



Grain of hope

Agriculture minister's report backs belief in a bumper wheat harvest

> CHINA A8



Access denied
Sony won't reopen HK online network, leaving 400,000 gamers in the cold

> CITY C3



Voices on the web
Check out the views posted from cage homes to rising food prices

> OPINION A14



Tee-off time
After a year without sponsors, casino money is set to bankroll the return of the Macau Open

> SPORT C10

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Unrest in Inner Mongolia



Street sweepers. Police detain a protester during a demonstration in Hohhot (呼和浩特), Inner Mongolia (內蒙古). About 100 people gathered in the city on Monday to express their anger at the death of a herder who was trying to block coal trucks driven by Han Chinese. There were a number of arrests. It followed a week of demonstrations that have rattled the authorities. Photo: The New York Times > **MONGOLIANS 'SIDELINED' A6**

HOUSING

LEADERS TOLD TO CLARIFY LAW ON ILLEGAL BUILDING

Government is urged to draft clear buildings policy after Chief Executive Donald Tsang's Mid-Levels home is embroiled in row over illegal structures

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The government was urged yesterday to devise a clear policy on illegal structures and take action against any that posed an immediate danger. With Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen now caught up in the widening controversy, the president of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Wong Bay, said the crack-down should be a priority in both urban and rural areas. "We must not leave the public any impression that they can get away with breaching the law," Wong said. Lawmaker Lee Wing-tat of the Democratic Party said he had called for an urgent legislative meeting on June 14 to discuss the issue. "The development chief [Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor] should come up with a clear policy as soon as possible. She has been evading the fact that structures like enclosed balconies and rooftop glasshouses should

not be tolerated, no matter where they are located and even if owners are willing to pay for them." Tsang's flat in MacDonnell Road was reported to have a balcony enclosed without permission. Secretary for Constitutional Affairs Stephen Lam Sui-lung and Education Bureau Secretary Michael Suen Ming-yeung have already been found to have unauthorised structures on properties. Business leaders and politicians have been similarly exposed. Meanwhile, some members of the Heung Yee Kuk, the powerful rural body, threatened to take to the



Tsang's balcony on MacDonnell Road

streets in protest at the government's "forced demolition" of their illegal structures. The members, mostly from Yuen Long, went as far as demanding compensation if any unauthorised structures were removed. An official said the problem had far-reaching implications and that a thorough study was vital. Tsang defended himself yesterday and said he was under the impression the flat in question did not have illegal structures. Some independent experts backed his claim. "My understanding is that adding glass windows on a balcony is not necessarily an offence... I was not informed by the Buildings Department that I have an illegal structure other than two which were removed within 20 days." He said he was not above the law and would make any changes demanded by the Buildings Department. The department did not reply to the *Post's* inquiries. The case is nevertheless politically embarrassing for Tsang, who just six days ago reminded government officials to ensure their properties were free of illegal structures. > **'PAY US TO REMOVE STRUCTURES' C1**

DIGEST

Sepp Blatter 'in denial' over Fifa crisis

Embattled Fifa president Sepp Blatter was in denial over the corruption allegations plaguing soccer's ruling body, an Australian senator said yesterday, as British newspapers declared that Blatter's expected re-election today would be a travesty. An ill-tempered Blatter denied Fifa was in crisis, at a press conference in Zurich. > **SPORT C8**

Minister's ultimatum to textbook 'monopolies'

An angry education minister threatened Hong Kong's textbook "monopolies" with competition from a government publisher if they did not act now to split the sale of textbooks and teaching materials. The publishers, who last year were given a year to do so, say it will take three more years. > **CITY C1**



First cash offer to a victim of Tiananmen crackdown

In a move hailed by some as a first step by Beijing to break a political taboo, the central government has offered cash to a victim of the Tiananmen Square crackdown, according to an open letter from the Tiananmen Mothers Support Group. > **LEADING THE NEWS A3**

Communist propaganda pushes out Hollywood

Mainland cinema schedules are cleared of US blockbusters to make way for party's new film

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Hollywood blockbusters including *Transformers 3* and *Cars 2* have been pushed back on mainland cinema schedules to make way for the Communist Party's latest propaganda film. *The Founding of a Party*, set to premiere across the mainland on June 15, marks the 90th anniversary of the Communist Party on July 1. The new film boasts 107 cast members, including Hong Kong's Chow Yun-fat and John Woo. The 70 million yuan (HK\$83.9 million) film is expected to rake in nearly 800 million yuan – a record for a mainland film – but it will not be challenged by the usual summer invasion of US blockbusters, according to Gao Jun (高軍), spokesman for the New Film Association, one of the mainland's main cinema chains. "The cinemas are confident that the movie will set a new box office record because Hollywood blockbusters have been scheduled for screening in late July," Gao said. The film has become a national event, with nearly 20 provincial and municipal propaganda departments involved in making it, he said. Other screening slots this month will be filled by other propaganda films and a smattering of overseas movies that will not be popular enough to threaten the box office > **CONTINUED ON A3**

ART

Cheng Dai-chien art sells for a record HK\$191m

Amid a boom in market for Chinese art, late master's works confirmed as being among the most valuable

Amy Nip, Priscilla Jiao and Zuleika Sedgley

A painting by the late Chang Dai-chien fetched HK\$191 million at an auction yesterday, setting a world record for his works and offering further evidence of the remarkable boom in the Chinese art market.

\$140m
The price, in US dollars, for the world's most expensive painting, No 5, 1948 by Jackson Pollock, sold in 2006 by David Geffen

Bids for *Lotus and Mandarin Ducks* – a 1947 piece – started at HK\$10 million but it eventually sold for nearly 20 times that amount after 30 rounds of bidding at the Hong Kong sale. The price was more than nine times Sotheby's estimate of HK\$20 million. The work was bought by an Asian private collector. The sale price smashed the previous record for Chang's works, set in May last year for his painting *Ai Hen Hu* in Beijing, which was sold for 100 million yuan (HK\$120 million). It also makes the canvases of Chang – who died in 1983 at the age of 84 – among the most valuable paintings in the world, exceeded in value only by those from the likes of Pablo Picasso, Qi Baishi and Andy Warhol, some of whose work sold for more than Chang's at last year's auction. *Lotus* was one of the 25 pieces featured in the Mei Yun Tang Collection of Paintings by Chang Dai-chien

which fetched a total of HK\$680 million during the 90-minute auction yesterday. It showed the growing fever in the Chinese art market. Last week, a painting by Qi – a contemporary of Chang – set a record for modern art and calligraphy at a mainland auction after it sold for 425.5 million yuan (HK\$508.5 million). Bian Yiwen, general manager of an auction firm in Beijing, said: "China's economy is expanding fast. People's appreciation for art is growing and they also can afford [to spend] more. It is not surprising to see this fever building for Chinese paintings." Meilin Wang, the head of Chinese painting, 20th century and contemporary Asian art at Bonhams Asia, said the market for Chinese art had seen a huge boom in the past two years. Last year, the total auction proceeds from sales of Chinese art reached 57.3 billion yuan (HK\$68.6 billion), an increase of 150 per cent over the previous year.

BUSINESS

Pay rises 'no threat to China'

Li & Fung chief sees no serious challenge to world's factory > **PAGE B1**

FOCUS

A CURE FOR HEALTH SYSTEM'S ILLS

> **PAGE A4**



WORLD

Hooked on the myth of hookahs

Young flock to water pipe, thinking it's safer than cigarettes > **PAGE A13**

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