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Daniel Craig shoots first scene of new 007 movie
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Xi gives full backing to HK system

President makes appeal for unity in interests of the nation and region

By **ZHAO SHENGAN**
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President Xi Jinping threw his support behind the development of Hong Kong's political system on Friday, shortly after the end of a monthslong illegal protest over election of the city's leader by universal suffrage in 2017.

During a meeting with Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, Xi called for people from all circles in the city to unite for the interests of the nation and Hong Kong, to preserve stability and economic development.

The development of Hong Kong's political system should start from "local reality" and be conducted in an orderly manner based on the law, Xi said in Beijing, adding that it should also help to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, security and development.

The central government firmly supports the local government in pushing forward its development of the political system based on the Basic Law — Hong Kong's mini-constitution — and decisions made by the country's top legislature, Xi said.

Leung, making his first trip to Beijing since the 79-day protests ended last week, arrived on Thursday to report on his work to the central government.

The standoff, which paralyzed key areas in Hong Kong's business and shopping districts, led to the temporary closure of some banks and office buildings.

Xi and Premier Li Keqiang, who met Leung earlier on Friday, gave their full approval to his leadership and the local government. Li said the Hong Kong government is unafraid of challenges and has managed to preserve overall stability in the city.

Leng Tieuxun, deputy head of

the One Country Two Systems Research Center under Macao Polytechnic Institute, said the central government's support comes at a critical time as the Hong Kong government faces difficulties because of the recent debate over universal suffrage.

The special administrative region is likely to see more protests over the issue before 2017, but not on the same scale, he said.

"The sit-ins seriously disrupted local people's lives and the rule of law, a core value of Hong Kong," he said.

On Friday, Xi and Li also met Macao Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai-on, who was in Beijing to report on his work.

Li said China's deepening reform and the rule of law will bring more opportunities for the development of Hong Kong and Macao, and he called on them to strengthen cooperation with the mainland.

The two cities' ties with the mainland have seen significant progress this year.

The landmark Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, aimed at linking the stock exchanges in these two cities, was launched in November.

This month, the mainland and Macao signed a new trade liberalization deal to ease conditions for Macao's service providers to set up businesses in neighboring Guangdong province.



The sit-ins seriously disrupted local people's lives and the rule of law, a core value of Hong Kong."

LENG TIEUXUN, RESEARCHER AT MACAO POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE



FULL SPEED AHEAD

PHOTOS BY **ZHANG QI** AND **XINHUA**

Three new high-speed railway lines opened on Friday. Above: A boy and his father travel from Urumqi to Lanzhou, while (left) a train uses the line linking Guiyang and Guangzhou. See story on page 3.

Martial artists flocking to guard the rich

By **SUN XIAOCHEN** in Beijing and **QI XIN** in Zhengzhou

Increased security concerns among China's nouveau riche have created a niche market for protection services, luring more martial arts practitioners to become bodyguards.

Standing close to Jack Ma, the Chinese mainland's richest man, at a series of recent events was a man of average build in his 30s with brush-cut hair.

Li Tianjin, Ma's security assistant or personal bodyguard, stood out among the billionaire's entourage with his composed presence, watching every move made by his employer, the founder and chairman of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group.

Li, a national martial arts champion, is from Chenjiagou in Wen county, Henan province, the widely recognized birthplace of tai chi.

Wang Zhanjun, vice-chairman of Henan Martial Arts Association, said Li won his first national title at the Wen County International Tai Chi Tournament in 1998.

He has always been loyal to friends from an early age and has trained very hard every day, Wang added.

Li's appointment highlights the growing demand from China's entrepreneurs and celebrities for well-trained bodyguards with martial arts backgrounds who have been educated in etiquette and also have secretarial abilities.

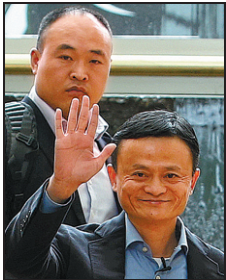
Shi Xingfeng, founder and

CEO of the Bojing Security Agency in Beijing, told China Daily on Friday, "Demand for protective specialists is soaring, with customers increasingly sensing the need to protect their lives and property against unknown risks."

"Despite this market demand, the talent pool remains small, with most of the trainees in our company selected neither from retired soldiers nor martial arts athletes or students," Shi said.

The Bojing Security Agency was founded by Shi in 2009 as one of the earliest commercial security service providers approved by China's Public Security Department.

The country currently has



EDGAR SU / REUTERS
Alibaba founder Jack Ma and his bodyguard Li Tianjin

358 billionaires, second only to the United States, and their ranks are expected to grow rapidly in the next decade.

SEE "BODYGUARD" PAGE 2

IN THE NEWS

NATION Official probed

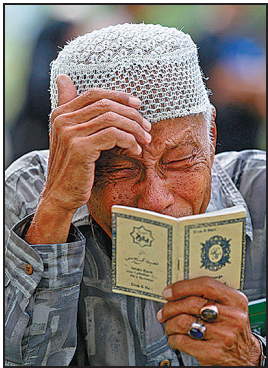
Sun Hongzhi, deputy director of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, is being investigated for suspected violation of laws and discipline, the top disciplinary watchdog said on Friday. > p3

BUSINESS Trade zones bid

The National People's Congress Standing Committee discusses a proposal to expand free trade zones to Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin. > p6

SPORTS Change of scene

After a rollercoaster NBA career, Stephon Marbury finds peace in China, with the two-time all-star thriving with the Beijing Ducks. > p9



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BEAWIHARTA / REUTERS

Lasting pain: A man weeps while praying for a 2004 tsunami victim at a mass graveyard in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Friday. Survivors of the tsunami and relatives of its 226,000 victims marked the 10th anniversary of a disaster that left an indelible mark on the region. > p11

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Car-hailing apps encounter bumpy roads

By **YAN YIQI** in Hangzhou
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Upgraded versions of car-hailing apps are facing problems in many cities considering these services illegal.

The Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission has started to crack down on unlicensed car-hailing services provided via the Internet.

The commission said on Wednesday it has seized 12 cars providing such services through Didi Zhuanche, which focuses on high-end travelers using the Didi Dache app. Five of the car owners were fined 10,000 yuan (\$1,606), while the seven others are still under investigation.

Unlike the standard Dache car-hailing service, which connects passengers with professional taxi drivers, the upgraded Zhuanche service

uses car owners who do not drive taxis for a living.

The cost of the Zhuanche service is two to three times higher than regular taxi fares.

Yang Xiaoxi, deputy director of the commission, said the Didi Zhuanche service is illegal because all the cars are registered for private use and are not licensed for passenger transportation services.

"An unlicensed car service puts passengers' safety and rights at risk. It disturbs market order and increases the difficulties for us to do our work," Yang said.

On Wednesday, the Traffic and Transportation Bureau in Zibo, Shandong province, said the Didi Zhuanche service could not operate in the city. Car owners who violate this regulation will be fined up to 30,000 yuan.

At the end of October, the Shenyang Transportation Department in Liaoning prov-

ince also ruled that the Zhuanche service is illegal, while its counterpart in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, fined two such car owners 8,000 yuan each.

Didi said the Zhuanche service should not be listed as illegal because the company only signs contracts with car rental companies or labor service firms that guarantee service quality and passenger safety.

Zhu Pingdou, vice-president of Didi, said: "One feature of an illegal car service is that driver and passenger information is not transparent to each party.... Our Zhuanche service, on the contrary, has established a transparent platform via the Internet."

However, Yang said none of the 36 registered car rental companies in Shanghai has cooperation deals with Didi.

Ding Ning, a Shanghai lawyer, said she enjoys the Zhuanche service because the cars are better than standard taxis and

the drivers are friendly.

"It is really hard to find a taxi during rush hour. The authorities should consider passenger convenience before they shut down such service platforms," she said.

Xu Lijiang, a Beijing taxi driver, said the service obviously affects the interests of cabbies because the car owners don't pay the monthly franchise fees. "If I could vote, I would oppose such a service," he said.

The Didi Zhuanche service was launched in August as part of the company's strategy to enter the high-end market.

It has more than 100 million registered users and over a million registered drivers, with a peak of more than 5.2 million transactions a day.

Didi's service covers more than 300 cities in China.

Hu Yongqi contributed to this story.

Holiday travelers poised to cash in on strong yuan

By **WANG ZHUOQIONG**
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Still need to make up your mind about where to go for New Year's or Spring Festival in February?

Europe and Japan appear to be the best destinations for visits and shopping, given their weaker currencies against the yuan.

Since the summer, the yen has fallen against the yuan, as has the British pound.

The euro has also fallen significantly against the yuan since late spring, from a high of 8.6922 to 7.4792 on Friday, allowing Chinese travelers to cash in on visits to countries using the single currency.

Jiang Yiyi, director of international tourism development at the China Tourism Academy, a top tourism think tank in Beijing, said the yuan's stability and small rise have increased Chinese consumers' spending power overseas.

80
percent

the year-on-year increase in Chinese tourists to Japan

It means lower costs for accommodations, air tickets and products for Chinese tourists traveling to countries whose currencies have fallen against the yuan.

Of these, the yen's fall is the most visible, with visits to Japan from China increasing by 80 percent year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2014.

Generally, demand for overseas travel from China has risen and will not be significantly affected by short-term changes in exchange rates against the yuan, Jiang said.

She added that last year 98.1 million Chinese tourists spent \$120 billion in 110 different countries and regions — \$68 billion more than foreign tourists spent in China.

Meanwhile, the US dollar has risen against the yuan since early November, from a low of 6.1078 to a high of 6.2325. The exchange rate on Friday was 6.1342.