

BRIEFS

Victim's husband sought over killing spree in Jilin

Police are hunting a man suspected of murdering his wife and seven others in Jilin (吉林), provincial public security authorities said. The Ministry of Public Security was offering 50,000 yuan (HK\$61,341) for information leading to the arrest of Jiang Chun, 48. He is suspected of having conducted the killing rampage in Fumin (富民), Huinan county (辉南县), on Monday. The victims include a local family and a baby who was barely one year old, according to the authorities. Police said they had no clues as to the suspect's motive. Xinhua

Six held for spreading online rumours of coup

Beijing police have detained six internet users for allegedly fabricating and spreading rumours about a coup in the capital last week, Xinhua reported online. The groundless rumours about "military vehicles entering Beijing" swept the city last week. The State Internet Information Office also ordered local government agencies to shut down 16 online chatrooms and reprimanded Sina and Tencent for failing to stop their users from spreading the rumours on microblog services. Staff Reporter

Gold Mellon executive jailed over leaked data

Xicheng District People's Court in Beijing sentenced a former general manager of an asset management firm to 5½ years in prison for receiving unpublished economic data, the *Economic Information Daily* reported yesterday. Former Gold Mellon Asset Management general manager Wu Zhiwen was found guilty of receiving the data from Wu Chaoming – a researcher at the People's Bank of China who was jailed in October along with former statistics bureau secretary Sun Zhen – and passing it on to 11 other people, the report said. Bloomberg

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ECONOMICS

DOUBTS GROW OVER BRICS' MUTUAL TRUST

Hu Jintao calls on group of nations to deepen faith in each other, while analysts say members must boost their political resolve in creating a development bank

Teddy Ng in New Delhi
teddy.ng@scmp.com

This week's summit of the world's five fastest-growing countries saw collective criticism of the West over the slow pace of reforms to global financial governance.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, known as the BRICS countries, also called for the establishment of a new development bank amid doubts about the group's geopolitical clout.

Observers say the group's agreement on setting up the bank will help enable it to gain greater global influence. However, they point to the group's lack of political will, saying that some difficult issues have to be resolved before the bank becomes a reality.

President Hu Jintao (胡锦涛), who arrived in Cambodia yesterday for a post-summit four-day visit, told a plenary session the BRICS countries should deepen mutual political trust.

Having expressed their frustration about the slow pace of reforming the Washington-based International Monetary Fund, the group wants to establish a development bank to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging countries.

But there has yet to be any details on how the bank should be run. The group has also called on

developing countries to find candidates to succeed outgoing World Bank president Robert Zoellick.

Rup Narayan Das, a senior fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, said the BRICS countries had established political trust. But he added: "I expect there would be some more details about the development bank. It seems there is a lack of strong political will among the countries."

He said the group's lack of political will might be due to the uneven economic development among the members.

Zhao Gancheng, a Shanghai-based expert in Indian affairs, expects the group, especially China and India, to be cautious about setting up a development bank. "Various issues will come out, including the proportion of voting rights for each country, how much each country should invest and where the headquarters should be located," said Zhao, adding that he believed the group would resolve these issues.

John Kirton, co-director of the BRICS Research Group at the University of Toronto, said setting up such a bank would boost co-operation among the members and China's reputation as a leader of developing countries.

"The countries may think that the World Bank is not under their control, so it is better to have a BRICS bank which they can fully control,"



Cambodian students at a Phnom Penh airport hold up portraits of President Hu Jintao and his wife to welcome them on a four-day state visit. Photo: AFP

he said. The group has also agreed to extend loans in local currencies, with analysts saying that the use of the yuan is most likely.

Separately, the summit was overshadowed by Tibetan protesters, who complained about the Indian police's heavy-handed security.

The BRICS group has not made much progress in changing the global order since its first summit in 2009. Observers point to the competing priorities and lack of mutual trust, especially between India and China.

Reports by the *Times of India* and the *Hindustan Times* said there were fears that China would gain the most out of the development bank proposal and that the group would be vulnerable to Beijing's manipulation.

Professor Brahma Chellaney, from the New Delhi-based Centre for

Policy Research, said it remained unclear whether the group would become a cohesive unit with defined goals and if it would be able to change the global order.

Some officials have sought to downplay such concerns. Chen Xu, a Foreign Ministry director-general, said the group was still seeking consensus.

Indeed, the group's lack of common political will meant they would have difficulties preventing an American nominee from becoming the next World Bank president, according to Kirton and Das.

"The BRICS did not act fast enough or act together to find a globally credible candidate for the World Bank," Kirton said.

> LITTLE APPETITE FOR FUTURES BI

CHONGQING

Journalist 'jailed after criticising Bo's crusade'

Group says reporter who wrote of tactics used in anti-gang drive was imprisoned after 2010 secret trial

Agencies in Beijing and Priscilla Jiao

A mainland journalist was jailed in 2010 after criticising a prominent anti-gang campaign launched by Bo Xilai (薄熙来), the politician at the heart of a major scandal, a rights group said yesterday.

Bo, a rising star once tipped to join the top echelons of power in a key leadership transition this year, was ousted as the municipality's Communist Party leader on March 15.

The Chinese Human Rights Defenders group yesterday revealed Gao Yingpu (高应璞) – a journalist in the city in the southwest – was jailed for three years in 2010 for "endangering state security" after a secret trial. Details of his ordeal had also been posted online by an unnamed friend.

Quoting Gao's wife, the group said Gao had criticised a campaign that Bo launched in Chongqing in 2009, which saw scores of mobsters and corrupt officials jailed or ex-

cuted in an anti-graft drive that riveted the country and drew wide praise.

Guo's wife, who refused to provide her name, said yesterday that she had not read what her husband wrote at that time. "Back then, we didn't try to get help from either media or a lawyer because it might not do any good for my husband. I am considering hiring a lawyer now."

Meanwhile, a source with close ties to key individuals involved, said the downfall of Bo was triggered by claims that his wife was involved in the death of British businessman Neil Heywood in Chongqing in mid-November, Reuters reported.

Corroborated by two other sources, the source said former police chief Wang Lijun (王立军) told Bo in late January that he believed Bo's wife, Gu Kailai, was involved in the death of Heywood. "Wang Lijun has told investigators that Gu Kailai turned on the British man because of economic interests and that she wanted to destroy him [Heywood]," said the source, adding that Bo was outraged.

Days later, Wang was sidelined with a less important portfolio.

The account helps explain the apparent rupture between the city chief and Wang, who led Bo's widely applauded crackdown on crime in China's most populous metropolis.

In early February, Wang briefly sought refuge in the US consulate in Chengdu, several hours' drive from Chongqing, which suddenly made the growing scandal public. Reuters, Agence France-Presse



We didn't try to get help ... because it might not do any good for my husband

GAO YINGPU'S WIFE



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