

## Cambodia to increase garment industry minimum wage

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodia says it will raise the minimum wage in its clothing industry by 9.4 percent to \$140 per month. The increase falls short of \$160 proposed by labor unions. A Labor Ministry statement said the increase was on instructions from Prime Minister Hun Sen after eight days of tense negotiations in a committee representing employers, workers, and the government. The new wages take effect at the beginning of 2016. Three years ago, a militant union campaign to double the then-minimum wage of \$80 in the textile, garment, and footwear industries resulted in clashes with police and a crackdown on public protests. A \$100 level was set for 2014 and \$128 this year.

## China dissident artist Ai Weiwei says Beijing studio bugged

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei says he found several hidden listening devices in his Beijing studio after returning from a trip to Germany. Ai posted photos of the bugs on his Instagram account. He could not be reached, but his friend Liu Xiaoyuan confirmed the reports. The artist has in the past upset Chinese authorities with boldly critical remarks of the ruling Communist Party and its government. He was briefly detained in 2011 and released after 81 days in jail. The authorities withheld his passport but returned it to him four years later, in July. Since then, the artist has toned down his criticisms of the government. It's not clear who was behind the listening devices, although Ai has been under tight surveillance since his 2011 release.

## Chung says he is facing lengthy FIFA suspension

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) presidential contender Chung Mong-joon says he is facing a 19-year suspension by the ethics committee of the world football body for alleged ethics breaches to support South Korea's failed bid for the 2022 World Cup, and also for openly criticizing the committee. The South Korean billionaire denied any wrongdoing and accused the committee of acting as a "hit man" of current FIFA president Sepp Blatter who Chung says is attempting to damage his candidacy. FIFA has set a February 26 election to replace Blatter amid widespread allegations of corruption. Its election panel will approve candidates in November after integrity checks. UEFA president Michel Platini of France and Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan have also declared candidacy for football's top office.

## Bangladesh pastor escapes knife attack at his home

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A Bangladeshi pastor has survived an attempt on his life by three men who came to his home pretending to want to learn about Christianity, according to police and the victim. The incident follows the fatal attacks on two foreigners in Bangladesh, a predominantly Muslim country that is grappling with violence claimed by hardline Islamic groups. The Islamic State (IS) group said it was responsible for the attacks, one on a Japanese agricultural worker and the other on an Italian aid worker. The IS claim was rejected by Bangladesh's government. The government blamed the country's main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its key ally, Jamaat-e-Islami, for the attacks, accusing the groups of trying to destabilize the country. A spokesman for the BNP denied the allegations.

## China charges 10 with repackaging, selling old meat

BEIJING (AP) — Shanghai prosecutors say they are charging people connected to a U.S. meat supplier's Chinese subsidiary with producing and selling fake and substandard products. Shanghai Hushi Food Co., which is a unit of OSI Group of Aurora, Illinois, has been under investigation since a Shanghai TV station reported last year that it repackaged and sold old meat. The scandal alarmed Chinese diners and disrupted operations for fast-food brands. The Shanghai prosecutor's office said in a statement that Shanghai's Jiading district brought cases against 10 defendants, including some connected to Hushi's facilities in Shanghai and Hebei province. OSI said in a statement that it would address the charges "according to legal procedures." "We have confidence in China's legal system and believe that the judicial authority will come to a fair and reasonable judgement with full respect to the facts and laws," OSI said. Product safety is unusually sensitive in China following scandals over the past decade in which infants, hospital patients, and others have been killed or sickened by phony or adulterated milk powder, drugs, and other goods.

## Four renal patients die in hospital from hepatitis C

SINGAPORE — A top public hospital in Singapore said four of its patients died after a new renal ward was hit by an outbreak of hepatitis C, likely from intravenous treatment. The Singapore General Hospital apologized "unreservedly" for the deaths, a startling and rare tragedy for a nation that prides itself on its efficiency and high-quality healthcare. The hospital is the largest and oldest government hospital in Singapore. The country's founding leader, Lee Kuan Yew, who died earlier this year, spent his last days on life support in its intensive care unit. The hospital said in a statement that 22 patients with renal disease who were hospitalized between April and June this year were diagnosed with hepatitis C infections. The infections became known after doctors observed an unusual cluster of seven cases in four weeks and involved the infection control team. Four of the patients died, "and while they were very ill with other serious conditions, we are not able to rule out the possibility that hepatitis C virus infection could have been a contributing factor," the hospital said. Hepatitis C causes chronic liver cancer and is mainly transmitted through blood-to-blood contact associated with intravenous drug use, poorly sterilized equipment, and transfusions.



**CONVERSATIONS & CHEMISTRY.** Chinese actress Tang Wei smiles before a press conference at the Busan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea. The *Lust, Caution* star had a three-year hiatus after filming the movie, attributed to the political sensitivity of the traitor role she played in the film, which reportedly landed her on Chinese film officials' blacklist for three years. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

## Lust, Caution star Tang looks for chemistry on set

By Youkyung Lee  
The Associated Press

**B**USAN, South Korea — Chinese actress Tang Wei is not obsessed about finding the right role for her future film project. For the *Lust, Caution* star, it is the people she works with on a film set and the chemistry with them that count.

Tang shot to international fame with her role in Ang Lee's 2007 spy thriller set in the World War II era, which won the Venice Film Festival's best film award. She played a Chinese student recruited to seduce a Japanese-allied Chinese official as part of an assassination plot. The film is still Tang's best known work outside Asia.

Asked about the roles she would like to play in the future, Tang said her job is not about the role, but about the people and the conversations with them.

"For me in this job, in this work, it's more about who you are working with. It's nothing about what you're working on," she said. "It's the people, and the conversations, and also the chemistry that's more important for me."

It should be no surprise that those conversations and the chemistry on a film set helped her find her love. Tang met her husband, South Korean director Kim Tae-yong, on the set of Kim's romance drama *Late Autumn* in 2010. Last year, they wed in a small ceremony at the late legendary director Ingmar Bergman's island home in Sweden.

This year's Busan International Film Festival screened three movies featuring

Tang, including Johnnie To's musical *Office*, where she plays a bespectacled, hard-working office lady. She also played a female lead in *A Tale of Three Cities* directed by Mabel Cheung and appears in the epic fantasy movie *Monster Hunt*, which has been setting box-office records in China since hitting theaters in July.

Tang had a three-year hiatus after filming *Lust, Caution*, attributed to the political sensitivity of the traitor role she played in the movie, which reportedly landed her on Chinese film officials' blacklist for three years. But in the past five years, she has been frequently spotted on screens in Asia from theaters to television ads.

Her latest movie, *Office*, is the first musical by the Hong Kong action master To about love and conspiracies at a Hong Kong company set against the backdrop of the 2008 financial crisis.

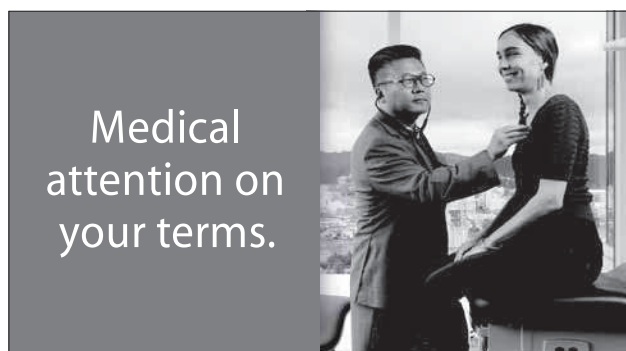
Tang said it was the right direction for her, with great chemistry.

"This is the dream crew for me. The whole crew, everybody is a master," she said.

Filming with veteran Asian screen stars Sylvia Chang and Chow Yun-fat made her feel like "a little vegetable bird," Tang said with giggles, a literal translation for a Chinese word meaning rookie.

One thing she misses from the set is the smell of cigars, she said, bursting out laughing. To is a habitual cigar smoker.

"When you smell, oh cigar smell is coming," she said, "oh then (you know) the director is coming."



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## Asian Currency Exchange Rates

Units per U.S. dollar as of 10/18

Bangladesh Taka	77.775
Cambodian Riel	4050.4
China Renminbi	6.3537
Fijian Dollar	2.1
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7498
Indian Rupee	64.815
Indonesian Rupiah	13540
Iranian Rial	29956
Japanese Yen	119.44
Laos New Kip	8133.0
Malaysian Ringgit	4.1785
Nepal Rupee	104.84
Pakistani Rupee	104.36
Papua N.G. Kina	2.8944
Philippine Peso	46.065
Russian Ruble	61.28
Saudi Riyal	3.7503
Singapore Dollar	1.3842
South Korean Won	1129.4
Sri Lankan Rupee	140.8
Taiwan Dollar	32.285
Thai Baht	35.265
Vietnam Dong	22281