

# TODAY

MEDIA CORP

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**HOT NEWS • 6**  
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PHOTO: REUTERS

**GERMANY MARKS FALL OF BERLIN WALL** A girl placing a rose at the Berlin Wall memorial in Bernauer Strasse yesterday to mark the 25th anniversary of the wall's collapse — a key event leading to the thaw of the Cold War across Central and Eastern Europe. More than 100,000 people have walked along a 15km route — which has been lit up by 8,000 helium balloons — where the wall once stood. **HOT NEWS • 4**

## FREE CONCERTS AT SIX PARKS, GARDENS

# SG50: New trees, ECP light-up to celebrate S'pore's greenery

*More planting, landscaping along expressways and in CBD among NParks' plans*

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**SINGAPORE** — The Republic's green spaces will be part of its 50th birthday celebrations next year, with roadside greenery to be spruced up, more trees to be planted and public events to be hosted at parks.

From the third quarter of next year, the iconic rain trees along a 3.4km stretch of East Coast Parkway (ECP) that greet travellers from Changi Airport will be specially lit up to showcase their beauty at night.

Additional planting and landscaping will also be done along the ECP and four other expressways, as well as major roads in the civic and Central Business District, said Minister of State (National Development) Desmond Lee yesterday as he announced the National Parks Board's (NParks) SG50 plans.

Free concerts will be held at six

parks and gardens here — starting with Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park next March — with local talents performing jazz, classical and contemporary music as well as xinyao. The other parks hosting concerts include Admiralty Park in May and the Singapore Botanic Gardens in August.

And 50 Community In Bloom groups will come together to create five garden displays at the HortPark from March. A mass tree-planting exercise will take place next September and October, with 5,000 more trees to

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## China's economy shifting to new normal of slower, stable growth: Xi

**BEIJING** — The risks faced by China's economy are not that scary and the government is confident it can head off the dangers, President Xi Jinping told global business leaders yesterday as he sought to dispel worries about the world's second-largest economy, which he said is shifting to a "new normal" of slower but more stable growth.

"Even a growth rate of about 7 per cent will put China among the top performers in the world in terms of both speed and size," Mr Xi added. "Some worry whether China's growth rate will slow down further, or whether China can overcome the obstacles. Risks are indeed there but they're not that scary."

"Resilience best equips the Chinese economy against risks. And given the strategies and policy options at our disposal, we have the confidence and capability to cope with potential risks."

The remarks from Mr Xi to business leaders gathered in Beijing ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit today and tomorrow came a day after data showed annual growth in Chinese exports and imports cooled in October, in another sign of fragility in the economy that could prompt policymakers to take further action to stoke growth.

To shore up activity, policymakers have loosened monetary and fiscal policies since April to ensure that the economy can grow by around 7.5 per cent this year. Regional governments have accelerated spending on some infrastructure projects and abolished limits on the number of homes that Chinese can buy. The central bank has also injected short-term loans into banks to increase credit supply, and cut mortgage rates for some home buyers.

Yet the results yielded have not been as good as some had hoped, fueling speculation that China may have to cut interest rates or the reduce the amount of deposits that banks set aside as reserves — moves Beijing has denied are on the cards.

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FOR THE RECORD

# The art of music



## Visual art and music collide in an exhibition that celebrates both art forms

**SINGAPORE** – Visual art and pop music have had a lasting relationship. Through the years, many works by artists — from Peter Blake to Storm Thorgesen — have graced record covers, creating some iconic works, such as the wonderfully colourful Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band cover, Cream's Disraeli Gears or Pink Floyd's The Division Bell.

And despite recent trends in music consumption, it seems the vinyl revival is giving album art a second wind. It also makes sense for vinyl to be used as inspiration for artworks, which is the basis for Singled Out, an art exhibition where 50 Singapore designers

and artists transformed vinyl records into pieces of art. On display at tcc The Gallery on Circular Road until Jan 6, the works are up for auction, where all proceeds will be managed by Thunder Rock School through a music outreach programme that includes education and mentorship specifically catered to financially disadvantaged children in Singapore.

"In the future, these youth could eventually create music that will, in turn, inspire us. It's much like a revolution of a record, with each turn an inspiration and to be inspired by," said the exhibition's curator Little Ong, who is also creative director of fFurious creative agency.

Ong said the idea was born after he tried to give away more than 200 vinyl records that someone had passed him. "They were '80s tea dance singles

**Singled Out** features artists who are inspired by music.

> Singled Out artworks are up for auction at <http://singledout.ffurious.com> throughout the entire duration of the exhibition.

which I had no interest in," he said. "I tried very hard to give them away but no one wanted them. It dawned on me that these records could perhaps be put to better use, to benefit children through music education, an aspect that has somehow been neglected in Singapore."

The concept, he said, was that each artist would pick a song that made a positive impact on his or her life and create an artwork from these unwanted vinyl records. "Sound and vision have always been closely intertwined. The artists and designers I have invited for this project are people for whom I know music makes a difference in their lives, be it that they have worked on music projects, are musicians or simply love music," said Ong.

As for working with Thunder Rock

School, Ong said that decision came about after reading an article in the papers about Leonard Soosay, the music producer who co-founded the school three years ago with musicians such as keyboardist Amanda Ling and brothers Ian and Deon Toh.

"When I went to check out their website, I read a quote of Leonard's that said, 'I see my role as more of someone who makes another person's dreams a reality', which seemed to absolutely connect with what I was hoping to achieve through Singled Out," said Ong. "So I met him and Deon, who were more than happy to be part of the project — by creating a subsidised music education programme that would enable them to reach out and mentor more children through the funds that we would raise from the artwork auction."

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