the challenge of terrorism.

Syrian conflict enters complicated new phase

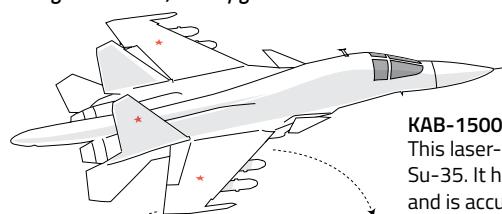
Washington's US\$500 million (\$697.2 million) programme to train and equip Syrian rebels to fight against the Islamic State (IS) in Syria was terminated yesterday, after the programme failed to produce any kind of ground combat forces capable of taking on the IS. Instead United States defence officials are planning to teach Syrian rebel leaders operational manoeuvres like calling in airstrikes, which the US and its coalition partners have been carrying out against the terror group since September 2014. However, Washington's plan may be further complicated by Russian airstrikes against US-allied Syrian rebel groups since last month – which Moscow is carrying out under the guise of fighting IS. TODAY takes a look at the recent air campaigns undertaken by Russia, US coalition forces, and Turkey in the region since the end of last month.



The Russian air force in Syria

Russia has deployed more than 50 aircraft in Syria

Su-35 Fighter-bomber, strike fighter



Can carry up to 8,000kg of bombs

4.63m



KAB-500R
500kg explosive
This laser-guided bomb can be used by all three aircraft

3m

Refugees who have fled from Syria

From December 2011 until Oct 4 this year

Million people

5

4

3

2

1

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4,052,011

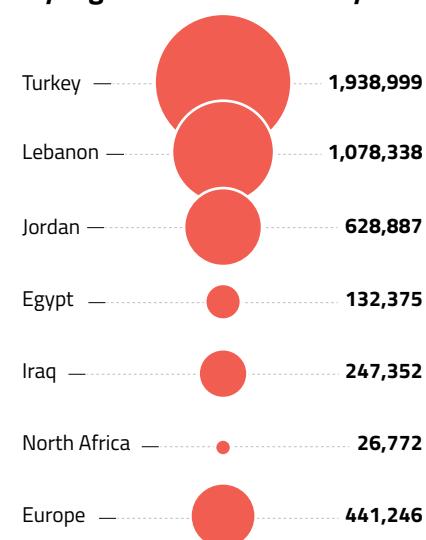
2012

2013

2014

2015

By region and host country



RALLY BASED ON EXPECTATIONS RATHER THAN FUNDAMENTALS

Asian markets surge as Fed minutes lift sentiment

US holds rate near zero as it keeps a watchful eye on the Chinese economy

SINGAPORE – Asian stock markets surged yesterday, with the regional benchmark index chalking up its biggest weekly advance in nearly four years while the Malaysian ringgit mounted its best weekly gain since 1998, on renewed hopes that the United States central bank would keep its key interest rate near zero for longer.

Minutes from the US Federal Reserve's September meeting released overnight showed that policymakers thought growth in the world's largest economy was close to warranting a rate hike but decided it was prudent to wait for evidence that a China-led global slowdown was not knocking the US off course.

The MSCI Asia-Pacific Index yesterday climbed 1.7 per cent to 133.39, marking a 5.6 per cent rally this week, the most since December 2011. Among the region's key bourses, China's Shanghai Composite Index rose 1.3 per cent, Japan's Nikkei-225 Index gained 1.6 per cent while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.5 per cent, rounding off weekly gains of 4.3 per cent, 4 per cent and 4.4 per



cent, respectively. The Chinese market had a short trading week, having re-opened on Thursday after the week-long National Day holiday.

In Singapore, the Straits Times Index jumped 1.8 per cent to close at 2,998.50, after briefly breaching the key psychological 3,000 level in mid-day trade. Volume picked up, with

An investor in Anhui province, China, keeps an eye on the markets. The Shanghai Composite Index rose 1.3 per cent yesterday.
PHOTO: REUTERS

nearly 1.9 billion shares worth more than S\$1.4 billion traded, as the local gauge outperformed its larger neighbours with a 7.4 per cent weekly gain.

"This looks like a sustainable turnaround. Investors have become less pessimistic," said Mr Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets. "Things are definitely not in a strong economic environment but there is an expectation of further central bank support."

Fed officials had signalled throughout much of the summer that they were getting ready to raise interest rates in the autumn after keeping their benchmark interest rate close to zero since the end of 2008. However, policymakers appeared unsettled as they discussed at length the possibility that the China-led slowdown could weigh on America, with a stronger greenback also hurting commodity prices and US exports. Combined with fewer signs of inflation, that stayed their hand at the two-day meeting in mid-September.

Participants anticipated that recent global developments would likely put further downward pressure on inflation in the near term; compared with their previous forecasts, more now saw the risks to inflation as tilted to the downside," the minutes showed. "The committee decided that it was prudent to wait for additional information," referring to the policy-making Federal Open Market Committee.

In the currency markets, the ringgit jumped 2.5 per cent yesterday to 4.1295 per US dollar to mark a gain of 6.5 per cent over the week. Against the Singapore dollar, the ringgit rose 1.3 per cent to 2.9593, completing a 3.9 per cent weekly rally. Meanwhile, the Indonesian rupiah rose 3.4 per cent yesterday to 13,411 to round off an 8.4 per cent surge for the week.

The dovish tone of the Fed, as well as resurgent oil and commodity prices, have benefited Malaysia and Indonesia, with traders unwinding bets that the two emerging market currencies would keep falling through the end of the year.

Benchmark Brent crude oil rose 1 per cent yesterday to US\$53.56 (S\$74.70) a barrel, boosting the weekly gain to 11.3 per cent, while the Bloomberg index of raw materials rose 4.1 per cent during the week.

"What we are seeing is that people are continuing to cover their short positions in the two currencies," said Mr Divya Devesh, Standard Chartered Bank's foreign exchange strategist in Singapore.

The reliance on commodities has contributed to Malaysia and Indonesia being among the worst-affected Asian economies this year as growth in China slowed.

"It is going to be critical to watch China data because that could be the turning point" and the rally isn't supported by fundamentals, added Mr Devesh. **AGENCIES**

Record technology spending to boost Asia's money-laundering hunt

SINGAPORE – Asian financial-services companies are poised to spend a record amount upgrading the software systems they use to monitor illicit fund flows as they seek to overcome a persistent shortage of anti-money-laundering (AML) specialists.

Spending on technology for AML and customer screening may rise to US\$300 million (S\$420 million) next year in Asia, from this year's estimated US\$260 million, said research firm Celent. The software upgrades will help some banks offset staff costs, following a near-20 per cent increase in salaries for experienced AML specialists during the past three years.

"A lot of banks are just putting on people, putting on people, putting on people," said Mr Richard Moore, head of financial crime and security services at DBS Group Holdings. "We've now taken a different approach: Let's develop infrastructure, let's bring on different skills of people to help us control the volume of work we have to do."

Hong Kong and Singaporean regulators have in recent years required banks to monitor tax evasion and

made them liable for prosecution should they fail to maintain procedures to vet money flows.

AML officers are responsible for analysing the profiles of prospective customers to establish whether to accept them as clients and open accounts for them. They also vet transactions from money transfers and private banking to trade finance to determine the sources of funds and how they will be used. Any doubtful dealings are reported as suspicious transactions to regulators.

Amid the competition for talent from other banks that has driven salaries higher, Mr Moore said he has "struggled" to expand his financial crime and security services personnel beyond 160. Since the former police detective joined DBS from Commonwealth Bank of Australia three years ago, he has managed to increase headcount in his AML team by just 5 per cent to its current level of 65.

Meanwhile, HSBC Holdings, which makes most of its profits in Asia, hired more than 2,200 people globally — principally for financial crime compli-

ance — in the first six months of this year, the bank said last month.

"It's really tough to develop and keep talent in the current environment," said Mr Moore. "As we start to develop people, they get an offer to go somewhere else for a significant uplift, and they move on."

Singapore's most-experienced AML officers can expect a base of at least S\$190,000 this year, 19 per cent higher than in 2012, based on a Robert Walters survey. Those with at least eight years' experience in Hong Kong can expect as much as HK\$2 million (S\$361,200), data from the recruiter shows.

To support its existing personnel, DBS in April started upgrading the software system it adopted in 2007, according to Mr Moore. The system, developed by NICE Actimize, helps aggregate and monitor all banking transactions from cash deposits to wire transfers, and runs through regulatory checks customised for different regions and businesses, said Mr Micah Willbrand, the New York-based software company's director of global AML products.

19%

SALARY INCREASE FOR EXPERIENCED ANTI MONEY-LAUNDERING SPECIALISTS IN SINGAPORE SINCE 2012

NICE's processes can detect multiple wire transfers below the US\$10,000 threshold that typically require additional due diligence, Mr Willbrand said, citing the hypothetical example of a drug dealer seeking to shift US\$100,000 overseas in 11 transfers of US\$9,090.91 to avoid reporting requirements. The system also alerts banks if customers appear on sanctions and politically exposed person lists, he said.

Mr Moore is also tapping employees from other areas within the bank to support his AML team, as part of a programme implemented since 2012. Analytics officers are pulled in to study customer and transactions data to refine the parameters of the bank's surveillance mechanisms, according to Mr Moore. Intelligence personnel research financial crime trends to help DBS understand how they might affect the lender, he said.

These processes have helped DBS cut the volume of false alerts that pop up on its surveillance screens by about 40 per cent in the past 12 to 15 months, said Mr Moore. **BLOOMBERG**

World No 120 badminton player Liang Xiaoyu aiming for first tour title

LOW LIN FHOONG
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SINGAPORE—Slaying one of the world's top badminton players in her own backyard is no easy feat, particularly if that opponent — Thailand's 2013 world champion Ratchanok Intanon — is an idol of yours.

And that was exactly what national shuttler Liang Xiaoyu did at the Thailand Open last week, as the world No 120 Singaporean claimed the biggest scalp of her career with a shock 2-1 win over local favourite and world No 8 Ratchanok in the women's semi-final.

While nerves eventually derailed her hopes of winning her first senior title — she lost 2-0 to South Korea's Sung Ji Hyun in the final — Liang is not giving up on her dream. In fact, the Republic Polytechnic student has decided to put her sports and leisure management diploma on hold to pursue badminton full-time.

"The biggest thing this win over Ratchanok gave me is confidence," said the 19-year-old in an interview at the OCBC Arena on Thursday. "Before the match, I didn't think I would win because I always lost to her. But I trained with her and her

SINGAPOREAN BEATS HER THAI IDOL 2-1

BRING IT ON, WORLD



PHOTO: WEE TECK HIAN

club in Bangkok for five weeks and I learnt a lot there.

"I'm not giving up my studies totally as I may change to another course in UniSIM, but I plan to stop my studies this month as I want to ... go for overseas competitions."

"My immediate target now is to win a championship — a Grand Prix or Grand Prix Gold, and then a Super Series. The ultimate aim is the Olympics in 2020."

The Jiangsu native picked up the sport at the early age of seven as her father, Liang Huajun, is a badminton coach. The family moved to



I'm a player who performs better under pressure and it won't affect me. Even if other players analyse my game, to me it's a compliment.

National shuttler Liang Xiaoyu (PICTURE)

Singapore 10 years ago, where she attended local school before getting the national call-up in 2011.

The former junior world No 4 had chalked up a number of achievements last year: Top eight at the World Junior Championships, and a semi-final spot at the Badminton Asia Youth U19. However, the transition to the senior level has not been smooth sailing.

"When I was playing Asian juniors, world juniors, I was in the top eight, but when I played the Open (senior level), I would lose in the qualifiers," said Liang, who will compete

in next week's Chinese Taipei Grand Prix. "There were a lot of players older and more experienced than me, and my confidence took a bit of a hit. When I lost I would feel quite sad."

But victory against South Korean fourth seed Kim Hyo Min at the Vietnam Open in August, and a top eight finish at the Indonesia International Challenge a month later, boosted her morale.

With the national team hit by a number of player retirements in recent years — including singles players Gu Juan, Fu Mingtian and Xing Aiying — Singaporean fans will be looking to the young shuttlers to take over the mantle. But Liang is not buckling under the stress. In fact, she welcomes it. "I'm a player who performs better under pressure and it won't affect me," she said. "Even if other players analyse my game, to me it's a compliment because it means they think I'm worth studying, and that's good."

And perhaps, some day, Liang can finally be like her idol Ratchanok. Pointing to Ratchanok's historic world title win for her country at the age of 18, she said: "She is still my idol because she was so young when she won the world championship, and her strength and mental ability on court is very good. Top players like her have that winning shot and edge that I lack, and I need to work on that. I hope to be like Ratchanok and Carolina Marin (2014 and 2015 women's singles world champion) and win in the world championships, and that is the goal I've set for myself."

SPORE'S RUGBY 7S TEAM ON A MISSION IN COLOMBO

SINGAPORE—There is much at stake for Team Singapore's rugby players at the Asian Rugby Sevens Series in Colombo, Sri Lanka, this weekend.

Currently in 10th position overall, the Singaporeans are aiming for a good result in the third and final leg of the series in order to leapfrog their rivals and claim seventh spot. Only the top seven teams after Round 3 will qualify for next year's series, while the bottom five will be relegated to a developmental tournament.

"Nobody wants to be dropped to the developmental competition," said Singapore Sevens coach Ismail Kadir after a training session at Yio Chu Kang Stadium on Wednesday.

"It is critical for us to get a good result in this last leg, and stand a chance to at least stay in the competition next year. The only way to bridge the gap between us and the top teams is to increase intensity in training, and the regularity of top-level competitions that we play."

The Asian Sevens Series, along with the Singapore Cricket Club Rugby 7s this month, are also crucial warm-up events ahead of the Asian continental qualifier for the 2016 Olympics in Hong Kong from Nov 7 to 8. The winner of that qualifier will gain automatic qualification to the Olympics, while the second and third-placed teams from each of the continental qualifiers will play in a repechage tournament to secure their spots.

The national team is in the process of rebuilding after losing seven players — to retirement (Jonathan Lee, Blandon Tan and Derek Chan), studies and National Service commitments after the SEA Games in June, where they won bronze.

"We had to go back to check through our database to identify players and beg them to come and play rugby sevens," added Ismail, 31.

"We have to convert some from other sports, such as Liang Sheng



Speedy winger Jay-Hykel during a training session ahead of the Sri Lanka leg of the Asian Sevens Series. PHOTO: JASON QUAH

from touch rugby, who is turning out to be a good fly-half. They have improved quickly over a few months. It helps that we have some lawyers, teachers and businessmen on our team — they are book-smart and can pick up the theory bits fast and translate them on to the field."

The 12-strong team has also been boosted by the return of speedy winger Jay-Hykel — missing in action for eight months due to surgery for a medical condition — and outside-centre Sidney Kumar from injury.

Singapore will play Pool D opponents Thailand and South Korea today, and captain Daniel Chow is hopeful that the team can put in some results on the field. "I think we can play some big teams and claim a few scalps," he said.

"With Singapore hosting the World Rugby Sevens Series next year, hopefully it will inspire many to take on the sport and be competitive too." **ADELENE WONG**

REDS FANS KEEN TO SEE WHAT THE NEW BOSS CAN DO

CLOCK STARTS TICKING FOR KLOPP NOW

Liverpool have (finally!) unveiled Jurgen Klopp as their new manager. But the German inherits a struggling squad that is fumbling its way through the season so far. What does Klopp need to do to recharge the Reds machine? Our EPL analyst Adrian Clarke (sports@mediacorp.com.sg) has some suggestions ...

Liverpool's owners spent almost £300 million (\$642 million) on new players during Brendan Rodgers' three-year tenure at the club, but the Fenway Sports Group's best signing of the lot might just be the man that has replaced him.

With an accomplished CV and charisma aplenty, Jurgen Klopp is an acquisition that has Reds fans salivating with far more excitement than any of the players they have recruited in recent times.

What should the German prioritise once he takes up office for his first full week in the Anfield hot seat? Here's a "To Do" list to set him on his way.

REPAIR A DODGY DEFENCE

Neglecting a backline that shipped 98 goals in two seasons was inexplicable on Rodgers' part. I found it incredible that teenager Joe Gomez was the only defensive acquisition made in the summer. Until Liverpool shore up at the back and remember how to keep clean sheets, they will not be anywhere near the title mix.

Unable to buy new players for the next three months, Klopp's first duties will be to choose a settled back four and organise it properly.

His impressive Borussia Dortmund team used to defend with feverish enthusiasm from front to back, so the entire squad will be given firm instructions on what he wants from them when the Reds don't have the ball. Klopp is certain to demand a lot more energy and effort from them too.

As it stands, Liverpool have conceded more times than they have scored in 2015/16. Out on the training pitch, Klopp's coaching must help buck that trend.

IDENTIFY A NEW KEEPER

He's had his good days, but I'm afraid Simon Mignolet is not up to the standards Liverpool need. It's imperative Klopp lines up a top-class replacement for January or, at worst, next summer.

Mignolet is an eye-catching shot stopper, but every time a cross flies into his box, there is great uncertainty. He looks nervous, his teammates

are edgy, and fans on the Kop cannot bear to look. Every opposition manager now smells weakness, and it is creating too many headaches.

The search for a dominant new keeper begins now. Klopp should set his sights high.

UNLOCKING YOUNG POTENTIAL

Emre Can and Roberto Firmino have wonderful promise, but based on what we have seen of them so far, you'd have to question if they were good enough to stay long term. Confidence-wise, both are on their knees.

If Klopp can extract more from the former Bundesliga pair, the side will improve. He knows them well, and is rumoured to be a big admirer, so it would be a waste not to re-motivate them before the winter kicks in. Klopp's man-management skills will be put to the test.

Armed with a reputation for being able to polish and improve talented young players, if Klopp gets it right with these two, Liverpool will be back in business.

SEND OUT CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS

Rodgers confused his players, I am convinced of it.

Whether it was systems, philosophies, tactics or team selection, the longer he stayed in charge, the more he talked, chopped and changed. It was not helpful.

In turbulent times, players can easily become distracted and unsettled. Now is the ideal time to keep instructions nice and simple.

Assuming he has not changed his way during his sabbatical, Klopp will encourage a high-intensity, high-passion approach. Without the ball, his players are well drilled. With it, they are free to explode into action. He likes to excite the supporters.

If Klopp conveys this message from day one, chooses a formation and sticks with it until January at the earliest, that will be a good start. The Reds must go back to basics before they even think about taking giant steps forward.

CLEAR THE DECKS

Klopp's a likeable guy, but it is impossible to keep an entire dressing room happy. Once he decides on the players he doesn't fancy — and as soon as they begin to realise they are not his cup of tea — it is important he finds them new homes quickly. Having moody first-teamers hanging around can kill the vibe.

He will decide for himself, but Kolo Toure, Dejan Lovren, Jose Enrique, Lucas Leiva, Joe Allen and Divock



CALL HIM MR POPULAR

Jurgen Klopp charmed the socks off the British media in his first Liverpool press conference. Here's what he said:

When asked if he is the "Special One" aka Jose Mourinho:

- Does anyone think I can do wonders? No. I am a totally normal guy. I come from the Black Forest.

On landing the Liverpool job:

- I don't care about all this press — I want to work with the players. I am a football manager. Please give us time to do the work but when I sit

here in four years I think we may have one title. If not maybe (I'll win) the next one in Switzerland.

Worried about the transfer committee?

- It's a crazy discussion: It was not a problem for 10 seconds. I am not an idiot. I have the first and last words, it's enough. The middle, well I am not a genius, we have discussion. It's really easy to handle this.

Fancy becoming one of the Liverpool legends?

- It's really cool that you think like this but it's not my priority. All the great managers in the past — not one of them sat there on the first day and said I am going to win this title or that title.

The best of what he said:

- Football isn't so important, we don't save lives. It's our job to help fans forget their problems for 90 minutes.

Origi would be the weak links I would be looking to ship out in January.

ALTER PERCEPTIONS

For all their gargantuan spending, which superstars do Liverpool currently employ? I'd say none. Daniel Sturridge, Philippe Coutinho, Jordan Henderson and Christian Benteke all form part of the rung below.

The five-time European champions are now regarded as a club that sells their best players, and pays over the odds for replacements. This image has to change.

With his reputation still sizzling hot, Klopp has an aura that should help him attract the kind of names his predecessor struggled to recruit.

If he can keep his best players happy, and bring in one or two stellar signings, Liverpool will soon become an A-list destination again.

If he can convince Marco Reus to

- Adrian Clarke is a former Arsenal midfielder who has played at every level of the English game. Now an experienced sports journalist, he writes for many publications worldwide.

join him on Merseyside, it could be a game changer.

BRING BACK THE NOISE

Before he is able to make his moves in the transfer market, Klopp must somehow try to lift the apathy that has hung over the club for more than 12 months. The Kop is quiet, and they do not believe in their players any more.

Klopp's job in the coming weeks is to inspire spirited performances that give the Liverpool faithful hope that better times lie ahead.

Visiting teams used to fear a trip to Anfield, but it won't become the intimidating ground it used to be until the team gives its fans more to cheer about.

Through his effervescent personality, inner drive and renowned ability to fire up his players, the new boss can make it feel like a fortress again.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Platini's (left) unhealthy relationship with Blatter and FIFA has placed Europe centre stage in a scandal it liked to depict as World Cup-related. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

PLATINI'S BAN PUTS EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN THE CENTRE OF FIFA SCANDAL

THE STINK'S IN EUROPE TOO

COMMENTARY BY
PAUL HAYWARD
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Gold, silver, bronze. With world football's three most powerful administrators now on the podium of alleged infamy, FIFA has ceased to exist in any moral or bureaucratic sense and needs to be taken over by the Swiss government like a corrupt bank.

There are no grounds for thinking elections, a change of leadership or "reform" from within can change a culture embedded over decades. To call it a tide of scandal is misleading. FIFA has not been struck by evidence suddenly called into being. The crooked city-state presided over by Sepp Blatter has its foundations on a swamp that dates back to 1974 and the start of Joao Havelange's reign. For 40 years or so, FIFA has gorged itself on the world's favourite sport.

The catharsis, proclaimed many times before, is really here. And with Michel Platini's ban, they can all stop whispering that this is a problem of Blatter's cronies in the developing world. The Europeans tried to pretend that global "patronage" was at the root of the malaise. Lesser African, Asian and South American states were keeping Blatter in power: Guaranteeing him their votes in return for money and influence.

Now, with Platini offering a risible explanation for FIFA's nine-year delay in paying him £1.35 million

(S\$2.89 million) for "consultancy" work, football's crisis of governance is being felt in the heart of Europe, at a body that manages the Champions League, the world's greatest club competition, and will stage the next international tournament, Euro 2016, in Platini's homeland.

Besides European probity (he denies wrongdoing), another theory to have taken a hit is that Platini is a "football man" whose dream is to save the game from charlatans. On his own divine path to Blatter's job, Platini presented himself as the soul of football, a majestic former player with the brains and the charisma to outflank career bureaucrats at FIFA House. Until, that is, we learnt that he took two million Swiss francs (S\$2.9 million) from FIFA shortly after electing not to challenge Blatter for the presidency the last time around.

Perhaps, most importantly, we can now dispense with the notion that the head never knew what the body was doing. Blatter's shtick has been to play the wronged grandfather whose family has betrayed him.

Employing a Messianic language beyond the merely Orwellian, Blatter even tried to pose as FIFA's chief reformer, the only viable saviour of an organisation that has demeaned the game it was meant to protect during his 17 years in charge.

The twinkle in his eye has long since departed, though he still promises vindication. But lest anyone extend one shred of credit to FIFA's

ethics committee for carrying out work that should have started decades ago, it ought to be remembered that this process really started with investigative journalism, the FBI and Swiss prosecutors, who realised they could no longer ignore American allegations of corruption in Blatter's Vatican.

A mass exodus of global corporate sponsors has also given the guardians of FIFA's morals a hurry-up.

There are no solutions from within an organisation that had to be forced to confront its own venality, and which despatched the 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar in a bidding process that stank to heaven.

The (English) Football Association, which continues to back Platini's candidacy for the FIFA presidency, subject to outcomes, now makes the astonishing suggestion that the FIFA executive committee should meet in an extraordinary session to discuss the mess. Like Greg Dyke's embarrassing endorsement of Platini, the FA's belief that a FIFA executive meeting is what is needed points to a complete misunderstanding of the scale and depth of the scandal. It assumes, too, that a group of solid citizens can be assembled at FIFA HQ to take the next step.

Too late for that. The final proof these problems are endemic is the interim appointments made after Blatter and Platini (UEFA) were provisionally suspended, along with Jerome Valcke, the FIFA general

secretary — the three men on the podium (all protest their innocence).

FIFA is now in the hands of a man, Issa Hayatou, censured by the International Olympic Committee for receiving money he claims was for his Confederation of African Football. Meanwhile UEFA are defying FIFA, backing Platini and refusing to appoint as their caretaker Spain's Angel Maria Villar Llona, who tried to block the original Garcia investigation into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids.

To football fans, FIFA must resemble that scene in Martin Scorsese's Casino, where the takings are bundled up in a counting room and sent off to mobster stakeholders.

And now Platini's unhealthy relationship with Blatter and FIFA has placed Europe centre stage in a scandal it liked to depict as World Cup-related and therefore confined to a different Swiss lake.

All across Europe now, teams and players are fighting their way into Euro 2016 at the end of an entertaining qualifying campaign. For what? So UEFA's leaders can play pork-barrel politics?

The IOC president, Thomas Bach, whose organisation was almost destroyed by the Salt Lake City affair, was closer to the mark when declaring "enough is enough" and calling on FIFA to appoint an "external presidential candidate of high integrity". Since Eliot Ness is no longer with us, Bach must mean a former United Nations secretary general, or someone of that calibre.

But a first step is for Swiss prosecutors to occupy FIFA House, declare it a crime scene and suspend it for a lot longer than 90 days.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

● Paul Hayward
is The Telegraph's
chief sports writer.

UPSETS APLENTY IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Giants Argentina, Brazil surprised in first qualifying matches for Russia 2018

RIO DE JANEIRO – Argentina and Brazil both lost their opening World Cup qualifiers on Thursday (yesterday morning, Singapore time) as the South American campaign for Russia 2018 started in unexpected fashion.

Argentina, who were missing injured Barcelona striker Lionel Messi, were surprisingly beaten 2-0 at home by Ecuador, a side 30 places behind them in the FIFA rankings.

Frickson Erazo got Ecuador's first goal after 80 minutes and Felipe Caicedo doubled their lead when he finished off a quick counter-attack just a minute later.

"It's no use just looking at the score," Argentine midfielder Javier Mascherano said. "We were never superior to them. We could never find answers to the problems that Ecuador gave us, we were never comfortable."

To compound Argentina's misery, Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero limped off injured midway through the first half and will miss next Tuesday's match away to Paraguay.

Things were no better for five-time World Cup champions Brazil,

OTHER RESULTS

- Paraguay 1
- Venezuela 0
- Colombia 2
- Peru 0



Ecuador's Miller Bolanos (right) competing for the ball with Argentina's Nicolas Otamendi during their World Cup qualifying match. PHOTO: REUTERS

which went to Chile looking to rebuild their reputation after being hammered 7-1 by eventual winners Germany in last year's semi-final.

However, coach Dunga's side could not match the relentless running of a Chilean team that had the momentum after winning the Copa America in July. Hoffenheim striker Eduardo Vargas volleyed home a cross at 72 minutes to put the home side ahead and then Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez got a second from close in with a minute remaining.

Earlier in the evening, Uruguay, Paraguay and Colombia all made winning starts to their campaigns.

Uruguay overcame the thin air at high altitude to beat Bolivia for the first time in 10 qualifiers in La Paz.

Defenders Martin Caceres and Diego Godin scored for Uruguay in the absence of suspended strikers

Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani, while the frustrated Bolivians had Jair Torrico sent off after 71 minutes.

Colombia, meanwhile, beat Peru in 35°C and high humidity in Barranquilla. Teofilo Gutierrez scored from a 36th minute header following a corner for 2014 World Cup quarter-finalists Colombia, who were without injured playmaker James Rodriguez.

Paraguay, recovering from their disappointment at not reaching the 2014 tournament in Brazil, scored an 85th minute winner from Derlis Gonzalez for a 1-0 victory away to Venezuela.

The qualifiers continue next Tuesday, with Argentina away at Paraguay, Brazil at home to Venezuela and Ecuador looking to build on their great start at home to Bolivia. Uruguay take on Colombia in Montevideo and Peru host Chile. **REUTERS**

RED BULL ENGINE WOES SORTED: ECCLESTONE

SOCHI – Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone played down fears yesterday that former champions Red Bull could walk away from the sport by saying he was confident their engine supply problems were "sorted".

Without giving any details, and despite reports that Ferrari had joined Mercedes in refusing to supply their rivals with engines for next year, the 84-year-old sounded upbeat at the Russian Grand Prix.

"Everything has been sorted out so I wouldn't worry about it," he said. "We don't want them to drop out. I think they have sorted it all out now," added the Briton, who said he was confident there would be 22 cars on the starting grid next year with the addition of new team Haas F1.

Red Bull's engine predicament has become the talk of the Formula One paddock, with the energy drink company owning two of the 10 teams but potentially having no power units after this season.

Red Bull Racing and Toro Rosso are currently supplied by Renault — and had a deal for next year — but that relationship has soured, with



“
Everything's been sorted out so I wouldn't worry about it. We don't want them to drop out. I think they have sorted it all out now.
”

F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone (picture)
ON RED BULL WALKING AWAY FROM THE SPORT

the French manufacturer seemingly set to buy troubled Lotus.

Red Bull's billionaire owner Dietrich Mateschitz has warned the teams will quit unless they have a competitive engine, which leaves only Ferrari and Mercedes — given Honda's woeful performance with McLaren — unless they mend fences with Renault.

Ecclestone said, however, that suggestions Mateschitz had fallen out of love with the sport were wide of the mark. "He has never fallen out of love. He just wants to be in a position where he can be competitive. And that's what will happen. He'll be okay," he said.

Mercedes are already committed to four teams, including their own reigning world champions, and have ruled out providing dominant power units to a rival that could beat them.

Reports have indicated that Ferrari, who are already committed to three teams, would be unable to supply Red Bull with their latest specification units and are also reluctant to expand to five teams.

Germany's Auto Motor und Sport

reported that Ferrari were willing to supply engines to Italian-based Toro Rosso only.

Although Ecclestone had a long meeting with Mercedes motorsport head Toto Wolff and the team's non-executive chairman Niki Lauda yesterday, Wolff said engines had not been discussed and the manufacturer's position had not changed.

"It was a conversation about general topics," said Wolff. "Bernie doesn't twist arms, Bernie makes it very subtle. Honestly, we didn't discuss the topic (of engines)... we didn't change on our opinion." **REUTERS**

IRELAND STUN GERMANY TO KEEP EURO DREAM ALIVE

DUBLIN – Ireland stunned world champions Germany 1-0 thanks to Shane Long's 70th-minute strike on Thursday (yesterday morning, Singapore time) to throw Euro 2016 qualifying Group D wide open and maintain their chances of booking a spot at the finals with a game left to play.

Long latched on to a deep cross from substitute goalkeeper Darren Randolph to drill past Germany stopper Manuel Neuer and take Ireland, who visit Poland on Sunday, to level on 18 points with their next opponents. "The whole team did magnificently. It was a wonder goal," said Ireland coach Martin O'Neill.

"It's an historic win, a great win and the players deserve it. Just a splendid effort by the team. We've still got a big struggle in a few days' time."

Group leaders Germany, who have 19 points and only needed a draw to qualify in Dublin, next host Georgia.

"It was an unexpected and completely unnecessary defeat," said Germany coach Joachim Loew. "I cannot accuse the team of not fighting, but you have to stay cool and score those goals. We dominated throughout but made nothing out of that dominance."

The Germans had suffered a late blow in the build-up to the match with captain Bastian Schweinsteiger ruled out, having picked up a groin injury in their final training session.

But the Germans had no problem taking control of the game with some swift passing and lots of movement off the ball, yet wasted a couple of early chances, with the unmarked Jerome Boateng missing the target with a header and Ilkay Guendogan seeing his effort deflected wide.

The visitors gradually eased off, however, allowing Ireland more space, and as the hosts grew in confidence they were almost caught on the break when Andre Schuerrle, a replacement for injured Mario Goetze in the first half, fired over the bar.

Ireland continued to work hard and were rewarded when Randolph's long kick sent Long clear to beat Neuer with a powerful shot after he raced past two Germany defenders.

Germany striker Thomas Mueller should have levelled with a close-range effort seven minutes later, but the hosts held on for a memorable win. **REUTERS**

SPORTS FIXTURES HIGHLIGHTS				
Event	Home	Away	Timing	Venue
Sat, 10 Oct 2015				
A League	Sydney FC	Melbourne City	4.30pm	LW
Motor Racing	Russia Race (qualifying)		8.00pm	LW

No person under the age of 18 years shall be allowed to purchase a ticket or to claim any prize.

LW: Livewire (MBS) & Livewire (RWS) (21 years and above)
Livewire (Singapore Pools) (21 years and above and during 'Live' telecast)

SB: SportsBuzz@Kranji (18 years and above)

Singapore Pools Account Service. Call 6786 6688 for more details.

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CRUCIAL RUGBY WORLD CUP TIE BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND WALES WILL DECIDE WHO GETS EASIER ROUTE

IT'S GOING TO GET DOWN AND DIRTY

LONDON – It was the loss that Michael Cheika so eloquently described as a boot to the backside that is driving his Wallabies at the Rugby World Cup. From Warren Gatland's perspective, it is a streak of 10 losses that is serving as motivation for his Wales squad ahead of Saturday's Pool A

decider against Cheika's Australians.

Both teams are into the quarter-finals with three wins apiece, including victories over England that ensured the host team will not feature in the knockout stage.

First is foremost, though, for both coaches. The winner of Pool A avoids

two-time champions South Africa, the Pool B winner, in the quarters.

The Australians have lost just one Test this year, a heavy 41-13 defeat to the All Blacks at Auckland in August, a week after clinching the Rugby Championship title with a 27-19 win over New Zealand in Sydney.



We are desperate to win this game, as win this group and potentially your road through to quarters, semis and final is a little bit easier. The last five times against Australia there has been (just) a score in it. We've been ahead in games and not been able to finish it off. You learn from that, and experience comes from that.

Warren Gatland
WALES COACH

Asked what kind of momentum the two-time champion Australians had built, Cheika's response was short and to the point. "None," he said. "We supposedly had momentum after we beat New Zealand. And then they put their boot to our backside. That can happen if you are not 'on' every day. We have to learn from those times."

The Welsh have lost all 10 Tests to Australia since 2008, and 22 of the past 25 dating to their upset 22-21 win over a 14-man Wallabies line-up in the bronze-medal match at the first Rugby World Cup in 1987, but Gatland focuses on the fact they have been getting closer. The past five games have been decided by five or fewer points.

"We are desperate to win this game, as win this group and potentially your road through to quarters, semis and final is a little bit easier," he said. "The last five times against Australia there has been (just) a score in it. We've been ahead in games and not been able to finish it off. You learn from that, and experience comes from that."

Gatland predicted a fierce contest at the breakdown after selecting two openside flankers in his starting line-up in a slight variation on Australia's plan. He has shifted skipper Sam Warburton to the blindside flank to make room for Justin Tipuric on the openside of the scrum, and retained Taulupe Faletau at No 8.

Cheika opted for Sean McMahon to replace suspended flanker Michael Hooper in a like-for-like selection. He has kept David Pocock, arguably the game's best fetcher, at No 8, and Scott Fardy on the blindside flank.

Israel Folau passed a fitness test on his ankle and will start at fullback for Australia, with Drew Mitchell starting on the wing in place of the injured Rob Horne. In the only other change to the Wallabies' starting line-up that beat England 33-13 last weekend, Dean Mumm will start at lock and Rob Simmons moves back to the bench.

Gatland made six changes to the team that beat Fiji, including moving George North from the wing to partner Jamie Roberts in a big, powerful centre combination to target Australia's smaller midfield.

Fullback Gareth Anscombe — added to the squad when the Welsh injury toll escalated — is in the starting XV for the first time in a new back-three combination with Alex Cuthbert and Liam Williams.

With four natural No 7s on the field, conditions will be difficult for the form halves pairings of the tournament. Welsh halves Gareth Davies and Dan Biggar have exceeded all expectations, while Will Genia and Bernard Foley have directed the Australian attack.

Biggar and Foley each played starring roles in wins over England, with the boot and in general play. Biggar kicked 13 goals from 13 attempts against England and Fiji. AP

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(All matches on Singtel Ch 115, Starhub Ch 209)

- **Today**
Pool B: Samoa v Scotland (9.30pm)
Pool A: Australia v Wales (11.45pm)

- **Tomorrow**
Pool A: England v Uruguay (3am)
Pool C: Argentina v Namibia (7pm)
Pool D: Italy v Romania (9.30pm), France v Ireland (11.45pm)

- **Monday**
Pool B: USA v Japan (3am)

TODAY

SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2015

RAISING THE BARRE

SINGAPORE'S DANCE ARTISTS DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL SCENE **24**

MOVEMENT CHART

HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT AT GOT TO MOVE **25**

WORKERS UNITE

TO WRITE POEMS FOR THE SECOND MIGRANT WORKER POETRY CONTEST **26**



MOVING FORWARD

WITH DA:NS FESTIVAL CELEBRATING ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY, ARTISTS MULL OVER THE
STATE OF THE SINGAPORE DANCE SCENE

MAYO MARTIN
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most important aspect about this edition is that it's the festival's 10th anniversary.

To celebrate that milestone — and the fact that Singapore has seemingly caught the dance bug — we decided to gather some notable figures in the dance scene and asked them to take stock and talk shop: The Esplanade's Faith Tan, a veteran producer for the festival; Melissa Quek, a dancer and faculty member at LASALLE College of the Arts; THE Dance Company's artistic director Kuik Swee Boon; and independent artists Choy Ka Fai and Daniel Kok (all are taking part in da:ns, and in the case of Kuik and Kok, NAC's Got To Move, as well).

October is shaping up to be the unofficial "Singapore Dance Month", thanks to two huge dance-related festivals taking place at the same time. The National Arts Council's (NAC) new islandwide dance initiative Got To Move was launched on Thursday with a diverse line-up that, among other things, has an event quirkily titled Dance For Your Prata.

Meanwhile, the Esplanade's annual da:ns festival also kicked off yesterday with a show by Nederlands Dans Theatre 2. Expect other bigwigs: Ballet superstar Sylvie Guillem is presenting a swansong piece while Akram Khan will also be in town. But perhaps the

While the hour-long "roundtable discussion" was by no means exhaustive, it offered a glimpse into different viewpoints into the scene: How has dance developed during the past decade? Is there such a thing as a uniquely

► da:ns festival 2015 runs until Oct 18 at The Esplanade. For more details, visit <http://www.dansfestival.com/2015>

► For the full story, visit For Art's Sake <http://tdy.sg/artssakeblog>

Top: THE Dance Company and Kim Jae-duk's site-specific work Impulse.

PHOTO: BERNIE NG

Left: Our dance roundtable panelists (from left): Melissa Quek, Choy Ka Fai (via Skype from Berlin), Kuik Swee Boon, Faith Tan and Daniel Kok.

PHOTO: GINA KOH

Singapore dance? What are the challenges dancers and choreographers face today? Is working overseas the way to go?

Q: Dance is certainly big this month. How would you compare the state of the Singapore dance scene now to, say, a decade ago?

KUIK SWEE BOON: Compared to 10 years ago — or even 25 years ago — the scene has been improving a lot. For instance, more international collaborations are taking place, which is a very good development. There's also more international awareness about local works — from THE's point of view, we've been touring to a few places in the past seven years, promoting our art overseas. (Back then) people might not have paid so much attention to Singaporean artists or local creations (overseas).

MELISSA QUEK: I think it goes through waves. In the '90s, we had a lot of companies (and) collectives such as Ah Hock and Peng Yu. And now, it's back to the companies again, which is slowly being saturated, and then the collectives and independent artists again. But each time the wave comes, we've learnt something and the groups are stronger in a different way.

Q: What about for an independent dance artist? What are your thoughts on these international collaborations and co-productions, Daniel?

DANIEL KOK: This phenomenon of more productions and collaborations happening in dance is not happening

only in Singapore but globally. In Europe, there's a very dense network of centres, and in Asia, there are only, say, half a dozen cities whereby the platforms for international works are strong enough. At the moment, Australia and Europe are interested in what's happening in Asia for various different reasons, and there might be more people passing through who are curious about what's happening here. Quite frankly, with the European recession and funding cuts everywhere, Singapore seems to be in a good place at this moment. Infrastructure-wise, lots of things are well supported.

Q: How about you, Ka Fai, what was your journey like?

CHOY KA FAI: In 2002, I started to work with KYTV (a multimedia art collective). At that time, it was a question of where to get support because nobody believed in us when we started.

Then I remember (former Esplanade programmer Neo) Kim Seng was bringing in shows for the Esplanade's The Studios season, which were my first encounters (with contemporary dance). I left Singapore in 2009. It was (partly) a question of practicality. I can only show a work in Singapore once, which isn't sustainable — you make a product within six months and that's it.

FAITH TAN: I think Ka Fai raised a really important point about how the scale of Singapore is small and most of the creations that have been made get a chance to be shown only once here, with two — at most, three — performances. That does affect the



potential growth of the work to go on so it does kind of force an artist to bring a work overseas to help it grow if there's an opportunity.

Q: What about changes in the dance scene from the educational standpoint?

MELISSA: In the last 10 years, SOTA (School of the Arts) has popped up, and the degree programmes within NAFA (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts) and LASALLE (College of the Arts) have been refined and are growing. I don't know if these have benefitted the companies yet, though. I don't know if we've produced enough technically strong students (for the dance companies).

KA FAI: I think Singapore has produced very good dancers, but what kind of dancers? When Japanese choreographer Hiroaki Umeda did an Esplanade commission, he was looking at the dancers (in Singapore) and commented that they had very good technique but he wanted something else. In the end, he chose Taiwanese and Cambodian dancers. There's the situation where even good dancers don't get so much opportunity because they cannot differentiate themselves in the Asian context.

I (also) think we are crying out for choreographers because I don't see many.

Q: So it's the issue of choreographers....

DANIEL: It's not a question of dancers versus choreographers but of people working in dance having a personal practice. Because I found, especially in a recent (da:ns festival) workshop for people who saw themselves as independent artists in dance, that there was a need to stop some of the participants from jumping quickly into boxes: Like "You're a dancer", "You're a choreographer", "Now you're improvising", "Now we are creating".

But maybe it doesn't have to be like this anymore. The way Ka Fai is working with dance, you could say he's not choreographing.

MELISSA: Actually, that's one of the

things that has happened in the last 10 years: The definition of dance has been broadening and people are accepting it.

Q: Is there such a thing as a Singapore dance aesthetic?

MELISSA: I think what's really interesting about the Singaporean artist from (pioneering dance artists) Mrs Santha Bhaskar's and Madame Goh Lay Kuan's time is they believe in the idea that the dancer should learn multiple forms. I think that is something we've had in Singapore's dance history that isn't really replicated elsewhere, this multiple forms of different cultures.

DANIEL: I grew up Singaporean in a way that made me believe that I don't own anything. That there's an identity crisis and that I have no culture. So when I started dancing at 21, and asking what my tradition was and where I came from, I felt that it was Paula Abdul and Janet Jackson. What if it's not ballet or Chinese dance or taichi but Paula Abdul? That's how I feel.

FAITH: I can only say from a programming perspective that it's not a consideration. I don't at all think I'm looking for an artist that is uniquely Singaporean, who will represent to the audience what Singapore can possibly be. I think it's very dangerous if you start from there and create a show or a festival based on that.

Q: Shall we talk about the challenges that people in the dance scene face?

KA FAI: I think Singaporean artists are being treated too well. The infrastructure and everything (makes it) too comfortable, I think. When you get comfortable you don't ask so many questions.

SWEE BOON: I do agree with what Ka Fai says about the environment being sometimes too comfortable, and people simply accepting certain conditions instead of questioning these. This kind of mindset has been passed from schools. So when we accept students from LASALLE or NAFA, tech-

nique and training is one thing, but we're also looking to see if they have their own characteristics.

FAITH: I'm not sure, though, that having less institutional support would make people better artists. Because it was not so long ago that there wasn't so much access of support for dance and people were really struggling with limited funds — but I don't think it necessarily equated to better-quality work.

Q: But better support does equate to more opportunities to create more work, doesn't it?

FAITH: Yes, I think so. Obviously, if there are more people able to get more funding, they can create this volume of productions. But that, in fact, is its own problem and some of us feel that there is a lot of chasing-the-production, going into the next one very quickly, but with very little time for reflection and workshopping, which puts us all in a mode of just producing and producing. It's this wheel of producing and consuming and instant-ness.

DANIEL: Having spent a little bit more time in Singapore this year — because I've been away a lot in the past five, six years — I feel like there's an overproduction (of works) in Singapore. And it's not even a question of quality because there's not even time to think about that — there's just so much going on, so much money sloshing around in dance and everything else.

FAITH: I feel like it has a lot to do with audience development as well. Through the 10 years (of da:ns Festival), you do see there are definitely more audiences coming and embracing dance, which is great. They're very curious and interested. But I think so much more can be done in terms of actually engaging people to not just come and watch a performance, and expect to be entertained. I think what's missing from a larger majority of the audience is investing in a relationship with the local artists and the local dance community, and journeying with their body of work.



Choy Ka Fai (centre) gets physical for his da:ns festival show *SoftMachine*. PHOTO: BERNIE NG

5 things to check out at Got To Move

From Monkeys to dancing with strangers, here are some unusual events taking place



Daniel Kok's Space Monkeys at NAC's Got To Move festival.

PHOTO: DANIEL KOK

SINGAPORE — Two left feet? No sense of rhythm whatsoever? That's not a problem. The National Arts Council's mega-dance event this month has got everything covered, including for dance-challenged (or dance-shy) folks like us. Got To Move has everything, from all sorts of classes to short sneak peeks into all sorts of dance forms possible. Here are some of the more unusual events taking place.

1 SPACE MONKEYS

Independent dance artist Daniel Kok, together with Post Theatre from Germany, is presenting this dance performance-game. Described as "mass dance meets Dance Dance Revolution", it's a dance-off between groups of four—who'll be receiving instructions on how to move through wireless headphones. Oct 17 and 18, 2pm, Cathay Cineleisure Orchard B1 Atrium. Register at <http://bit.ly/gtm spacemonkeys>.

2 DANCE WITH ME

Another independent artist, Ming Poon, continues his gorgeous project where he flashes a sign inviting strangers to come up to him for a bit of slow dance. He'll be along Orchard Road and at the Central Business District at various times. Oct 14, 16, 19, 4pm to 7pm, along Orchard Road, and Oct 13 and 15, 11am to 2pm at the CBD Area.

3 DANCE THERAPY SEMINAR

Dancing can be a form of release. In this case, it's a form of therapy. Wings To Wings Dance Development Centre presents this dance therapy workshop and sharing session where you can find out how calm music and, erm, "purposeful choreography" can help you chill and unwind. Oct 18, 2pm to 4pm, Wings To Wings Studio, North Canal Road.

4 NYP INTERACTIVE DANCE GAME BOOTH

A throwback to those dance arcade games, students from the Nanyang Polytechnic School of Interactive and Digital Media have come up with these game booths that are located at various locations. Visit the Facebook page for more info.

5 GOT TO MOVE NOW

The culmination of the month-long dance event involves ... more dancing! You can check out performances from a varied range of groups such as Bhaskar's Arts Academy, Singapore Dance Theatre, THE Dance Company and student groups from LASALLE College of the Arts, National University of Singapore and Republic Polytechnic. You've also got an interactive dance-off and a mass dance event and a "dance fashion show" by online portal StyleXStyle. It'll be hosted by MediaCorp Lush 99.5 DJ Rosalyn Lee. Stay long enough and you might find yourself dancing together with celebrities such as Tosh Zhang and Wang Weiliang from Ah Boys To Men. Oct 24, 4pm to 10.30pm, The Promontory@Marina Bay.

MAYO MARTIN

► For more information, visit <http://www.nac.gov.sg/gottomovesg> or <http://www.facebook.com/gottomovesg>

WORD GOES AROUND

Migrant worker poetry contest expands reach

Second edition now accepting entries in more languages

MAYO MARTIN
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SINGAPORE – After last year's successful first edition, the Migrant Worker Poetry Competition is back, and it has expanded its call for entries to other nationalities and languages.

Organised by Singapore-based independent Bengali newspaper Banglar Kantha (Voice of Bengal) and a group of volunteers, the inaugural edition last year featured participants who wrote poems in Bengali and Tamil. This year, it is including poems written in Bahasa Indonesia, Burmese, Mandarin, Tagalog and Thai.

Organisations such as Aidha, HOME and Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) have stepped in to help spread the word regarding a project that aims to celebrate the literary talents of migrant workers in Singapore. The final round of the competition will be held on Dec 13 at the National Library.

"Last year, we received an overwhelmingly positive response from the Singaporean community. This year we hope to discover voices from



Bangladeshi shipyard worker Rajib Shil Jibon (in maroon T-shirt), was one of the winners at last year's poetry contest. TODAY FILE PHOTO

a wider set of nationalities (including) those from China, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines, to name a few," said Shivaji Das, a writer and one of the competition's organisers.

"We also wanted to hear more fe-

male voices, who often happen to be domestic workers from Indonesia or the Philippines," he added. "We will also showcase, over video, migrant worker poets working in Malaysia, Kuwait and China to make this an

international cultural platform."

Among the judges will be Singapore poets Alvin Pang and Kirpal Singh, who were also members of last year's jury. There are also plans to publish an anthology of the poems from the final round of the competition.

The inaugural competition had created a buzz, with the shortlisted poems published on the contest's website, <http://www.singaporeworkerpoetry.com>. The contest had also inspired a contemporary dance piece created by dance company CHOWK titled From Another Land. It featured two of the winners, construction supervisor and freelance journalist Zakir Hussain Khokon and shipyard worker Rajib Shil Jibon, reading their pieces onstage. This year's Singapore Writers Festival will also be including a panel discussion on migrant worker poets featuring some of the poets as well as Das, Pang and Banglar Kantha editor AKM Mohsin.

► For more info on the contest, visit <http://www.singaporeworkerpoetry.com>. Deadline for submission of entries is on Nov 1. The Singapore Writers Festival panel on migrant worker poets will be held on Nov 8, 2.30pm, at The Arts House. For more information, visit <https://www.singaporewritersfestival.com>

An impressive 148 projects submitted for SAFF Project Market

SINGAPORE – The Southeast Asian Film Financing (SAFF) Project Market may be a brand new addition to Screen Singapore 2015, but it has already amassed an overwhelming 148 project submissions from 22 countries, after a call that ended on Sept 30.

The inaugural SAFF Project Market is an initiative to connect filmmakers and their in-development projects with potential financiers, investors, collaborators and co-production partners. It is organised in partnership with the South-east Asian Audio Visual Association (SAAVA), a non-profit organisation that seeks to unify media producers and media financiers in the region, ScreenSingapore and the Ties That Bind producing programme from Europe.

A selection panel will choose the top 10 projects to be featured at the project market. It will comprise of: Paolo Bertolin (Venice International Film festival programmer and film critic), Kristina Trapp (CEO of European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs), Jongsuk Thomas Nam (managing director of Network of Asian Fantastic Films), Benjamin Illos (selection committee member of the Director's Fortnight, Cannes International Film Festival) and Chan Gin Kai (executive



This year's ScreenSingapore, which serves as the launch pad for the aspiring film-makers, features a new regional financing market. PHOTO: SCREENSINGAPORE WEBSITE

producer of the Silver Media Group and chairman of SAAVA).

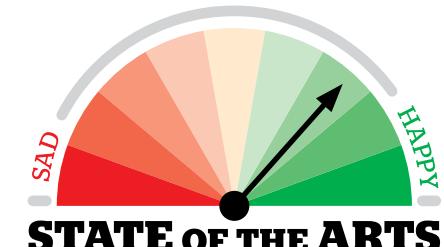
The selected projects will also get a chance to win prizes at the end of the SAFF Project Market.

"The depth of stories, film-makers and producers from South-east Asia is phenomenal," said Bertolin. "We are seeing a beautiful and exciting synergy happening between the established film communities from all over the world working with undiscovered talents in this region."

Justin Deimen, executive director of SAAVA, said: "We're encouraged and motivated by the support given. The overwhelming response is testament to the relevance of the Project Market and the media financing focus to the film industry, especially in South-east Asia. I hope to see SAFF grow in significance in the near future as we tap into the potential of producers and media professionals (from the region)."

Echoing a similar sentiment, Yeow Hui Leng, senior project director of the Asia TV Forum & Market and ScreenSingapore, said one of the key focus areas for ScreenSingapore has always been that of developing Asian film-makers, producers and scriptwriters. "Film financing is a subject that is close to the heart of the film industry in South-east Asia," Yeow added. "The SAFF Project Market addresses it by bringing in investors and co-production partners to meet with promising talents to collaborate on their projects."

Screen Singapore is an event under the Singapore Media Festival (SMF) and hosted by the Media Development Authority. It runs from Dec 2 to 4. The SMF takes place from Nov 26 to Dec 6 and includes events such as the Singapore International Film Festival, Asia TV Forum & Market, Asian Television Awards and Digital Matters. **GENEVIEVE LOH**



SINGAPORE – The film anthology 7 Letters was again in the spotlight — it was selected as Singapore's entry for consideration to the Oscar's Best Foreign Language Film category. It was also screened at the Busan International Film Festival together with 3688, the latest film from one of 7 Letters' directors, Royston Tan. The festival had also listed Ilo Ilo as one of the 100 best Asian films at No 66. Back home, the Singapore Writers Festival dropped Indonesian poet Sitok Srengegne after an online uproar by the Indonesian arts community for his alleged sexual abuse case. The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth launched its Culture Academy, an expanded version of the National Heritage Board's NHB Academy. NHB also launched a self-guided walking trail along the Singapore River, which features 14 heritage sites. And speaking of the Singapore River, the Asian Civilisations Museum announced it will be opening its waterfront entrance — including F&B options and a new gallery — as well as a new museum wing on Nov 14 as part of the first phase of its revamp. **MAYO MARTIN**

New 'Ladysaver' soap for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Breast Cancer Foundation hopes to remind women to conduct regular self-examinations

SINGAPORE – This month, which is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, there's a new soap that will remind you to "check breasts".

The Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF) has introduced the Ladysaver Soap to encourage women to conduct breast self-examinations monthly.

Each bar of soap is handcrafted using moisturising organic goat's milk, infused with rose essential oil and embedded with a waterproof reminder that will be revealed progressively with every shower.

The soap was developed by marketing communications firm DDB Group Singapore and produced in collaboration with artisanal soap-making company and local sponsor Soap Ministry. Breast cancer survivors and their supporters have also lent their hands to creating the soap.

"We believe that this initiative is a positive step towards bringing the topic of breast cancer and the need for regular self-examinations out into the open," said Noor Quek, president

MediaCorp raises more than S\$90,000 with charity auctions

SINGAPORE – MediaCorp has raised over S\$90,000 from three recent charity auctions for the President's Challenge and MediaCorp Cares, the company's flagship corporate social responsibility programme.

Classical music radio station Symphony 92.4FM held a silent charity auction of a Boston 163 Grand Piano designed by Steinway and Sons, and this raised S\$25,000 for the President's Challenge 2015.

The auction was part of the station's Young Talents Project 2015 competition, which was held over three months from June to September. The winning bid came from Paige Parker, freelance writer and gemologist, and her husband Jim Rogers, businessman, investor and author.

"Jim and I both wanted to support the President's Challenge, because the ambitious goal is to raise funds for scores of diverse charities by encouraging people from all walks of life to volunteer or contribute, which ultimately creates a stronger Singapore," she said.

Two other charity auctions were held in conjunction with TV programmes, and these raised S\$65,502 for the beneficiaries under MediaCorp Cares TOUCH Community Service, Lions Befrienders and CARE Singapore.

Items from the Channel 8 variety programme Celeb's Curated Collections, featuring celebrities such as Elvin Ng, Romeo Tan and Julie Tan, were sold for S\$50,502; while five art pieces by artists such as Joyce Lee and Aaron Gan, which were commissioned for the current affairs programme On The Red Dot, raised S\$15,000 in a silent auction.

The annual highlight of the President's Challenge is the President's Star Charity (PSC), which will be shown live on Channel 5 on Oct 18 at 7.30pm. The PSC is MediaCorp's contribution to the President's Challenge.



of the Breast Cancer Foundation.

At the same time, it will "provide an easy, personal way for everyone in Singapore to translate their concern for the well-being of all the special women in their lives into meaningful action".

Rowena Bhagchandani, managing director of DDB Group Singapore, said: "This initiative is really about raising awareness of breast cancer among everyone, not just women, but anyone with women in their lives."

"The simple gesture of gifting a box

of soap roses is not only something everyone can relate to easily, but the act provides a first step to helping save lives through advocating early detection." **HON JING YI**

► The Ladysaver Soap sells for S\$80 for a gift box of 12 soap roses. Profits will fund further breast cancer awareness initiatives by the Breast Cancer Foundation. Gift boxes are available online at <http://soapministry.com/bcf> and at Soap Ministry's Liang Court outlet.

STYLE: WEDDINGS
PRESENTS

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6.00AM	Food Chain
6.30	On The Red Dot (HD)(PG)(CC)
7.00	The Dr Oz Show IV (HD)(PG)
8.00	JML TV Home Shopping (Paid Presentation)
9.00	Wheel Of Fortune XXXI (HD)
10.00	Undercover Boss Canada (HD)(CC)
11.00	The Ellen DeGeneres Show XII (HD)
NOON	Martha Bakes
12.30PM	Films And Stars (HD)
1.00	Britain's Got Talent VIII (HD)(PG)
2.15	Just Kidding (HD)
2.30	Deal With It II (HD)(PG)
3.00	The Final 1 II (HD)
5.00	The Chase II (PG)
6.00	Tube (HD)(PG)
6.30	Just For Laughs Gags XIII (HD)
6.45	Stay Home Saturday Movie: Hellboy (HD)(CC) (PG-ACTION VIOLENCE)
9.00	News 5 (HD)
9.30	The Simpsons XXV (HD)(PG)(CC)
10.00	Incredible Tales VI (HD)(CC) (PG-Supernatural)
10.30	The Walking Dead (HD)(PG13-Horror)(CC)
12.30AM	Grimm III (HD)(PG)
1.30	American Horror Story: Coven (HD) (PG13-Horror/Supernatural)
2.15	Just For Laughs Gags XIII (HD)
2.30	Shiver: A Gift
3.30	Wheel Of Fortune XXXI (HD)
4.20	The Ellen DeGeneres Show XII (HD)
5.10	The Dr Oz Show IV (HD)(PG)

**STAY HOME SATURDAY MOVIE: HELLBOY (HD)(CC)(PG-ACTION VIOLENCE)**

Raised from infancy after being conjured by and rescued from the Nazis, a demon grows up to become a defender against the forces of darkness.

Channel 5, 6.45pm



tellchannel8@mediacorp.com.sg

6.00AM	My Genie
6.30	Easy Cooking
7.00	A Song To Remember (HD)(PG)
9.00	Pleasant Goat And Big Big Wolf VI
9.30	Chicken Stew: Tales From The Salted Egg Temple
10.00	Tales from Journey To The West (HD)
10.30	Little Counsellor Season 1 and 4 (HD)
11.00	Behind Every Job 3
NOON	Shopper's Guide 2015 (HD)
12.30PM	Footprints In Asia (HD)
1.00	Golden Age
2.00	Saturday Matinee (HD): Heroic Duo (PG-Some Violence)
4.00	Kids in Charge (HD)
4.30	The First Myth (HD) (PG-Some Violence)
6.30	Singapore Today (HD)(Live)
7.00	Lee's Family Reunion (HD)(PG)
10.00	News Tonight (HD)
10.30	The Glamorous Imperial Concubine (HD) (PG-Some Violence)
12.30AM	Breakout (HD) (PG-Some Violence)
2.30	My Fair Ladies (HD)
3.00	Knock! Knock! Who's There?
4.00	Let It Shine

**LEE'S FAMILY REUNION (PG)**

Zhengnan refuses to have a baby, making both Mingquan and Yuexiang very unhappy. Meanwhile, Wenxing pretends to risk his life to save Wanghao from an armed robbery. As a result, both Zaixing and Wenxing are officially recognised by the Lee family.

Channel 8, 7pm



tellchannelnu@mediacorp.com.sg

7.00AM	Home Shopping
10.00	Battle Of Voices
11.30	IWalker - The King Of Adventure
12.30PM	Mars Vs. Venus
1.30	Homeward Bound
2.30	Family Wanders
3.00	Fabulous Boys (PG)
4.30	Discover Ireland
5.00	L'Escargot (PG)
6.00	Secrets For Sale
7.00	The Voice Of China IV
9.30	Sniper Standoff (PG-Some Violence)
10.30	Holiday Gone Wrong
11.00	News Tonight
11.30	The Voice Of China IV
3.00AM	End Of Transmission



tellokto@mediacorp.com.sg

7.00AM	Sesame Street Season 42 (Pre-school)
8.00	Make Way For Noddy (Pre-school)
9.00	Mofy Series 1 (Pre-school)
9.30	Battle Disc
10.00	Pokemon The Series: XY (HD)
10.30	Beyblade Zero G
11.00	Kamen Rider Fourze
11.30	Mr Bean The Animated Series
NOON	The School Bell Rings 3 (HD)
12.30PM	The Diary Of Amos Lee (HD)
1.00	Pippi Longstocking
1.30	Adventurers Masters Of Time
2.00	Little Battlers eXperience
3.00	Cardfight Vanguard II
4.00	Bakugan: Mechtanium Surge
4.30	Avatar Season 1 (Episode 1)
5.00	Flash & Dash
6.00	Penguins Of Madagascar Season 2
6.30	Pokemon: BW Adventures In Unova
7.00	Brian Jacques' Redwall
7.30	T.U.F.F. Puppy Season 1
8.00	Disney Crash & Bernstein
8.30	The Inside Line 2015 (HD)
9.00	Natural World: Nature's Misfits
10.00	BBC Proms 2012: Last Night Of The Proms
MN	End Of Transmission

CHANNEL NEWSASIA
programming@channelnewsasia.com**HEADLINES**7.30am, 8.30am, 10.30am, 1pm,
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 7.30pm**HEADLINES/S'PORE UPDATES**

9.30am, 11.30am, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

Programmes may be pre-empted
due to breaking news

6.00AM	The New Silk Road
7.00	News Now
7.32	Insight
8.00	News Now
8.32	Correspondents' Diary
9.00	News Now
9.33	Welcome 2 Taiwan: Taiwan Holiday
10.00	News Now
10.32	Between The Lines
11.00	News Now
11.33	World View
NOON	News Now
12.32PM	Correspondents' Diary
1.02	Insight
1.30	Conversation With XI
2.00	News Now
2.33	Welcome 2 Taiwan: Taiwan Holiday
3.00	News Now
3.32	Between The Lines
4.00	News Now
4.33	Correspondents' Diary
5.00	News Now
5.32	World View
6.02	Future Forward
6.30	Bright Start, Bright Sparks
7.00	Primetime Weekend
7.32	Japan Hour
8.30	City Time Traveller 2
9.00	Primetime Weekend
9.30	Expensive Eats
10.00	Singapore Tonight
10.30	Money Mind
11.00	World Tonight
11.30	City Time Traveller 2
MN	News Pulse
12.30AM	Japan Hour
1.30	Expensive Eats
2.00	News Pulse
2.30	Correspondents' Diary
3.00	Boat People
4.00	Singapore Tonight
4.30	Money Mind
5.00	Future Forward
5.30	The Successors 4

**CITY TIME TRAVELLER 2**

In Paro, Jason Pomeroy immerses himself in the indigenous architecture of Bhutan. He visits public spaces and private homes, and finds out how the spiritual and the secular intertwine.

Channel NewsAsia, 8.30pm



tellvasantham@mediacorp.com.sg

1.00PM	Vasantham Gold: Kai Kodutha Deivam
4.00	Bollywood Masti: I Hate Luv Storys (Hindi)
7.00	Thirai Talkies (HD)(CC)
8.00	Indian Beat 6 (HD)(CC)
8.30	Tamil Seithi
9.00	Avan Aval (HD) (Finale Episode)
10.00	Tamil Silver Screen: Aaaah (PG-Horror)(CC)
MN	Tamil Seithi
12.30AM	Movie: Ambuli
3.00	Close

**KERANA TERPAKSA AKU RELAKAN**

Datuk introduces Indah to her third son, Tajul Zahin. Wati's mother brought Wati to meet Mak Hitam. Wati's father notices that Saiful seldom eats at home. He avoids home-cooked food after Mak Kiah tells him that Wati and her mother could have used charms on his father-in-law.

Suria, 9.30pm

ON SINGTEL TV**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**

Loaded with hilarious, groundbreaking sketches, the show continues to serve up A-list celebrities, personalities and artistes.

Comedy Central Asia (HD)
(Singtel TV Ch 324), 10pm**ST VINCENT**

Forced to work long hours, single mother Maggie has no choice but to leave her 12-year-old son Oliver in the care of their new neighbour, Vincent.

FOX Movies Premium HD
(Singtel TV Ch 414), 9pm**ON STARHUB CABLE TV****ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE**

A vampire is reunited with his lover, but their romance is disrupted by her younger sister.

FX (StarHub TV Ch 507), 6.15pm

DISTURBIA

A teen living under house arrest is convinced his neighbour is a serial killer.

FOX Action Movies HD
(StarHub TV Ch 625), 10pm



tellchannel5@mediacorp.com.sg

6.00AM	Lose To Win II
6.30	Talking Point (HD)
7.00	The Dr Oz Show IV (HD)
8.00	JML TV Home Shopping (Paid Presentation)
9.00	Wheel Of Fortune XXXI (HD)
10.00	Undercover Boss Canada (HD)(CC)
11.00	The Ellen DeGeneres Show XII (HD)(PG)
11.45	Just For Laughs: BBC UK Gags IV
NOON	The Delicious Miss Dahl (HD)
12.30PM	The Mind Of A Chef (HD)
1.00	Survivor XXXI (HD)(PG)
2.00	The Cube IV
3.00	Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D (HD) (PG-Action Violence)
4.00	Arrow (HD) (PG-Action Violence)
5.00	Spouse For House II (HD)(PG)
5.30	Films And Stars (HD)
6.00	Heartland Hubby (HD)(PG)
6.30	Just For Laughs Gags VI
6.45	Box Office Showcase: Jack The Giant Slayer (HD)(PG-Violence)(CC)
9.00	News 5 (HD)
9.30	Sunday Night Movie: Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows (HD)(CC) (PG-Action Violence)
MN	Undercover Boss USA III
1.00AM	The Dr Oz Show V (HD) (PG13-Mature Themes)
1.45	Just For Laughs Gags XIII
2.00	America's Next Top Model XXI (HD)(PG)
3.00	Films And Stars (HD)
3.30	Wheel Of Fortune XXXI (HD)
4.20	The Ellen DeGeneres Show XII (HD)(PG)
5.10	The Dr Oz Show IV (HD)



BOX OFFICE SHOWCASE: JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (HD)(PG-VIOLENCE)(CC)

When a young farmhand unwittingly opens a gateway between our world and that of a fearsome race of giants, an ancient war reignites.

Channel 5, 6.45pm **WEC**

tellchannel8@mediacorp.com.sg

6.00AM	Battle @ Water Margin (HD)
7.00	A Song To Remember (HD)(PG)
9.00	Math's Island Series 3 (HD)
9.30	Doraemon TV Special
10.00	Super Family 2 (HD)
10.30	Little Detective (HD)
11.00	Tuesday Report: Lifeline
11.30	Hey Gorgeous 2015 (HD)
12.30PM	Those Were The Songs (HD)
1.30	3-Plus-1 IV (HD)
2.30	Precious (HD)(PG)
4.30	The First Myth (HD) (PG-Some Violence)
6.30	Singapore Today (HD)(Live)
7.00	Lee's Family Reunion (PG)
10.00	News Tonight (HD)
10.30	Green Nation (HD)(Debut)
11.00	Unexpected Access 2 (PG13-Strong Graphic Visuals)
11.30	True Files V
MN	Sunday Night Movie: A Moment Of Romance III (PG)
2.00AM	Yours Fatefully (HD)
3.00	Destiny
4.00	The Beautiful Scent



LEE'S FAMILY REUNION (PG)

Wenxing brings Aiting to a jewellery store, where they bump into Jiabao. Meanwhile, Tiancheng and Huixin create similar mascots for Sun Rise Departmental Store and Dafa Departmental Store, respectively. Shuibo and Hansheng decide to sue each other's company for copyright infringement.

Channel 8, 7pm **WEC**

tellchannelnu@mediacorp.com.sg

7.00AM	Home Shopping
10.00	Running Man WE,C
11.30	Stars For A Cause 3
12.30PM	Celebrity Boss
1.00	Holiday Gone Wrong
1.30	The Banquet
2.00	Face Off
3.00	Fabulous Boys (PG) WE,C
4.30	Legendary Cuisines
5.00	L'Escargot (PG) WE,C
6.00	World's No. 1 WE,C
7.00	China's Got Talent V WE,C
9.00	Sniper Standoff WE,C (PG-Some Violence)
11.00	News Tonight WE,C
11.30	China's Got Talent V WE,C
1.30AM	Marriage Matters (PG)
2.30	End Of Transmission

CHANNEL NEWSASIA
programming@channelnewsasia.com

HEADLINES

7.30am, 8.30am, 10.30am, 1pm,
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 7.30pm

HEADLINES/S'PORE UPDATES

9.30am, 11.30am, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

Programmes may be pre-empted
due to breaking news

6.00AM Don't Call Us Beaten

6.30 A Singaporean Abroad 3

7.00 News Now

7.32 Correspondents' Diary

8.00 News Now

8.32 World View

9.00 News Now

9.33 Expensive Eats

10.00 News Now

10.32 Money Mind

11.00 News Now

11.33 City Time Traveller 2

NOON News Now

12.32PM Sportsworld Weekend

1.02 Japan Hour **WE**

2.00 News Now

2.33 Expensive Eats

3.00 News Now

3.32 Correspondents' Diary

4.00 News Now

4.33 A Singaporean Abroad 3

5.00 News Now

5.32 Sportsworld Weekend

6.02 City Time Traveller 2

6.30 Expensive Eats

7.00 Primetime Weekend

7.32 Welcome 2 Taiwan: Taiwan Holiday

8.00 Boat People

9.00 Primetime Weekend

9.30 Cancer — The Emperor Of All Maladies

10.00 Singapore Tonight

10.30 First Hand Account

11.00 World Tonight

11.30 Welcome 2 Taiwan: Taiwan Holiday

MN News Now

12.30AM Correspondents' Diary

1.00 Boat People

2.00 News Pulse

2.30 Cancer — The Emperor Of All Maladies

3.00 The New Silk Road

4.00 Singapore Tonight

4.30 Expensive Eats

5.00 City Time Traveller 2

5.30 First Hand Account

MN Close



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7.00AM	Sesame Street Season 42 (Pre-school)
8.00	Make Way For Noddy (Pre-school)
9.00	Robocar POLI (HD)
9.30	Tobot (HD)
10.00	Buddy Fight 100
10.30	Cardfight Vanguard V
11.00	Kaijudo
11.30	The Day My Butt Went Psycho
NOON	What's New Scooby-Doo?
12.30PM	Secret Kid Venture Club
1.00	Pippi Longstocking
1.30	Adventurers Masters Of Time
2.00	Little Battlers eXperience
3.00	Cardfight Vanguard II
4.00	Avatar Season 1
5.00	Flash & Dash
6.00	Planet Sheen Season 1
6.30	FINA/airweave Swimming
	World Cup 2015 (Encore)
9.00	Atlantis: Series 1
10.00	Agatha Christie's Marple: Endless Nights
MN	End Of Transmission



BOAT PEOPLE

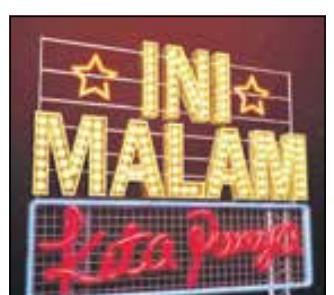
We follow the dark trail of the human trafficking network that extends into Malaysia.

Channel NewsAsia, 8pm



tellvasantham@mediacorp.com.sg

NOON	Healthy Lifestyle
1.00PM	Indian Panorama: Belli
4.00	Vasantham Box Office: Sippikul Muthu
7.00	Reel Mannan (HD)(CC)
8.00	Kutra Kannakanippu 2015 (CC)
8.30	Tamil Seithi
9.00	Vasantham Star 2015 Grand Finals (Live)
10.30	Cinema Express: Thalaivaa (PG-Violence)
1.30AM	Tamil Seithi
2.00	Close



INI MALAM KITA PUNYA Host Nabil Ahmad is set to interview interesting guests, who also take part in a comedy sketch.

Suria, 8.30pm

ON SINGTEL TV

UNSTRUNG HEROES

Unhappy with his home life since his mother got sick, Steven Lidz goes to live with his two crazy uncles.

FOX Family Movies HD (Singtel TV Ch 406), 8pm

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

In Victorian England, the independent and headstrong Bathsheba Everdene attracts three very different suitors: Gabriel Oak, a sheep farmer; Frank Troy, a reckless sergeant; and William Boldwood, a prosperous and mature bachelor.

Singtel TV Video On Demand (Latest), Anytime on Demand

ON STARHUB CABLE TV

SKIN TRADE

A detective teams up with a Thai agent to bust a major human trafficking ring and avenge his family's murder.

Cinemax (StarHub TV Ch 611), 10pm

STANDING OVATION

A story about a group of friends competing in a national music video contest.

FOX Family Movies (StarHub TV Ch 624), 9.35pm

ON SATURDAY >

938 LIVE	
6.00AM	News Plus The Best Of Body & Soul With Daniel Martin
10.00	News Plus Weekend Brunch And Out & About With Angela Lim And Daphne Lim
NOON	News Plus Sports Review Of The Week
6.00PM	News Plus The Wow Club And Talking Books With Michelle Martin

2.00PM	TGI Saturday With Dafril Phua
5.00	987 HOME With Joakim Gomez
6.00	Say It With Music With Naomi Yeo
10.00	Automated
11.00	987 Anthems by Zouk And The AOS Collection DJs

CLASS 95	
All Day	Y2K Triple-Play Weekend

GOLD 905	
7.00AM	Asia Pop 40 With Dom Lau
10.00	Automated



987 ANTHEMS BY ZOUK AND THE AOS COLLECTION DJs

The hottest dance music brought to you by Singapore-based DJs Andrew T & DJ Tang from AOS Collective, and DJs Matthew and Ghetto from Zouk.

987FM, 11pm

987	
7.00AM	Asia Pop 40 With Dom Lau
10.00	Automated

ON SUNDAY >

938 LIVE	
6.00AM	News Plus Weekend Brunch And Out & About With Angela Lim And Daphne Lim
10.00	News Plus The Wow Club And Talking Books With Michelle Martin
2.00PM	News Plus Parenting Made Easy With Susan Ng
8.00	News Plus The Best Of Body & Soul With Daniel Martin

11.00	Automated
2.00PM	Asia Pop 40 With Dom Lau (Repeat)
5.00	Automated
6.00	Say It With Music With Naomi Yeo

CLASS 95	
All Day	Y2K Triple-Play Weekend

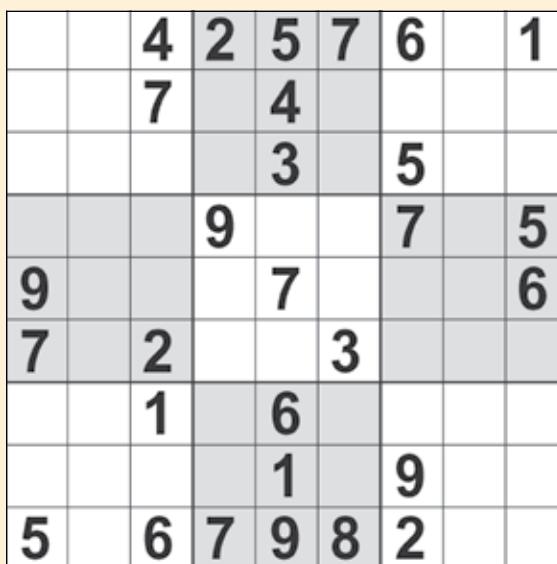
GOLD 905	
6.00AM	GOLD905 Sounds Good Feels Good
8.00	Vintage Showcase With Brian Richmond
NOON	GOLD905 Sounds Good Feels Good
8.00PM	Solid Gold

987	
9.00AM	987 Top 20 Countdown With The Bro Code (Repeat)

SOLID GOLD

SUNDAYS 8PM - 12MN

SOLID GOLD
Tune in for the best disco hits from 8pm to midnight.
Gold 905, 8pm



7 2 1 4 8 6 5 3 9
3 4 5 9 2 1 6 8 7
9 6 8 7 5 3 1 4 2
6 1 7 3 4 5 2 9 8
8 5 9 6 7 2 3 1 4
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YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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SUBTITLES

E: English

C: Chinese

M: Malay

T: Tamil

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COOK EAT CHINA II (EP 11)(PG)
In the second half of our 26-stop tour of China's most mouthwatering destinations, we soak up the Islamic-Chinese culture and hunt down delicious Chinese-Muslim fare.

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Watch episodes on Toggle after they are shown on TV.

FREE



THE SUCCESSOR

This programme showcases the unsung heroes behind Singaporeans' favorite local handmade food.



TANGLIN

The rivalry escalates when Aaron leaves Chris out of the email loop regarding the KS20 Charity Walkathon event.



118 (PG)

A sad Meimei bids Liang and Shanshan goodbye at the airport. Shunshui hands his business proposal for 118 to Daming and insists he is serious about boosting the family business.

SERIES ON DEMAND ...

Watch your favourite series on Toggle anytime, anywhere.

FREE



CHINA'S GOT TALENT V

Contestants from all over China will go onstage to show what they are capable of.



WALKING DEAD V (PG13-HORROR)

Follow the story of Rick Grimes and his group, who finally reunite and escape from a cannibalistic society known as Terminus.



LORRAINE PASCALE: HOW TO BE A BETTER COOK

With plenty of easy recipes and fantastic tips, Lorraine Pascale shows people how to pull off an impressive meal for friends and family.

The Mystery Of Mass Killers

Shooters Fit a Certain Profile, But Many Others Do as Well

This article is by N. R. Kleinfield, Russ Buettner, David W. Chen and Nikita Stewart.

They have become one of the most notorious and alarming stripes of evil. People who, when you think back, seemed off. Didn't dress right. Kept to themselves. Were nursing a bitterness that smoldered inside of them.

And then they picked up guns and went out and killed as many as they could.

In the aftermath, the same questions arise: Why didn't everyone know? Why weren't they stopped?

Now those questions are being asked about Christopher Harper-Mercer, who slaughtered nine people at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, on October 1. They have been asked about the man who killed nine people in a church in Charleston, South Carolina, in June. The man who killed six people in Isla Vista, California, last year. The man who killed a dozen people at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013.

Weaving a profile of the public mass murderer, drawing on threads that have been identi-

fied, can reveal the broad contours of a certain type of individual. But those contours are indistinct enough to apply to countless others who will never pick up a gun and go out and murder.

"The big problem is that the kind of pattern that describes them describes tens of thousands of Americans — even people who write awful things on Facebook or the Internet," said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University in Boston who has studied mass murderers. "We can't round up all the people who scare us."

Mass public killings are a phenomenon that largely did not occur until two generations ago.

Grant Duwe, a criminologist with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, has studied more than 1,300 mass murders from 1900 to 2013. Of them, he classifies 160 as mass public shootings, ones in which at least four people were shot and killed in a concentrated period.

There were few before the 1960s. The episode, Dr. Duwe said, that some academics view as having "introduced the nation to the idea of mass murder in a



SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

A memorial at Umpqua Community College, where nine people were shot and killed.

public space" happened in 1966, when Charles Whitman climbed a tower at the University of Texas at Austin and killed 16 people.

Using data compiled by Dr. Duwe, the United States Congressional Research Service released a report this year that charted an increase in these shootings since then, from an average of one per year during the 1970s to four in the 2000s and a slight uptick in the last few years.

Those who study these types of mass murderers have found that

they are almost always male (all but two of the 160 cases isolated by Dr. Duwe). Most are single, separated or divorced. The majority are white. With the exception of student shooters at high schools or lower schools, they are usually older than the typical murderer, often in their 30s or 40s.

They vary in ideology. They generally have bought their guns legally. Many had evidence of mental illness, particularly those who carried out random mass

killings. But others did not, and most people with mental illness are not violent.

"They're depressed," Dr. Fox said. "They're not out of touch with reality. They don't hear voices. They don't think the people they're shooting are gophers."

'History of Frustration'

Their most comfortable companion is themselves. According to Dr. Fox, mass killers tend to

Continued on Page 5

Hard Times Ahead for Soft Drinks as Attitudes Are Changing

By MARGOT SANGER-KATZ

Five years ago, Mayor Michael A. Nutter proposed a tax on soda in Philadelphia, and the industry rose up to beat it back.

It's a familiar story. Soda taxes have also flopped in New York State and San Francisco. So far, only superliberal Berkeley, California, has succeeded in adopting such a measure over industry objections. The soda industry is winning the policy battles over the future of its product.

But the bigger picture is that soda companies are losing the war.

Even as anti-obesity campaigners like Mr. Nutter have failed to pass taxes, they have reminded people that soda — a mainstay of American culture — is not a very healthy product.

Over the last 20 years, sales of full-calorie soda in the United States have plummeted by more than 25 percent. Bottled water is now on track to overtake soda as the larg-

est beverage category in two years, according to at least one industry projection.

The drop in soda consumption represents the single largest change in the American diet in the last decade.

From 2004 to 2012, children consumed 79 fewer sugar-sweetened beverage calories a day, according to a large government survey, representing a 4 percent cut in calories over all.

As total calorie intake has declined, obesity rates among school-age children appear to have leveled off. In Philadelphia, where the tax failed but the debate discouraged people from drinking soda, consumption among teenagers dropped sharply — by 24 percent — from 2007 to 2013. Last month, the city Department of Public Health reported a sustained decline in childhood obesity over the last seven years.

The beverage industry continues to fight these shifts. But it is also aware that after decades of selling a handful of popular, iconic products, changing public attitudes are leading to a change in the nature of the business.

This summer, executives from the beverage industry gathered in New York City. The annual event, hosted by the trade magazine Beverage

Continued on Page 4

INTELLIGENCE
 In Rhodes, layers of history linger. PAGE 2



WORLD TRENDS
 In India, a mob killing over a cow. PAGE 3



MONEY & BUSINESS
 U.S. firms chase India's Internet wave. PAGE 9



TRAVEL
 A picture-perfect river in China. PAGE 13

the **DANCE** Floor

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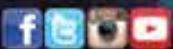
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BILL CALHOUN

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All you need to know about The Dance Floor!
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5

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ARTS & DESIGN

Filmmakers Pitch Hope: See Our Movies, Save the World

By CARA BUCKLEY

Two new movies, "Racing Extinction" and "This Changes Everything," both explore the devastation humanity has wrought on the natural world. Yet rather than focusing only on what is dying and lost, both films offer messages of hope, profiling people who have helped stop, animal by animal, hectare by hectare, the pillaging of wildlife and land.

The question is whether people will go see the films. Accounts of global warming tend to leave those who aren't apathetic paralyzed and depressed, and tales of animal cruelty and extinction can be too harrowing to bear.

The director of "Racing Extinction," Louie Psihogios, who won an Oscar for his 2009 documentary, "The Cove," about the annual dolphin slaughter in Japan, said people still tell him they lack the nerve to see that film. And Naomi Klein, who adapted "This Changes Everything," based on her book of the same name, said a film salesman told her that he would market the movie only if there was no reference to climate change in the marketing.

"If you beat people over the head with shame, guilt and despair, you get exactly what you expect — people turn away and try to forget about it," said Shawn Heinrichs, a photographer and an activist featured in "Racing Extinction."

Aware of such feelings, the teams behind each film developed similar plans: target the people most passionate about what's at stake, and bank on them to draw in others.

As he did with "The Cove," Mr. Psihogios sought to create a thriller, using undercover spies to expose animal traffickers while highlighting acts of environmentalist dering-do. "Racing Extinction" got a head start with its message this



OCEANIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

"Racing Extinction" and "This Changes Everything" focus on environmental devastation. A scene from "Racing Extinction," whose director said people tell him they lack the nerve to see the film.

summer when the director and his collaborators projected images of endangered animals onto the Empire State Building. The film opened last month, and an awards run is being eyed. (It helps that Mr. Psihogios has name recognition from his Oscar win.) But whether "Racing Extinction" has a broader impact may not be clear until December 2, when the Discovery Channel plans to broadcast it in prime time in about 220 countries and territories.

John Hoffman, executive vice president for documentaries and specials at Discovery, said the channel's executives decided to throw

their weight behind the film after its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

"We have aired things globally, but never as this sort of call to action," Mr. Hoffman said, adding: "We have to say to the world, 'For a moment, we have to stop, and look at the issues' the film raises. 'Our aim is that everybody in the world should know this film is on.'

The December 2 date is strategic: COP21, the United Nations climate change conference, is to be held in Paris from November 30 through December 11.

Similarly, Ms. Klein and Avi Lew-

is, her husband and the film's director, hustled to get "This Changes Everything" out well ahead of COP21.

The film focuses on grass-roots movements that thwarted oil companies and communities that embraced renewable energy. Ms. Klein and Mr. Lewis, both longtime activist journalists, began building support for the documentary when she started researching her book about five years ago. They hired an outreach director immediately, and worked with groups like 350.org, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth to plan screenings. Such orga-

nizations can draw in audiences that may be further galvanized by what they see, Ms. Klein said.

"Films don't change the world, movements do," she added.

"This Changes Everything," released October 2, also had showings in a dozen cities last month, including in Amsterdam, where it was projected on a coal-fired power station. The film will be available on iTunes on October 20. "We believe that to bring a new narrative into a cluttered culture, you need multiple points of entry," Mr. Lewis said.

The "Racing Extinction" promoters made sure they had an infrastructure — they called it an "impact campaign" — in place before the film opened, ready to give answers to viewers who ask, "What can I do?"

They teamed with Paul Allen, the Microsoft co-founder, and his company Vulcan to push for laws banning the trafficking of endangered species, among other initiatives, and exhorted, via social media and a website, supporters to do the same.

Mr. Psihogios chose an image from one of his projections — a manta ray, glowing on a tall building — for the film's poster, certainly more beckoning than any picture of the large-scale marine killing that the film explores.

It's all part of the effort to get people to see the movie and then take an action. The message Mr. Psihogios is propounding is that each voice and each act counts: Outrage generated by "The Cove" helped reduce dolphin killings in Japan to 6,000 a year from 23,000.

"We set up a chorus of people doing amazing things so at the end, people want to join us, rather than get full of despair," Mr. Psihogios said. "We try to bookend everything we do with hope."



EMON HASSAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Up and Away" was created specifically for children with autism, and was inspired by "Around the World in 80 Days."

Such an incident should not be a problem at "Up and Away," which will run through October 25.

Since 2011, Theater Development Fund has been organizing autism-friendly performances of Broadway productions that include adjustments in sound and light levels. But "Up and Away" was devised with the help of students from schools that specialize in working with autistic children.

The idea of a peaceful escape into the clouds emerged during these

workshops, Jonathan Shmidt Chapman, Trusty Sidekick's artistic director, said. Drew Petersen's script was inspired by "Around the World in 80 Days."

"We were really struck by this character of Phileas Fogg, who actually displays some very stereotypical autistic behavior," Mr. Chapman said. "He's setting off on this journey literally around the whole globe, going to these beautiful and exotic places, and all he's focused on is get-

ting there on time and finishing the route."

Mr. Chapman said the focus on children with autism was uncharted territory. "As a theater maker, it's sort of the opposite of what you want to do, because you want to surprise your audience, and with this audience, the general practice is that they need everything up front," he explained.

The show begins with a video that explains what to expect. The eight audience members will meet the

cast in the lobby and have time to acclimate before they are led into a solarium. The group will then head into the performance space, where hot-air balloons are set up. One is for the show's musicians and the others are for audience members

to sit, two per balloon, in soft chairs, with their guardians behind them and a cast member next to them. Any child who wants to leave may simply wander back to the solarium; his or her personal cast member will go along, leaving the other actors to adapt the story.

"One of the tenets we felt was really important is that there is no right way to experience it," Mr. Chapman said. "The moment we're setting an expectation of the way a child is meant to behave, we've got it wrong."

Theater for Audiences That Don't Like Surprises

By STEVEN McELROY

You are assigned your own cast member, who will escort you to the performance space and sit next to you throughout the show.

Even by the standards of immersive theater, "Up and Away" promises to be distinctive. Created by the theater company Trusty Sidekick, it is for young people on the autism spectrum.

Whether to take an autistic child to the theater is a difficult question. At a recent Broadway performance of "The King and I," audience members grumbled about a disruptive child, prompting one actor to express his own frustration on Facebook. "When did we as theater people, performers and audience members become so concerned with our own experience that we lose compassion for others?" he wrote.

Taking autistic children on a peaceful escape from stress.

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TRAVEL



TODD HEISLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Ferhadija, a 16th-century pedestrian way in Old Town Sarajevo lined with cafes.

Optimism Endures in Sarajevo

By REIF LARSEN

On warm evenings, Ferhadija, a 16th-century pedestrian way that runs through the heart of Old Town Sarajevo, swells and churns with people who have come out to see and be seen, to promenade and take in the rhythms of the city.

Lined with cafes, the Ferhadija begins at the eternal flame World War II memorial on Marshal Tito Street and moves east, backward through time: The concrete Socialist-era buildings give way to the elaborate pastels and corniced facades of the city's Austro-Hungarian period, before finally ending in the Bascarsija, the old Ottoman district, where you walk past serene courtyards filled with Muslim worshipers, the hush of a centuries-old public fountain, and stalls selling a rainbow of spiciness, traditional copper coffeepots, and the ubiquitous cevapi, a glorious meat-in-a-pita concoction.

Whenever I roam through Sarajevo's labyrinthine streets, I am amazed that it is not overrun with more tourists, for while the city's compact size makes it feel accessible, its complex collision of cultures gives it an air of enduring mystery.

"Sarajevo is a latitudinal city," explained Amir Vuk-Zec, perhaps the most famous architect in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "To understand the soul of this city, you must see how it runs west to east. It is a long bowl, you see? It is a touchable city."

Sarajevo, long poised on the fault line of empires, has seen more tumultuous events in the last 150 years than any other city of its size. It has witnessed firsthand the handover from Ottoman to Austro-Hungarian rule; the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which instigated the First World War; the rise and fall of fascism; the rise and fall of socialism; and that horrific war in the

1990s, one of the first wars whose atrocities were televised for a global audience.

And yet the beautiful, cosmopolitan, worldly city that has persisted through all of this remains an undiscovered treasure trove for the visitor, like a mini-Istanbul tucked away in the Dinaric Alps. To visit Sarajevo is to witness both our modern civilization's greatest sorrows and greatest triumphs.

Sarajevo's cultural intermingling occurs against a dramatic backdrop of Alpine mountains that border the city on three sides. These were the same mountains that once hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics, Sarajevo's glorious coming-out party to the world. And these were the same

A city looks beyond the scars left by a history of conflict.

mountains that, only eight years later, enabled the Bosnian Serb Army to encircle the city and torture its populace for 44 months, dropping an average of 300 shells a day, and killing more than 11,000 people. Sarajevo's topography, the source of its beauty, also became its great curse.

"These mountains where I once played as a child, now they had become this place of death," said Nihad Kresevljakovic, the artistic director of the Sarajevo War Theater.

Just before midnight on August 25, 1992, the famous Vijecnica, or Town Hall, a pseudo-Moorish construction that had become the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was at-

tacked with incendiary shells by the Bosnian Serb Army.

The building burned for three days. More than a million books were lost. But Vijecnica's restoration was completed in 2014, with an unimaginable amount of work going into recreating every detail from the original design, down to the color of paint used when it was built in 1896.

But several people I talked to said they wished that more structures had been left in ruins following the war, frozen in a kind of silent memorial. When you walk through the streets today, it is increasingly difficult to find evidence of the notorious siege: "Sarajevo roses" — mortar craters filled in with red resin to serve as memorials — are becoming harder to spot as streets and sidewalks are repaved.

A city, like its inhabitants, slowly moves on. A new generation of Sarajevans, born during or after the war, are molding the city inspired, not burdened, by the pull of history.

One of the most dramatic examples of this can be seen in the Festina Lente pedestrian bridge, completed in 2012, which spans the River Miljacka. The bridge was designed by three students. Their gravity-defying, loop-de-loop plan of aluminum and steel won an open international competition of over 40 entrants. In the afternoon, you will find students, tourists and pensioners lounging inside its helixed gateway. Festina lente is Latin for "Make haste slowly."

This summer, as I made my final lap down the Ferhadija, I could not help but feel optimistic for Sarajevo's future. The city is slowly discovering how to present its brand of festina lente to the world. For all of its rich history, this is a story that is being written in the present tense.

Bucolic Town in China Craves More Attention

By EDWARD WONG

YANGSHUO, China — With both hands gripping a pole, Deng Hongyou rowed a bamboo raft carrying a couple and their 2-year-old daughter down the quiet Yulong River one morning. Hills of karst rock shaped like camel humps and blanketed with plants rose from the banks.

"The Yulong River is just as beautiful as the Li River," said Mr. Deng, 53, comparing this river in southern China with the more famous one nearby. "Here the water is much calmer. If a child falls in, I can jump in and save her. In the Li River, there are too many big boats that create waves."

Most Chinese have heard of the Li River, one of the top tourist sites in the country. A row of karst hills along its banks has been immortalized on one side of the 20 renminbi note. Lesser known is the Yulong, near Yangshuo. It is a narrower, more bucolic waterway flanked by the same kinds of mountains.

Like the Yulong River, Yangshuo has a reputation as a laid-back rural haven. For years, it catered to backpackers with its hostels and cafes offering banana pancakes. The Li is more closely tied to the bustling city of Guilin, a magnet for package tours and the place that the government has promoted to the world as one of the most beautiful in the country. From Guilin, large and loud motorized tour boats ply the Li.

Now, the government of Yangshuo County is looking to push the Yulong River and Yangshuo, the county seat, into the spotlight. Officials here crave the prominence that Guilin and the Li River have had for decades. They have asked the central government to designate the area around the Yulong River as the Yulong National Geological Park in order, the proposal says, "to better protect these geological relics gifted by nature."

No corner of China outside of the Yangshuo area better embodies the imagined landscape of the country — karst hills, bamboo

Mia Li contributed research from Beijing.

groves, rice paddies and villages, all occasionally wreathed in mist. Children bike to school along narrow dirt lanes. Farmers lead water buffalo through the wet fields. It is a traditional Chinese painting come to life.

"Most people who visit Guilin come to Yangshuo only if they have time," said Li Zilong, general manager of Yangshuo Resort.

But the profiles of Yangshuo and the Yulong River have been on the rise. In the 1990s, Yangshuo became a major spot on the backpacking trail through China. Those travelers, most of them foreigners, lingered at restaurants and teahouses on a quiet street in the middle of town, while Chinese and outsiders on tours preferred to stay in plush hotels in Guilin.

Today, as tourism has risen, other parts of the Yangshuo area have become more crowded.

A picture postcard of bamboo groves, karst hills and mist.

At night in Yangshuo, thousands of visitors flock to a riverbank to watch a sound-and-light show created with the help of Zhang Yimou, China's best-known film director, and featuring legions of dancers in ethnic costumes.

"Guilin has been a metropolis since the Tang dynasty and has the best-preserved Ming dynasty houses," said Yang Yongde, founder of the Tourism Research Institute at Guangxi University. "Yangshuo has authentic rural villages and fields. The two complement each other."

The granting of national park status to the Yulong River and its surrounding villages would "give Yangshuo and Guilin more equal status on the average tourist's itinerary," Mr. Yang said.

Standing on his raft, Mr. Deng said, "Where else can you take this kind of a ride on a raft? Not on the Li River."



GILLES SABRIE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
Officials in Yangshuo County are seeking to have the area around the Yulong River designated a national park.

TRAVEL

Collapsing Village Captivates Tourists, Bringing a Revival

By JIM YARDLEY

CIVITA DI BAGNOREGIO, Italy — Forgive Sandro Rocchi if he seems a bit satisfied as he enjoys a midday glass of red wine at his children's restaurant and relishes the unlikely revival of this stunning hilltop village. He moved away in the 1970s for lack of prospects. Now there are shops, restaurants, boutique properties and gobs of tourists.

"The place has come back to life," Mr. Rocchi said.

There is, however, a tiny problem. Civita di Bagnoregio is slowly, steadily collapsing, and it has been for centuries.

Landslides have incrementally eroded the sheer cliffs, at one point slicing off the ancient stone residence of the village's most famous native, Giovanni di Fidanza, the medieval theologian canonized as St. Bonaventure. For years, this losing war of geological attrition was not a big deal because barely anyone lived in Civita, and few visited.

The year-round population is still tiny — maybe six people, maybe eight — but Civita, 120 kilometers north of Rome in central Italy, is now a tourism dynamo, with more than

Gaia Pianigiani contributed reporting.



NADIA SHIRA COHEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

500,000 visitors expected this year. It is a candidate to become a Unesco World Heritage site. It is the centerpiece of a regional tourism campaign and is featured on city buses in Rome. It is, everyone agrees, a marvel.

"Rain is the main problem," said Giovanni Maria Di Buduo, a geologist who oversees a local museum. "Rain gets into the fractures of the volcanic rock and creates alterations. In the last five centuries, we've seen a reduction of the cliff by about 20 percent due to landslides."

The Etruscans built Civita more

than 2,500 years ago, one of many hilltop villages fortified to protect against invaders in the valleys below. But as centuries passed, the village became increasingly isolated. An earthquake in the 17th century did not help; the local government was moved to what had been the adjacent suburb of Bagnoregio, which still oversees Civita today.

Landslides transformed the village into a compact island, as a land bridge that connected Civita to Bagnoregio gradually collapsed (it was later replaced by a steel-and-concrete footbridge).

Not so many years ago, decline seemed inevitable, which perhaps explains Civita's nickname: Il Paese Che Muore, or The Town That Is Dying. Except it has not died. Tourism officials in Lazio promoted Civita in national ad campaigns. Accounts in the news media picked up on the novelty of a medieval village atop a jagged cliff, confronted by erosion. It was irresistible.

"The fragility of Civita is bad, but it is also what makes it unique," said Luca Profili, the deputy mayor of Bagnoregio. "It is the idea that you have it today, but you don't know if

you will have it tomorrow."

Now, restaurants and gift shops cater to streams of day-trippers. Several stone buildings have been converted into bed-and-breakfasts. Donkey races are hosted in the small piazza twice a year. On Good Friday, the large crucifix from the cathedral is carried in a procession into Bagnoregio — and always returned, since legend holds that Civita will collapse if the crucifix is not back by midnight before Easter.

Arianna Bastoni, owner of La Cantina di Arianna, a restaurant off the square, lives in an upstairs apartment. Days are now busy as she and other family members race around, serving the flow of tourists. But if Civita fills up by day, it empties by night, save the guests in the bed-and-breakfasts. "It is very tranquil," Ms. Bastoni said.

For Mr. Rocchi, 70, the revival of Civita is an unexpected delight. Generations of his family lived here until he left in the desperate 1970s. Now his son, Maurizio, and his daughter, Alessandra, run a popular restaurant, Alma Civita. Mr. Rocchi spends his mornings in the nearby hillsides, hunting truffles, before turning up for a meal.

"I leave them truffles," he said, "and they cook me lunch."

Not a bad deal in a village that perhaps is not dying after all.

Chef Sees Haiti as Unappreciated

By SHIVANI VORA

The Spanish-born chef José Andrés, 46, has 21 restaurants across the United States and in Puerto Rico. But lately, it's his love for Haiti that gets attention.

Mr. Andrés is the host of a public-television show "Undiscovered: Haiti With José Andrés." The idea for the show came about when he visited Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. Since then, he has returned more than 20 times.

Below are excerpts from a conversation with Mr. Andrés.

Q. What was so unforgettable about your first trip to Haiti, and how did that trip lead to this documentary?

A. I loved the bustling streets of Port-au-Prince, the untouched coastlines and pristine beaches, the mountains and the lush forests. It's a fascinating place, but most people relate it to the earthquake, poverty and other challenges. So I said, let's change that and show the world the real Haiti. My hope is that people will see the country from a different, positive perspective.



José Andrés
and want to visit.

a traditional soup called jounou, which is made of pumpkin and fried pork called griot.

Q. Besides food, what are your top adventures in the country?

A. Visiting Citadelle Laferrière in Cap-Haïtien in northern Haiti. I was blown away by this incredible fortress that was built in the early 19th century during the slave revolution as a refuge for Haiti's newly formed state. High in the mountains and surrounded by forests, you would not believe how stunning it is.

Q. Why should travelers consider Haiti for a getaway?

A. In a single day, you can eat incredible food in the street, swim in a waterfall deep in the jungle and swim at beaches that aren't overflowing with people.

The history is also incredible. Haiti was one of the first places that Christopher Columbus landed in 1492 and is the only place in the world where slaves overthrew their masters, beat Napoleon's army and established a republic.

The New York Times
Countries have borders. Stories don't.



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS HARDY FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Venus flytrap, one of 590 known species of carnivorous plants. Below, a fly caught by a sundew.

They're Predators Down to Their Roots

By NATALIE ANGIER

Scientists who study carnivorous plants see them as models for exploring a range of important questions, including how organisms adapt to extreme adversity and scarcity, and how beings with neither muscles nor brains can outmaneuver mobile beings with both.

Carnivorous plants may yield practical spinoffs. A number of enzymes in carnivorous plants remain exceptionally stable under conditions of high heat and acidity that demolished most garden-varietiy enzymes.

"Industry could learn a lot about how to make enzymes more tolerant to extreme conditions simply by studying the Venus flytrap," said Rainer Hedrich of the University of Würzburg in Germany.

The 590 or so known species of carnivorous plants are all legitimate, chlorophyll-carrying members of the plant kingdom. They photosynthesize, stitching together sugars from water, carbon dioxide and sunlight. Yet plants also need nitrogen, phosphate and sulfur, which most species absorb from the ground. Carnivorous types, however, colonize marginal habitats with impoverished soil and must acquire their nutrients from alternative sources. Animal flesh happens to be a handy one.

Through DNA analysis, researchers recently determined that carnivory has arisen in plants at least nine times, the oldest some 72 million years ago. The plants have evolved a battery of techniques for trapping insects, frogs, fish and even small mammals. Some, like the pitcher plant, take the pitfall approach, impounding rainwater at



ONLINE: PLANT VS. SNAIL
A snail's ill-fated journey through a Venus flytrap:
nytimes.com/Searchflytrap

rare power in the floral community.

When a Venus flytrap is hungry, its two-lobed trap, now flushed with attractive red pigment, opens and exposes the plant's sensory hairs. Should an insect land and jostle a hair, Dr. Hedrich said, "that triggers the first action potential." And if, in the next 30 seconds, the luckless visitor touches another hair, wham, the trap snaps shut in a 10th of a second — three times faster than the blink of an eye.

Naturally, the insect struggles to escape, Dr. Hedrich said, "but this is just more bad news." The desperate motions provoke more action potentials, stimulating the plant to flood its trap with hydrochloric acid, pepsin- and trypsin-class enzymes, and chitinase to pierce through the insect's exoskeleton and liquefy its meat.

Carnivorous plants are not always up for the kill. By the looks of it, Nepenthes hemsleyana, a pitcher plant in the peat swamp forests of Borneo, is gradually shrugging off meat eating in favor of the nitrogen-rich offerings of an insectivorous bat.

As reported in Current Biology, researchers at the University of Greifswald in Germany found that the Hardwicke's woolly bat and the pitcher have entered a mutually satisfactory partnership. The plant offers the bat a perfect place to roost, and the bat fertilizes the plant with its feces.

Sometimes greenery needs more than just water and sun.

the base of a brightly colored cavity, adding a touch of tempting nectar and digestive enzymes to the mix, maybe lubricating the lip and sides of the tank with wax or dust. "The insects slide off, and it's down into the abyss," said Thomas Givnish of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Others operate like a lobster trap, with spiraling grooves and pointing hairs that usher the prey through a nested set of ever-narrowing barriers and into the digestive center.

Dr. Hedrich, a biophysicist, has determined the Venus flytrap relies on an electrical pulse to snap shut, a

NEWS ANALYSIS

VW's Deception Created Health Hazard

By MARGOT SANGER-KATZ
and JOHN SCHWARTZ

Volkswagen's diesel deception unleashed tons of extra pollutants in America. While this isn't a highway safety concern, safety — as in health — is an issue.

Unlike the ignition defect in General Motors vehicles that caused at least 124 people to die in crashes, Volkswagen pollution is harder to link to individual deaths. But researchers say the air pollutants the cars illegally emitted damage health, and they have formulas for the number of lives lost from excess pollution in general. We calculated a death toll in the United States that isn't far off from that caused by the G.M. defect.

Volkswagen said last month it had installed software that deceived emissions tests in 11 million diesel cars, allowing the vehicles to emit far more pollutants than regulations allowed. Our estimates examine only the impact on public health in the United States, but the negative effects were probably substantially higher in Europe, where the cars are more common.

The chemicals that spewed from the Volkswagen cars — known as nitrogen oxides or NOx — have been linked to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, as well as premature deaths. Nitrogen oxides are a byproduct of burning fossil fuels at high temperature. The chemicals can be harmful to humans, and they can also turn into ground-level ozone, or smog, and unhealthy particle pollution.

Nitrogen dioxide and ozone irritate the lungs, increasing airway inflammation, coughing and wheezing, and can lower resistance to respiratory illness like influenza, especially with long-term exposure. The chemicals can also worsen the suffering and risk of serious illness or premature death for those with conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Older people are especially vulnerable.

A recent paper by Jos Lelieveld of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany and colleagues estimated that air pollution causes some three million premature deaths a year, and that the number of deaths could more than double by 2050.

The potential damage of technologies like the "defeat device" that allowed Volkswagen to evade pollution rules since late 2008 is substantial. Volkswagen diesel cars represent fewer than 1 percent of cars on the road in the United States. But if every car — gasoline, diesel and electric hybrid — exceeded the legal limits by a similar amount, the conse-

quences for air pollution and human health would be significant.

"Beijing comes to mind," said Paul Billings, a senior vice president at the American Lung Association.

To estimate the harm in the United States, we used two scientific models for the effects of nitrogen oxide pollution on health. One comes from when new regulations on power plant pollution caused some counties to cut back on nitrogen oxide pollution. The counties subject to regulation reduced their nitrogen oxides emissions by 350 tons a year.

A team of researchers looked at the mortality rates and medical spending before and after the change. They found the reduced pollution was responsible for about five fewer deaths for every 100,000 people in the affected counties each year. Most of the seemingly excess deaths in the higher pollution regions occurred among older Americans.

The estimated Volkswagen pollution, about 46,000 tons since late 2008, is the equivalent of about 4 percent of the power plant pollution reduction they measured, meaning it could be ex-

No car crashes, but pollution can be deadly, too.

pected to cause about 106 deaths if it had similar effects.

In the other model, Noelle Eckley Selin of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology looked at the mortality effects of the pollution produced by nitrogen oxides, using numbers the government uses to make health estimates. That brought the effects to about 40 more deaths over the period.

We relied on data from Kelley Blue Book on the number of Volkswagen diesel cars registered each year, and we applied a standard number of kilometers driven by each car.

Of course, modeling the effects of emissions is complicated. The harm from nitrogen oxide pollution depends on how close people are to roads, as well as on topography and weather patterns.

In fact, Don Anair of the Union of Concerned Scientists said that since pollution standards for cars in the United States went into effect from 2004 to 2009, emissions of nitrogen oxides have been 90 percent lower.

"It's not like this is going to offset the majority of the benefits of these standards," he said. "But there will be some impact."

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Race for Smaller and Faster Computer Chips Hits a Wall

By JOHN MARKOFF

At the inaugural International Solid-State Circuits Conference in Philadelphia in 1960, a young computer engineer named Douglas Engelbart introduced the electronics industry to the remarkably simple but groundbreaking concept of “scaling.”

Dr. Engelbart, who would later help develop the computer mouse and other personal computing technologies, theorized that as electronic circuits were made smaller, their components would get faster, require less power and become cheaper to produce — all at an accelerating pace.

Sitting in the audience that day was Gordon Moore, who went on to help found the Intel Corporation, the world’s largest chip maker. In 1965, Dr. Moore quantified the scaling principle and laid out what would have the impact of a computer-age Magna Carta. He predicted that the number of transistors that could be etched on a chip would double annually for at least a decade, leading to astronomical increases in computer power.

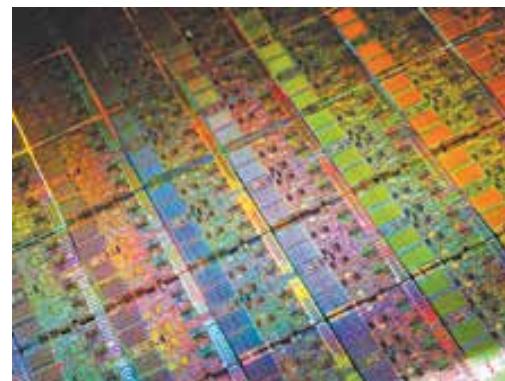
His prediction, later called Moore’s Law, appeared in Electronics magazine in April 1965. And his observation about the economics of a young industry ended up holding true for a half-century.

One transistor, about as wide as a cotton fiber, cost roughly \$8 in today’s dollars in the early 1960s; Intel was founded in 1968. Today, billions of transistors can be squeezed onto a chip the size of a fingernail, and transistor costs have fallen to a fraction of a cent.

That improvement — the simple premise that computer chips would do more and cost less — helped Silicon Valley bring startling advanc-



LIANNE MILTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; BELOW, INTEL



es to the world, from the personal computer to the smartphone to the Internet.

In recent years, however, the acceleration predicted by Moore’s Law has slipped. Chip speeds stopped increasing almost a decade

The speed at which computer chips work, and their cost, is accelerating at a slower pace. A computer lab in 2011. Below, the Nehalem wafer processor, introduced by Intel in 2008. The stream of ever-smaller chips may be coming to an end.

These fears run contrary to the central narrative of Silicon Valley. For more than three decades the industry has argued that computing will get faster, achieve higher capacity and become cheaper.

There is hope that the creativity that extended Moore’s Law can keep chip technology advancing.

There are a number of other breakthrough candidates, like quantum computing, which — if it became practical — could vastly speed processing time, and spintronics, which in the far future could move computing to atomic-scale components.

And even if shrinking transistor size doesn’t make chips faster and cheaper, it will lower the power they require.

Ultra-low-power computer chips that will begin to appear at the end of this decade will in some cases not even require batteries — they will be powered by solar energy, vibration, radio waves or even sweat.

What products might those chips lead to? No one knows yet, but product designers will be forced to think differently about what they’re building. Computers have gotten smaller and smaller but have essentially followed the same concept of chips, hardware and software in a closed box.

“In the past, designers were lazy,” said Tony Fadell, an electrical engineer who headed the team that designed the original iPod, and led the hardware design of the iPhone before founding Nest Labs, a maker of smart home devices like thermostats and smoke alarms.

Carver Mead, the physicist who coined the term Moore’s Law, agrees. “We’ve basically had a free ride,” he said. “It’s really nuts, but that’s what paid off.”

Inuit Show Adaptations to Unique Diet

By CARL ZIMMER

As the Inuit people spread across the Arctic, they developed one of the most extreme diets on Earth. They didn’t farm fruits, vegetables or grains. There weren’t many wild plants to forage. For the most part, the Inuit ate what they could hunt: whales, seals and fish. Western scientists have long been fascinated by their distinctly un-Western diet. Despite eating so much fatty meat and fish, the Inuit didn’t have a lot of heart attacks.

In the 1970s, Danish researchers studying Inuit metabolism proposed that omega-3 fatty acids found in fish were protective. Those conclusions led to the recommendation that Westerners eat more fish to help prevent heart disease and sent tens of millions scrambling for fish oil pills.

But recent trials have failed to confirm that fish oil pills prevent heart attacks or stroke. And now the story has an intriguing new twist.

A study published in the journal Science in September reported that

A study finds gene variants that process omega-3 fatty acids.

the ancestors of the Inuit evolved unique genetic adaptations for metabolizing omega-3s and other fatty acids. Those gene variants had drastic effects on Inuit bodies, reducing their heights and weights.

Rasmus Nielsen, a geneticist at the University of California, Berkeley, and an author of the new study, said that the discovery raised questions about whether omega-3 fats really were protective for everyone, despite decades of health advice. “The same diet may have different effects on different people,” he said.

Food is a powerful force in evolution. The more nutrients an animal can get, the more likely it is to survive and reproduce. Humans are no

exception. When humans encounter a new food, natural selection may well favor those with genetic mutations that help them thrive on it. It’s possible that with so much extra omega-3 in their diet, the Inuit evolved a way to bring blood levels of fatty acids back into a healthy balance.

“It seems that a genetic adaptation has counteracted the high intake of omega-3 fatty acids,” said Marit E. Jorgensen, an author of the new study from the University of South Denmark.

The adaptation did more than just change blood levels of fatty acids, the scientists found. Inuit who carried two copies of the variant gene were on average 2.5 centimeters shorter and 1.3 kilos lighter than those without a copy.

“That’s quite extreme,” Dr. Nielsen said.

Dr. Nielsen and his colleagues also investigated how it affects Europeans. As it turns out, the gene variant is linked to a drastic drop in

ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
The Inuit of Greenland, here weighing fish, have few heart attacks despite a diet full of fatty meat and fish.

height and weight.

Dr. Nielsen and his colleagues are planning to investigate the long-term health effects of the gene variants they’ve found. They may help explain why some of us metabolize fats more effectively than others,

and why omega-3s haven’t been the heart-health supplement once hoped.

“Very soon, these results could be translated into help for people with their dietary choices,” Dr. Nielsen said.

MONEY & BUSINESS

Searching for Water, Dreaming of Profits

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ

CADIZ, California — Gazing out of a turboprop plane high above his company's main asset — 14,000 hectares in the Mojave Desert with billions of liters of fresh water locked deep below the sagebrush-dotted land — Scott Slater paints a lush picture that has enticed investors for a quarter-century.

Yes, Mr. Slater admits, his company, Cadiz, has not earned money from water. And he freely concedes it will take at least another \$200 million to dig dozens of wells, filter the water and move it nearly 70 kilometers across the desert through a new pipeline before thirsty Californians can drink a drop.

Real profits may be nearly as scarce as snow in the California mountains, but Wall Street sees potential as California endures its worst drought in decades.

"Investing in the water industry is one of the great opportunities for the coming decades," said Matthew J. Diserio of Water Asset Management, a New York firm that is a major backer of Cadiz. "Water is the scarce resource that will define the 21st century, much like plentiful oil defined the last century."

So far, though, this veritable Gold Rush has been a flop.

Over the last decade, Cadiz has accrued \$185 million in losses, and revenue from the lemon groves and vineyards it owns in the Mojave has

Investors compare water to oil in its future scarcity.

added up to only a trickle: \$7.1 million since 2005.

To develop the project, the company spends \$10 million to \$20 million annually, paying for a battle in courthouses and conference rooms to win permits and to cover the salaries of its 10 full-time employees.

Cadiz has generated that money by borrowing and regularly issuing more shares, prompting skeptics to wonder if it will ever actually deliver any water, much less any profits.

"It's a tough game," said John Dickerson of Summit Global Management, a 20-year-old San Diego firm that invests in water infrastructure companies, local water suppliers and water rights, both in the United States and overseas.

"Cadiz has promoted the dream and for years Wall Street has pumped optimistic paper water for Cadiz," he said. "But now, the hard question for them is, Where is your real water and when can we drink it?"

Near San Diego, the privately held Poseidon Water is nearly finished on a desalination plant that it built af-



MONICA ALMEIDA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ter 15 years of battling lawsuits filed by environmental groups and waiting for approval from regulators.

After Poseidon's new plant begins producing desalinated water late this year, the monthly water bill for a typical consumer in the San Diego area will rise by about \$5, to \$80, according to the regional water authority. The facility should produce as much as 189 million liters of drinking water a day, if not more, expanding the region's water supply nearly 10 percent.

Nonetheless, for Adam Scow of Food and Water Watch, a nonprofit environmental group that opposes the desalination project, any private control over the water supply is too much.

"Water is a public trust, and it shouldn't be privatized," Mr. Scow said. "It can't be managed for the benefit of a few people like Poseidon's investors. The rates are unjustified."

Poseidon officials reject such arguments.

Despite fears that Wall Street is making money off the drought, so far it has mainly been Poseidon's investors who have lost out. The company's first return on its investment is not expected until next year. "It took more than a decade of struggle to get the Poseidon project permitted, not the kind of experience to make for happy investors," Mr. Dickerson said.

For those with a long enough time horizon, water may still prove to be

Drip-irrigated lemon orchards on land owned by Cadiz, a company that has lost \$185 million over the last decade.

a good investment.

Water Asset Management oversees more than \$500 million for pension plans, sovereign funds and wealthy families, and their flagship fund has generally outperformed global stock market benchmarks since inception in 2006. Assets at Impax Asset Management, a London-based firm that also focuses on water, have doubled to \$1.8 billion over the last two years.

"Water has been taken for granted, but reliable access is no longer guaranteed," said Disque D. Deane Jr. of Water Asset Management.

He added: "It will be seen as an asset class that will be allocated in portfolios like health care stocks or energy or real estate."

India Replaces China as Next Big Frontier for U.S. Tech Giants

By VINDU GOEL

BANGALORE, India — American technology companies desperately want to win over people like Rakesh Padachuri and his family.

Mr. Padachuri, who runs a construction business in this city, uses his smartphone to reserve movie seats through BookMyShow and to order pizzas from Domino's. His wife, Vasavi, orders clothes from Myntra and Amazon.com, and downloads videos and games from YouTube and the Google Play store to entertain their 4-year-old daughter. His sister-in-law, Sonika, enjoys posting selfies on Facebook and follows the YouTube musings of Lilly Singh, an Indo-Canadian comedian.

They all stay in touch via a group chat they have set up on WhatsApp, a free messaging service owned by Facebook. "There's no need to call each other," Mr. Padachuri said. There's barely a need to leave the house — groceries, a birthday cake, even a hairdresser can be summoned via an app.

The Padachuri family's love of technology helps explain why India and its 1.25 billion residents have become the hottest growth opportunity — the new China — for American Internet companies.



KUNI TAKAHASHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sonika Padachuri watched her daughter and niece using apps in Bangalore, India.

"They are looking at India, and they are thinking, 'Five years ago, it was China, and I probably missed the boat there. Now I have a chance to actually do this,'" said Punit Soni, a former Google executive who was lured back to India recently to become the chief product officer of Flipkart, a Bangalore e-commerce start-up similar to Amazon.

Two years ago, India's rise as a digital nation was hard to imagine. Internet penetration was modest, mobile phone networks were glacially slow, and smartphones were

a blip in a sea of basic phones.

Since 2013, the number of smartphone users in India has ballooned and will reach 168 million this year, the research firm eMarketer predicts, with 277 million Internet users in India expected overall.

India already conducts more mobile searches on Google than any country besides the United States. Yet "we are barely scratching the

surface of availability of Internet to the masses," said Amit Singhal, Google's senior vice president in charge of search.

Indians have long loved to connect with one another online, accounting for much of the growth of early social networks like Friendster. So it's not surprising that Facebook already has 132 million Indian users.

Under an umbrella initiative called Internet.org, Facebook is also working with a local cellphone operator to offer a package of free ser-

vices, including news, job listings and text-only versions of Messenger and its social network aimed at those who cannot afford a data plan.

While revenue is tiny so far, Internet companies say they are playing the long game, focusing on getting more people online now and profiting later. Google, for example, wants 500 million Indians online by 2017. Most of these newcomers will use phones powered by Google's Android operating system. That will let Google expose these users to its other services, like search and YouTube, as well as ads. "We've always believed that what's good for the Internet is good for Google," Sandeep Menon, Google's head of marketing in India, said.

The effort to get more Indians online, however, has forced tech companies to re-examine some fundamental assumptions. Only one in six Indians knows enough English to surf the web in the language, but there are few web pages in Hindi or India's 21 other official languages.

Google, Facebook and Twitter have all added support for more Indian languages and are prodding developers and users to create more local-language content.

To deal with India's poor mobile

Looking beyond China to a new opportunity.

data connections, Google is compressing web pages on its servers so that they use 80 percent less data and load four times as fast.

Of course, none of this matters to those who have never used the Internet. To reach them, Google has formed a partnership with Intel and a local charity to send female tutors to thousands of villages to teach rural women. So far, 200 bikes equipped with solar-powered tablets and smartphones are on the road.

The immaturity of India's Internet market allows companies like Twitter, which has just 20 million users in the country, to treat it as a laboratory.

"This is a market where we can do tests," said Amiya Pathak, a director of product management at Twitter. "Prove it out in India first, and as you prove it out, take it to other markets."

MONEY & BUSINESS

With Emojis and Apps, Brands Woo Millennials

By SYDNEY EMBER

David Perel spends at least an hour a day on his iPhone 6. He watches live sports on television and talk shows but he rarely tunes in to prime time. He does not have a Netflix subscription, but he is thinking about getting one.

Mr. Perel, 26, is typical of a generation that grew up on the Internet. These young adults watch less traditional television and do not have a reputation for reading print newspapers or magazines. They skip online commercials and block ads on their web browsers and phones.

No wonder marketers feel as if they are starting over.

"It's a completely different world and game with millennials," said Laura Desmond of the

The challenges of reaching a savvy breed of consumer.

Starcom MediaVest Group.

For advertisers, that means fewer 30-second commercials and more emojis and apps.

The consumers in this group, ages 18 to 34, are young and influential, and many are getting married and having children. They have discretionary income and are making big purchases like houses and cars. They are also deciding which brands they are likely to remain loyal to for the rest of their lives.

They also tend to have short attention spans and bounce rapidly among smartphones, tablets and desktop computers. And, many, like Mr. Perel, have little tolerance for traditional advertising. "The ads that don't appeal to me are a waste of my time," he said.

Much of advertisers' effort is going toward developing new ways to connect with millennials on smartphones and tablets, said Matt Britton of MRY, a digital marketing agency. "Brands need to figure out how to add value to a consumer's life," he said. "And if they do that, consumers will seek brands out."

Some brands are trying to figure out how to use emojis, a pictograph-based language of happy faces and hearts that is important to millennials. General Electric introduced an ad campaign on Snapchat in which users could send emojis to G.E. and the company would send back a message with a science experiment. And Domino's Pizza customers can order pizza by texting or tweeting a pizza emoji.

Brands like Taco Bell and the North Face have tried to use apps to reach more mobile users. Under Armour has bought several fitness-tracking apps.

Advertisers say the biggest hurdle is that millennials spend so much of their time on mobile devices, particularly phones. That shift in behavior has been tricky for advertisers. For one, they say, traditional banner ads do not appear as well on the small screens of mobile devices. And it is more difficult to type and click on images on mobile phones, making it especially challenging for advertisers to steer consumers directly from ads to purchases. Even worse for advertisers, millennials are spending an inordinate amount of time in mobile apps, many of which are ad-free, instead of in web browsers.

"This is the most challenging group to target because they really are the first demographic group that isn't as predictable as others," said Chad Stoller of IPG Media Lab. "When it comes to this generation, they're moving around, and they're so much savvier."



The widening use of mobile devices, and a more distracted consumer, presents problems and challenges for advertisers.



EIRINI VOURLOUMIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bartering Meat for Tires in Greece

By LIZ ALDERMAN

ATHENS — For months, Thodoris Roussos, a butcher, had put off replacing the tires on his delivery van because Greece's financial crisis had cut into business. But recently, he found a price that could not be beat.

"Normally, the tires cost 340 euros, but no money changed hands," Mr. Roussos said. "I paid the guy in meat."

As Greece grapples with a continued downturn, bartering is growing. Graphic artists are exchanging designs for olive oil. Accountants swap advice for office supplies. In the agricultural heartland, more people exchange fruits, vegetables, other crops, equipment, clothing and services.

"In Greece there's a major liquidity problem," said Mr. Roussos, who met the tire vendor and scores of new clients through an Athens-based online barter club, Tradenow, which created its own currency called tradepoints. "People are finding it more convenient to trade because money is not readily available."

The bartering activity remains modest and will not provide a lasting solution to Greece's problems, but it represents an opportunity for Greeks to navigate uncertainty as they contend with capital controls and a shaky banking system.

"The economy continues to deteriorate," said Yiannis Deligiannis, the founder of Tradenow. "People have to find other ways to make things work. We are offering them one alternative."

Much of it is being done virtually

Dimitris Bounias contributed reporting.

through online networks. After capital controls were imposed in June, about 6,000 users signed up for Tradenow, on top of 25,000 registered members.

The system equates one tradepoint to one euro, and lets users barter directly or accumulate the digital currency. Users can also deal in a mix of euros and points.

The modern online systems make bartering more efficient. The activity can also have a multiplier effect in the economy, generating new work and business.

At Mr. Roussos's butcher shop, the first 20 chickens and 20 packages of ground beef he posted for seven

'The Madonna CD was definitely not worth a chicken.'

tradelpoints each sold out quickly. He doubled his offers, and new customers lined up.

"It went viral," he said. "People want to barter because they have little money to buy."

Some deal offers were not acceptable. "One person wanted me to trade a Madonna CD for a chicken," he said. "But I said no. The Madonna CD was definitely not worth a chicken."

For his van's tires, Mr. Roussos paid with a month's supply of meat and tradepoints, which the vendor used to get an iPad.

Some advocates are pushing to make bartering more widespread,

to have some kind of system should Greece ever come crashing out of the euro.

On a recent afternoon, Dimitris Mouroulis, a web designer, scanned a bank of computer screens in the garage of his family's home in Athens, which he converted into a sleek white work space partly with services from Free Economy, an online barter club that he founded in 2011.

To avoid "phantom traders," people who sign onto barter platforms and get goods or services without returning them in kind, Mr. Mouroulis requires users to provide identification and financial guarantees.

With just 85 members, Free Economy is hardly a parallel economic universe. But for some, the system has become a lifeline.

Jorgos Kazianis, 59, an experienced electrician who worked on projects like the Athens metro, had not found steady work since 2010 until he heard about Mr. Mouroulis's network. He wired Mr. Mouroulis's garage in exchange for alternate currency, which he used to procure olive oil, food and motorcycle parts. Other people began contacting him through the barter platform and now, one out of every five projects is a barter deal.

Mr. Kazianis said he saw bartering as a way to relieve some of the misery that money has brought to Greek society.

"Since ancient times, when there was no money, transactions happened through bartering," he said. "I have no faith in money the way it has evolved today. This crisis is the byproduct of what money has become, where there's a lot of it in the hands of the few, and a deficit of it for most other people."

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WORLD TRENDS

Eastern Europe Resists Migrants, Despite Shrinking

By RICK LYMAN

SOFIA, Bulgaria — In Germany, the arrival of an expected one million migrants this year is being sold as a way to inject vigor into an aging country.

For the former communist nations of Eastern Europe — where populations are shrinking even faster and economies are struggling — the influx of migrants would seem to be a perfect fit.

But not if you ask the people here. “The feeling is there are too many immigrants, not too few,” said Ivalo Kalfin, Bulgaria’s deputy prime minister for demographic and social policies.

Such is the paradox of the migration crisis for Eastern Europe. Even as the region stares at the most dire demographic implosion on the Continent, it has proved the most resistant to accepting migrants.

And while the perceived threat of immigration resonates deeply here, the persistent combination of failing economies and corrupt governments has not made the countries particularly attractive to migrants in any case. In fact, Bulgaria is proving unattractive even to Bulgarians. In the most recent World Population Prospects from the United Nations, the 10 countries expected to lose the most population between now and 2050, per capita, are all in Central and Eastern Europe, with Bulgaria in first place.

“It is a rational and pragmatic argument that these countries could make use of migrants,” said Aleksander Smolar, president of the

Boryana Dzhambazova and Joanna Berendt contributed reporting.



DMITRY KOSTYUKOV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bulgaria’s population might drop 28 percent by 2050. Stoyan Dodnikov dressing in traditional garb.

Stefan Batory Foundation in Warsaw, which promotes democracy and civic issues. “But we need to remember that they, unlike countries in the West, never had to develop big immigration policies,” he explained. “Countries in Eastern and Central Europe have never been countries of immigration, but rather emigration.”

In 1990, just after the fall of Communism, Bulgaria had about nine million citizens. Today, the official

population is 7.2 million, and projections are that it will lose 12 percent of its population by 2030 and 28 percent by 2050.

Romania is not far behind, expected to lose 22 percent of its population by 2050, followed by Ukraine (down 22 percent), Moldova (20 percent), Bosnia and Herzegovina (19 percent), Latvia (19 percent), Lithuania (17 percent), Serbia (17 percent), Croatia (16 percent) and Hungary (16 percent).

Milen Galabov, 39, a graphic designer who transplanted his young family from Sofia to Amsterdam this summer, said it was more than money that moved them. Both he and his wife, a lawyer, earned good salaries. “But we realized that the new dresses and the new cars are not everything we need,” he said.

Ruslan Stefanov, an analyst for the Center for the Study of Democracy in Sofia, said: “These days, close to 80 percent of the medical class

leaves after graduation. People feel that life is too unpredictable here.”

The absence of so many young people may provide a void that immigrants could fill, but it also provides a sign that they may need to follow the Bulgarian émigrés to the west to live in the kind of open societies they desire.

“Bulgaria is my homeland — I want to live here,” said Stefaniya Boneva, 25, a medical student in Germany. “But something would have to change very drastically for me to come back here. It is probably just an idealistic dream.”

And the families left behind — many of whom remain dependent on money from relatives abroad — are not terribly eager to trade in their vanished sons and daughters for an unknown community of immigrant strangers. What is needed, Mr. Smolar said, is more calm discussion. “Many cynical politicians prefer to play on people’s fears to their own advantage,” he said.

Stoyan Dodnikov was 6 when his mother moved to Chalkida, a small city north of Athens, where she cleans houses and sends the bulk of her earnings back home to the small village of Patalenitsa. He is 13 now. He lives with his grandparents. “We are getting by,” said his grandmother, Petrunka Yankova, 52.

Stoyan hopes to stay in Bulgaria. “My plan is to start my own business,” he said. “I have many ideas and I think I can make them work.”

For Bulgaria to prosper, he said, it needs more business innovation. Only then can it become a country where mothers do not need to leave their sons behind to seek work in a distant country.

Paris Looks to Profit From Toilets

By ALISSA J. RUBIN

PARIS — “Dames pipi,” as the women who clean public toilets here are known, have been a fixture of Parisian neighborhoods since the days when many buildings lacked indoor plumbing.

Such was their prominence that, as the French essayist Claude Lussac notes, one dame pipi became the subject of a brief character sketch in Marcel Proust’s novel “Remembrance of Things Past.” Mr. Lussac recalled Proust’s character as comporting herself in her toilet like “a marquise in her salon, opening the little stalls and speaking with the customers, who shared confidences with her.”

Today, the dames pipi number barely a dozen, mostly older women who are first-generation immigrants from places like Guinea, Togo and Vietnam. And, unless they win a lawsuit to get back their jobs, they will be a casualty of the city’s new effort to turn the remaining public bathrooms into moneymaking ventures.

Fuchsia toilet paper, and salespeople with French elegance.

This summer, the city government contracted with the French subsidiary of a toilet company based in the Netherlands with the name 2theloo. The latter operates pay toilets at a number of places around Europe, including Covent Garden in London. Its French subsidiary, named Sarivo, purports to offer “luxury toilets” that sell items like toilet paper printed with images of the Eiffel Tower.

The women who once tended the free toilets have not been given jobs in the redone lavatories.

“The work was hard, but it was my job” said Pham Tai Doa, 65, who has worked as a dame pipi for 15 of the 25 years since she arrived in France from Vietnam.

With her comrades, Ms. Doa now spends part of every day at a protest a few meters from the now-shuttered toilet she once cleaned at the foot of the Sacré-Cœur Basilica that sits atop the Montmartre neighborhood.

The new toilets that have opened near the Louvre, which sell toilet paper in neon orange and fuchsia colors, cost 1.50 euros, or about \$1.70, for each use.

According to Sarivo’s lawyer, Paul Coeffard, the women do not have the qualifications to care for the upgraded public toilets.

He said the people who work for Sarivo are “salespeople who must be up on the rules of French elegance and also the rules of elegance for foreign clients.”

“These are people who must be able to exchange a few words of Arabic, for example, welcoming a sultan of Oman and a sultan of Saudi Arabia,” he explained.

But the dames pipi say they believe they are being pushed out because they are older women, are



PIERRE TERDJMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Activists with the Force Ouvrière trade union demonstrated at a washroom near Notre Dame in Paris.

unglamorous and belong to a union. With the help of their union, Force Ouvrière, they are suing for two months’ back pay — the time since they were notified they had been let go — and the reinstatement of their jobs.

“There were the regulars, who were nice with us, who knew us,” said Gabrielle Adams, a Togolese

cleaner who worked for 29 years in the Paris toilets.

Tears came to her eyes as she recalled how much she had loved her post at the Church of the Madeleine.

“The mosaics, Art Deco, the windows, it was all so beautiful,” she said. “The tourists would come and they would not leave without photographing it.”

WORLD TRENDS

Profiles Fail to Clarify Who Will Become a Mass Killer

Continued from Page 1

be “people in social isolation with a lack of support systems to help them through hard times and give them a reality check.”

“They have a history of frustration,” he went on. “They externalize blame. Nothing is ever their fault. They blame other people even if other people aren’t to blame. They see themselves as good guys mistreated by others.”

Jeffrey Swanson, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, said these individuals often feel they do not belong, yet frequently live in “smaller town settings where belonging really matters.”

Mr. Harper-Mercer showed signs of such isolation and despair. Like others, he appeared smitten by past killers. “They see them as heroes,” Dr. Fox said. “Someone who wins one for the little guy.”

Elliot O. Rodger, a 22-year-old California college student, had not had any friends since grade school. What little interactions he had seemed to be online, while playing the video game World of Warcraft. Many mass killers gravitate to violent video games, as do many young men in general, though this could be more a symptom of their isolation than a cause of their violence.

A parent of an elementary school classmate said her husband had refused to allow their son to spend the night with Mr. Rodger, who would hide in their home when he would visit. Simon Astaire, who served as the family spokesman, said at the time, “He was as withdrawn as any person I ever met in my life.”

As a teenager, he received a diagnosis of a developmental disorder.

At Santa Barbara City College, Mr. Rodger clashed with his roommates and lived a life online. He stopped attending classes, and he posted videos about being rejected by women.

Not long before he acted, he posted a video to YouTube. It showed him sitting behind the steering wheel of his BMW, ranting about his isolation, the women who had shown no interest in him and his disappointment at being a virgin. He complained, as well, about all the sexually active men who were enjoying life.

“It all has to come to this,” Mr. Rodger said in the video. “Tomorrow is the day of retribution. The day I will have my retribution against humanity. Against all of you.”

On May 23, 2014, he stabbed three men to death in his apartment, then drove off and shot three others from his car. After two shootouts with sheriff’s deputies, he killed himself.

Pedro Alberto Vargas was another solitary man; he lived with his elderly mother in an apartment complex in Hialeah, Florida, and rarely spoke with anyone. One of the few people he talked to — an acquain-

Alain Delaquérière contributed research.



OCTOBER 1, 2015

Christopher Harper-Mercer, 26, killed nine people at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, where he was a student. He was armed with six guns, including a Glock pistol, a Smith & Wesson pistol, a Taurus pistol and a Del-Ton assault rifle, according to The Associated Press.



JUNE 17, 2015

Dylann Roof, 21, charged with killing nine people with a .45-caliber Glock pistol at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina.



DECEMBER 14, 2012

Adam Lanza, 20, shot and killed his mother in their home, then killed 26 people, mostly children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, using a Bushmaster XM-15 rifle and a .22-caliber Savage Mark II rifle.



JULY 20, 2012

James E. Holmes, 24, killed 12 people and wounded 70 at a theater in Aurora, Colorado, using a Smith & Wesson semiautomatic rifle, a Remington shotgun and a Glock .40-caliber semiautomatic pistol.



Note: Information on the precise version or year of manufacture of each gun was not always available so a version of the model is shown. The handguns used by Christopher Harper-Mercer are omitted because the models have not been released. The guns shown for Adam Lanza do not include the gun he used to shoot himself.

SOURCE: GOVERNMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

THE NEW YORK TIMES

tance at the gym — told reporters that Mr. Vargas had exercised as a way to release his anger, and that he’d had poor experiences with women.

On July 26, 2013, Mr. Vargas, 42, poured gasoline over a stack of money on the floor of his apartment and lit a match. The building managers, a married couple, rushed to the apartment, and Mr. Vargas fatally shot them. He left the apartment and continued shooting, killing four more people before being killed by the police.

Killing Certain Strangers

The majority of mass shooters, ex-

perts believe, go after specific people. Explicit writings or social media postings sometimes reveal their motivation. A grudge against their boss and co-workers. Or whoever happens to be at their place of employment, as was true with the rash of postal shootings. Their wives and children.

But sometimes the reasons may be clear only to them. Nearly a year ago, Jaylen Ray Fryberg, a popular 14-year-old football player outside Seattle, texted two cousins and three friends to meet him in the cafeteria, then opened fire on them before killing himself. Four died. He had posted cryptic messages on so-

cial media: “It breaks me. ... It actually does. ... I know it seems like I’m sweating it off. ... But I’m not. ... And I never will be able to.”

Other mass killers strike against broad categories — a religious group or immigrants or women. In July, Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez, 24, killed five servicemen in a shooting rampage at two military sites in Tennessee, before a police officer shot and killed him.

Dylann Roof, the 21-year-old white high school dropout charged in the June massacre of nine black people at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, had registered a website where he posted a four-page

screed about his quest for white supremacy.

The least common variation is the indiscriminate public killing: when people die because they happened to be where the killer was.

Kurt Myers, 64, was barely scraping by in the New York State village of Mohawk. He was 64, had not had a job since 2006 and was more than \$21,000 in debt. But he had no known history of mental illness or of interactions with law enforcement, except for a 1973 arrest for drunken driving.

On the morning of March 13, 2013, Mr. Myers is believed to have set his apartment on fire. He picked up a shotgun. He drove to a nearby barbershop, where he shot four people, killing two, then went to a carwash and lube place and murdered two more. He holed up in an abandoned bar, where he was killed by police the next day.

Mr. Myers had not had much to do beforehand with the people killed or places where he killed them.

How Mentally Ill?

Dr. Fox believes that, in the case of family massacres, the perpetrators usually “are not seriously mentally ill, but vengeful.” But “for the purely random attackers, that’s where you find psychotic thinking. The more indiscriminate, the more likely there is serious mental illness.”

Dr. Duwe, among his 160 cases of mass public killers, concluded that 61 percent had a serious mental health disorder. Paranoid schizophrenia was the most common ailment, followed by depression.

In September 2013, Aaron Alexis, 34, a former Navy reservist who worked for an information technology company, planted himself above an atrium at the Washington Navy Yard and fired on everyone he saw, killing 12 of them. He was shot and killed by the police.

A month before the shootings, Mr. Alexis was traveling when he got into an argument with a family at an airport in Virginia. Glynda Boyd recalled how Mr. Alexis had asked her, “Why is she laughing at me?” He was referring to her 78-year-old aunt, who was in a wheelchair.

After he arrived at a hotel in Middletown, Rhode Island, he complained that he was hearing voices emanating from a kitchen that was not near his room. One hotel guest asked to be moved after Mr. Alexis began knocking on doors looking for the voices.

Research shows that people with schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder, pose a modestly higher risk of violence. But Dr. Swanson said only 7 percent of people with mental illnesses might do anything violent in a year, “and that is something as minor as pushing or shoving somebody.”

With many of the killers, the signs are of anger and disappointment and solitude.

“You can’t go out and round up all the alienated angry young men,” Dr. Swanson said.

WORLD TRENDS

The Tightrope Of Church and State

Separation of church and state is a concept held sacrosanct in the United States and elsewhere, though that separation defies easy definition. Where one person sees

LENS private belief encroaching on the public domain, another sees the government constraining personal religious liberties. The dividing

line is blurred.

For those called to public service, that line can be especially difficult. For decades, South Korea has punished Jehovah's Witnesses for refusing military duty as conscientious objectors. They were once beaten, sometimes tortured and even killed. Those days are over, but 600 to 700 are still sent to prison each year, usually for terms of 18 months.

"I was predestined to become a convict because I believed in the creator," Kim Min-hwan told The Times.

Mr. Kim was released from prison two years ago, but says the stigma of being a conscientious objector has followed him. He has been unable to find a good job. Military duty itself is considered sacred

For comments, write to nytweekly@nytimes.com.

in South Korea, and discussion of alternative public service has gone nowhere.

"This debate is a luxury we can't afford as long as North Korea is there," said Cho Myung-sik, a veteran.

The Constitutional Court is now considering appeals from the Jehovah's Witnesses, but in the meantime objectors continue to go to prison, or to leave South Korea for other countries. Those include the United States, where conflicts between church and state are also sometimes settled in a prison cell. An official in Kentucky spent five days in jail last month for refusing to fulfill her duty to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, which she objected to for religious reasons.

Matters don't usually go that far in America these days, but religious-freedom boundaries are frequently tested, even on simpler matters. Some critics have been speaking out against a recent movement by many police agencies to add decals on their patrol cars with these four words: "In God We Trust."

"The idea of aligning the police force with God is kind of scary," Annie Laurie Gaylor, a co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, told The Times. "That's the first thing you'd expect to see in a theocracy."

But those four words happen to be the national motto, upheld in



SUE OGROCKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Satanists took credit for a Ten Commandments monument's removal from the Oklahoma Capitol.

court. "If it's on my money and it's on the state flag, I can put it on a patrol car," said Sheriff Johnny Moats of Polk County, Georgia.

He said those who disagreed had nothing to fear. "You could be a satanic devil worshiper, and as long as you're a law-abiding citizen and you need help, we're going to help you," he said.

Yes, even the satanic devil worshipers enter into the church-state divide.

A group called the Satanic Tem-

ple has taken some credit for the court-ordered removal of a monument to the Ten Commandments at the Oklahoma Capitol. The Satanic Temple believes it influenced the decision with its plan to place a statue of Baphomet, a goat-headed occult deity, beside the monument.

The Temple's co-founders are Lucien Greaves and Malcolm Jarry. Those aren't their real names, but it's just as well: They aren't real Satanists. "Mr. Greaves," also called Douglas Mesner, sees Sa-

tanism as a symbol of the solidarity of outsiders, those who have been judged.

"I genuinely feel this is every bit a religion — this cultural identity, this narrative that contextualizes your life, your works, your goals," he told The Times. "And you have these deeply held beliefs, that if they are violated, it compromises your very self."

Which sounds not so different from a Jehovah's Witness in Seoul.

ALAN MATTINGLY

Hard Times Ahead for Soft Drinks as Attitudes Are Changing

Continued from Page 1

Digest, featured speakers from the three largest soda makers — Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and the Dr Pepper Snapple Group — along with smaller upstarts, like SodaStream, the home seltzer maker company, and Talking Rain, which makes no-calorie carbonated fruit drinks called Sparkling Ice.

Such events give companies a chance to show their stuff and brag about their successes, but there was nothing light about the atmosphere. As John Sicher, Beverage Digest's publisher, put it in his blunt opening remarks: "It's been a really challenging decade. It would have been a lot rougher if not for bottled water."

As sales of the companies' mainstay products have declined in the United States, the companies have scrambled to offer new products better suited to consumer tastes. Iced teas, sports drinks and flavored waters are smaller but fast-growing segments of the beverage industry.

The changing patterns of soda drinking appear to come thanks, in part, to a campaign to eradicate sodas. School cafeterias and vending



RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

machines no longer contain regular sodas. Many workplaces and government offices have similarly prohibited their sale.

Bottlers are feeling the changes. "We're losing, I would say, 1.5 to 2 percent of our business every year," said Harold Honickman, the chairman of the Honickman group of companies, one of the largest soda distributors in the mid-Atlantic region.

He was an opponent of the Philadelphia soda tax, though he said he might have supported a national sugar tax: "People are blaming a lot of the overweight on sugar-sweetened beverages, but there's ice cream and cake, and everything else that adds to the problem."

For many public health advocates, soda has become the new tobacco — a toxic product to be banned, taxed and stigmatized. It's

clear that soda's calories contribute to weight gain and obesity, but whether its impact is greater than that of other unhealthy foods has not been conclusively demonstrated. Nevertheless, the change is already underway.

"There will always be soda, but I think the era of it being acceptable for kids to drink soda all day long is passing, slowly," said Marion Nestle, a professor of nutrition at New York University.

The current anti-soda sentiment has the big soda makers worried. Even diet sodas are experiencing a sharp decline in sales. Gary A. Hemphill, an industry consultant, projects that in 2017, water will surpass soda in sales and become the largest beverage category in the United States.

Although the big three soda companies all sell bottled water, they are not excited about the trend. Customers appear to have less brand loyalty to water brands than to Coke or Pepsi, and it's harder to compete in the grocery store, where low-margin companies that specialize in water are able to price large multipacks much lower than soda bottlers want to sell them.

These companies are expanding sales overseas, which has helped buoy their stock performance. But in the United States, they all worry about losing even nontraditional drink sales to a competitor. Someone might be a die-hard Coke fan, but prefer Snapple iced tea to Honest Tea, a Coca-Cola brand.

Executives at all the companies are eager to point to their lower-calorie and all-natural products as profitable lines of business. But the industry still fights any public policy efforts to discourage customers from consuming sodas. "That's existential," said Hank Cardello, a former food industry executive.

But there is another existential threat that could be more hazardous than a tax. Historically, beverage preferences are set in adolescence.

"Kids these days are growing up with all of these other options, and there are some parents who say, 'I really want my kids to drink juice or a bottled water,'" said Mr. Hemphill. "If kids grow up without carbonated soft drinks, the likelihood that they are going to grow up and, when they are 35, start drinking is very low."

WORLD TRENDS

In Turkey, Attacks Escalate Against Opposition Journalists

By CEYLAN YEGINSU

ISTANBUL — Hours after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lashed out against a prominent newspaper here, an angry mob of his supporters descended on the publication's headquarters, smashing windows, chanting profanities and trying to storm the building.

Two days later, while the government kept silent over the episode, Mr. Erdogan assailed the newspaper for a second time, criticizing its staff for distorting his words in a Twitter post. That attack ignited a second wave of violent protest, prompting the newspaper's editor to flee the building and make a live plea on television for police intervention.

"I've been a journalist for 40 years and it's the first time I've been subjected to an attack involving sticks and stones," said Sedat Ergin, the editor in chief of Hurriyet, one of Turkey's most influential newspapers. "If our paper is being physically attacked twice in 48 hours by violent mobs, then we must accept that this is now an issue about our life safety."

The attacks are part of a growing campaign of intimidation against the opposition news media here. Recently, three foreign journalists have been deported from Turkey; scores of people have been investigated on accusations of insulting the president; and a magazine and opposition news media organization have been raided, with some of their executives being investigated on terrorism charges.

Even for Turkey, which is known as a hostile environment for journalists and ranks 149th out of 180 coun-



REUTERS

tries on the Reporters Without Borders news media freedom index, the crackdowns have been fierce, with a new trend of violent attacks inspired by Turkish politicians.

"Turkey's steady backslide on press freedom has gone into high gear over the past month," Nina Ognianova, the Europe and Central Asia program coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists, wrote in an email in September.

One of the leaders of the first

protest against Hurriyet, on September 6, was Abdurrahim Boynukalin, a deputy for the governing Justice and Development Party. In a speech outside the newspaper's offices, he vowed to make Mr. Erdogan an all-powerful president by ensuring that his party wins an absolute majority in a November election.

In a video that surfaced after the episode, Mr. Boynukalin is seen addressing a group of Justice and De-

velopment supporters expressing regret for not having assaulted Hurriyet journalists before. "Our mistake was that we never beat them in the past," he said.

Pro-government journalists have participated in the smear campaign. In a column last month, Cem Kucuk of the Star Newspaper accused the veteran Hurriyet columnist Ahmet Hakan of backing Kurdish rebels who have been fighting government security forces in the country's vol-

fear of being prosecuted on terrorism charges. But after the attacks on Hurriyet, the newspaper's chairwoman, Vuslat Dogan Sabanci, gathered staff members and vowed to keep producing independent journalism.

"Our readers and viewers should know something well: Being targeted in attacks of intimidation by club-swinging and stone-throwing groups cannot and will not scare us," she said.

East Timor Imports Its Soccer Success

By JACK KERR

MELBOURNE, Australia — With so little to cheer in their nation's brief soccer history, fans of East Timor's national team would be correct to consider this the squad's golden era. East Timor, which did not play a World Cup qualifying match until 2007 and did not win one until this year, advanced to the second round of World Cup qualifying for the first time.

Under normal circumstances, the team would be warmly received. But instead, infuriated fans in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony off Australia's north coast, are raising questions about how the team was put together: Apparently the national federation went on a shopping spree for players in Brazil.

National teams are limited to native players, or players who qualify as citizens because of a direct link to the country. East Timor has seemingly ignored this distinction. Over the past several years, it has naturalized more than a dozen Brazilian-born players. The new players have improved East Timor's soccer

A national team full of foreigners angers its supporters.

fortunes; the national team, which sat near the bottom of the FIFA world rankings in 2012, had climbed 60 places by June.

The problem is that no one seems able to explain what, exactly, makes the new players Timorese. "The Brazilian players, they just come and spend one day and they get a Timorese passport and play in the national team," said Jose Luis de Oliveira, the organizer of the local soccer activist group Amantes Bola.

"We'd rather lose games with our own talents than win games with foreign players," said one East Timor supporter, Alex Tilman. "It's particularly worse when we even lose with these foreign players."

Asked to explain how so many Brazilians had ended up playing

for the country, the São Paulo-born Patrick Fabiano said some had been drawn through a relationship with a coach or team official, or after playing professionally in Asia.

"About myself," said Fabiano, who is also known as Patrick Alves, "I received an invitation from them and they say: 'We give the passport, you play for us. We appreciate your style of football, we need one striker like you.'"

FIFA rules on nationality are quite accommodating to players wishing to change allegiances. But in 2008, after Togo and Qatar arranged to bring in Brazilians of their own, FIFA changed the rules.

Under the new regulations, member states were barred from naturalizing players unless they had lived continuously in their new country for five years after their 18th birthday. A player could also elect to represent a country his parents or grandparents are from, but Timorese-Brazilian migration is minuscule.

Fabiano, 28, said he had made the switch to East Timor "two or



MOHD RASFAN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Patrick Fabiano, far left, a Brazilian striker, playing for East Timor in a World Cup qualifier in June.

three years ago," which would be a violation. Asked if he or any of his Brazilian teammates qualified because they had Timorese heritage, he said: "I didn't check."

For now, the only thing that may prevent a complete Brazilian takeover of East Timor's national team is the backlash from its fans. Several of the Brazilian-born players were omitted from a recent match, a World Cup qualifier at Saudi Arabia, as a means of appeasing local supporters, Fabiano said. He blamed the omissions for

East Timor's 7-0 defeat.

Others see a larger problem in pursuing short-term success. Fernando da Encarnação, the chairman of Sport Dili e Benfica, a soccer club from the capital, said the federation's player choices were denying local players access to the national team.

"Those Brazilians are not playing at the local competitions," he said, and "therefore are not really enhancing and contributing to improve Timor-Leste standards and level of playing."

WORLD TRENDS

U.S.-Trained Military Is Failing in the Field

By ERIC SCHMITT
and TIM ARANGO

WASHINGTON — In recent years, thousands of American-trained security forces in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia have collapsed, stalled or defected, calling into question the effectiveness of the tens of billions of dollars spent.

The American-trained army and police in Iraq's Anbar Province, the heartland of the Islamic State militant group, have barely engaged its forces, while several thousand American-backed government forces and militiamen in Afghanistan's Kunduz Province were forced to retreat recently when attacked by several hundred Taliban fighters. And in Syria, a \$500 million program to train local rebels to fight the Islamic State has produced only a handful of soldiers.

American-trained forces are marked by poor leadership, a lack of will and political problems, American officials said. Without their American advisers, many local forces have repeatedly shown an inability to fight. The \$25 billion push to rebuild the Iraqi Army crumbled after the Americans left, when the politicization under Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki eroded the military's effectiveness, American officials said.

In northwest Africa, the United States has spent more than \$600 million to combat Islamist militancy, with training programs stretching from Morocco to Chad. American officials once heralded Mali's military as an exemplary partner. But in 2012, battle-hardened Islamist fighters returned from combat in Libya to rout the military, including units trained by United States Special Forces. That defeat, followed by a coup led by an American-trained officer, Captain Amadou Haya Sango, astounded and embarrassed American commanders.

In Yemen, American-trained troops and counterterrorism forces disbanded when Houthi rebels overran the capital last year and forced the government into exile.

Omar al-Jawoshy, Kitty Bennett and a New York Times employee in Iraq contributed.

More recently in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, the military campaigns against the Taliban and the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, have made little headway. After acknowledging that only four or five American-trained Syrian rebels were actually in the fight there, American officials said that they were suspending the movement of new recruits from Syria to Turkey and Jordan for training. The program suffered from a shortage of recruits willing to fight the Islamic State.

In Afghanistan, the United States has spent about \$65 billion to build the army and police forces. Even before the setback in Kunduz, many Afghan forces were struggling to defeat the Taliban, partly because of what many senior commanders said had been a precipitous American drawdown before Afghans were ready to be on their own. But how thousands of Afghan Army, police and militia defenders could fare so poorly against a Taliban force of only hundreds baffled and frustrated the Americans.

If there is a bright spot in the training landscape, it may be the effort by a 22,000-member African Union force to oust the Shabab, Al Qaeda's affiliate in Somalia, from many areas. The Shabab's leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane, was killed last year in an American airstrike, and other agents have been killed by drone strikes.

In Iraq, a United States training program to strengthen the embattled security forces there has run aground, in part because the Iraqi government has provided far fewer recruits than anticipated, while many Shiite militiamen and soldiers who were fighting the Islamic State have left the battlefield and joined the exodus of migrants seeking new lives in Europe.

John E. McLaughlin, a former deputy director of the C.I.A., said American efforts to train the Iraqi military would probably be futile without a political bargain to unite the Shiite and Sunni Arabs.

"Training is a necessary but not sufficient way to get you to the point of creating a robust fighting force, because ultimately, militaries fight over political issues," he said.



EUROKINISSI/REUTERS

INTELLIGENCE/ROGER COHEN

Rhodes and the Balanced Life

RHODES, Greece

Gazing at Rhodes under a clear blue sky it occurred to me that the fury of attempts to draw neat ethno-national-religious lines through realities of mingling is matched only by its futility.

I climbed a clock tower. Below me lay the city of Rhodes: the castle of the Roman Catholic Order of the Knights of St. John, who for more than two centuries made Rhodes the headquarters of their fight for the Holy Land; the minarets of the mosques built by the Ottomans who vanquished the Knights of Rhodes in 1522; the Square of the Jewish Martyrs, where a memorial recalls the Nazi extermination in 1944 of the Jews of Rhodes and Kos.

Christian, Muslim and Jew trod these luminous stones. They fought, yes. They also cohabited and allowed their respective places of worship to stand in close proximity. The Turkish consul saved dozens of Jews from the Germans.

Beyond the city walls lay the sea. I gazed across it, imagining Aleppo and the graveyard of Syria, not so far away. There, the struggle to draw new sectarian lines rages. Sunnis and Shiites, Kurds and Alawites, outside powers and regime apparatchiks, do battle in the land of a murderous dictator and a barbarous jihadi cult.

The Jews of Syria are long gone and, now, many of the Christians, too. President Vladimir Putin thinks he can sort out whatever's left of the country with muscle flexing from Mother Russia. Good luck to him in that charnel house.

The exhaustion of war will come to Syria, too. That much, history

teaches us. But, as with the 17th century European wars of religion, decades may be needed.

Syria has become the epicenter of every fanaticism spawned by religious schism, state repression and popular uprising in the name of representation. These forces, in a dysfunctional Middle East, will not soon abate. We do not contemplate contemporary events from some clock tower, but from within them, in the shallow cacophony of now.

Across Rhodes and other Greek islands you see the jigsaw of archaeological fragments. It is arduous work piecing them together to recreate, say, a 2,000-year-old mosaic of an elated Eros riding a dolphin. The labor conjures away millennia as we recognize the urges of then, for beauty and order, as familiar. In the same way, archaeologists of our own lives, we try to piece events together, discern a pattern in fragments and draw coherence from confusion.

Then there are the days of magic, when everything is clear, each moment an answer rather than a question. I wandered down — past stray cats and children playing accordions — to the Synagogue Kahal Kadosh Shalom. It was closed. This puzzled me. I'd been on a cruise ship and lost track of time.

Reading the sign, I thought the synagogue should be open. Before Mel Rosenberg and Benny Duanis, visiting from Israel, reminded me that it was Saturday, the one day the sign said the synagogue was closed. "Shabbat Shalom," I said.

"Shabbat Shalom," they said.

We got talking.

Strange to have a synagogue closed on Shabbat, but then there are only a few dozen Jews left on Rhodes. The synagogue serves partly as a museum. Tough to get

a minyan, Rosenberg observed. When I told him I write about international affairs, he said, "Oy vey."

Turned out Rosenberg had spent much of his life treating halitosis. He'd even invented a mouthwash still sold widely. "But after treating 10,000 people with bad breath, I decided it was enough," he told me. Now he's into children's books. Talk about a salutary career switch.

We were happy to be chatting, out of the nearby Middle East, in a place where history has settled down.

From the synagogue, it's a short walk to the Square of the Jewish Martyrs. A monument commemorates the 1,604 Jewish martyrs of Rhodes and Kos who were murdered in the Nazi death camps. They were rounded up in the summer of 1944, sent to Auschwitz in the last consignment of Greek Jews. How conscientious the Germans were, rounding up Jews in far-flung islands while the Third Reich disintegrated.

Fanaticism is most foul. Yeats captured its galvanizing illusions: "We had fed the heart on fantasies, The heart's grown brutal from the fare."

I got myself lost, inebriated by the beauty of the place. The air, the light and the temperature were perfect. Serendipitous paths of pleasure led to a shaded square. I sat down to a lunch of calamari. Afterward, I got talking to a restaurant owner about Greek toasts — "To our health," favored today, and "To the balanced life," favored, he suggested, in ancient Greece.

It seemed apt to end this lovely interlude of church spires and minarets and Jewish memorials with the Socratic notion that humankind must choose the mean, avoid extremes, shun excess and seek for balance.

Across the sea from Rhodes, Greece, lies Syria, where sectarian strife is forcing many to flee. Migrants coming ashore.

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