

Lifestyle



Frisbee fun in the Penh

At 3:30pm every Sunday, a mix of locals and expatriates, aged 16 to 50, meet at the International School of Phnom Penh field for a pick-up game of ultimate Frisbee. The Phnom Penh Ultimate Frisbee group, consisting of 40 to 50 regular players, was set up four years ago to accommodate the growing number of Frisbee enthusiasts in the city. "Like many things in Phnom Penh, all it takes is a little forward momentum to get things organised," said 35-year-old Craig Gerard, founder of the group. "Once the word got out that someone was playing ultimate Frisbee, the group continued to grow." CALVIN YANG



Snapshots

Pianist goes to trial for religious charges

AN internationally acclaimed Turkish classical pianist is to stand trial on charges of insulting Muslim religious values in comments posted on Twitter, an Istanbul court ruled last Friday. Fazil Say has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Berliner Symphoniker, Israel Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France and Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and has served as a cultural ambassador to the European Union. REUTERS

Material Girl launches tour, takes jab at Gaga

POP superstar Madonna kicked off a new world tour on Thursday wishing peace on the Middle East even as she showcased grim dance routines depicting violence and bloody gunmen among her more colourful numbers. Madonna, 53, mixed hit songs over three decades in music with tunes from her recent album, *MDNA*, before a packed audience, and she took a sly dig at younger diva, Lady Gaga. "She's not me!" Madonna sang at the end of *Express Yourself*, which she had reworked to include a sampling of Lady Gaga's recent *Born This Way*. That song from Lady Gaga has been cited by many music fans and critics as being very similar to Madonna's late 1980s dance club smash. REUTERS

Pregnant Barrymore marries art dealer

ACTRESS Drew Barrymore has tied the knot for the third time, marrying her art dealer fiancé Will Kopelman last weekend in Southern California, media outlets reported on Sunday. The *Charlie's Angels* actress, 37, wore a Chanel gown and wed Kopelman on Saturday in a Jewish ceremony at their estate in Montecito, California, outside Los Angeles, with guests including Reese Witherspoon, Cameron Diaz, Jimmy Fallon and Busy Philipps, according to *People Magazine*. The celebrity magazine also said Barrymore is pregnant with the couple's first child. REUTERS

Sophia Loren boat is a target for eco-activists

Environmentalists on Saturday urged film diva Sophia Loren to help stop a big cruise ship named in her honour from ever entering the Venice lagoon because of potential damage to the city and the lagoon's delicate ecosystem. The *MSC Divina* (Divine), which the actress christened last month in France, is a 139,500-tonne ship that can carry 3,500 passengers and nearly 1,000 crew. REUTERS

US first lady talks green thumb

Krissah Thompson

ONE of Michelle Obama's early worries about life in the White House had to do with a plot of land. Specifically, the new first lady found herself fretting over whether her much-hyped garden would grow.

"I was like any other hopeful gardener with a pot out on the windowsill or a small plot by the back door. I was nervously watching the sky. Would it snow? Would it rain?" she writes in her first book, *American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America*.

The garden, which has been a focus of Michelle Obama's since her hus-

band took office, led to the first lady's "Let's Move!" initiative targeting childhood obesity.

"It is definitely a passion – getting our kids in this country eating healthy, helping families make good choices about how they eat and stay active – and this book is a way to talk about our journey but also talk about the challenges that we face as a nation around health," Obama said during an interview on ABC's *Good Morning America*.

In her book, the first lady – and novice gardener – tells the story of planting the first White House kitchen garden since Eleanor Roosevelt's Victory Garden. The seed for the garden emerged long before her husband's presidential campaign, at a doctor's appointment

where the family's pediatrician suggested that she might want to watch what the girls were eating.

As she promoted her book, Obama pushed back in interviews against criticism that her program is an example of big government dictating what children should eat.

"One in three of our kids are overweight or obese," she said on ABC. "But this isn't about government telling people what to do. What we know we need to do is give parents, communities, families the tools and the information they need to make choices that are right for them, and there's no one-size-fits-all solution."

The first lady has said often that her anti-childhood-obesity work is non-

political, and the book takes the same tone, with recipes from White House chefs, tips for planting a garden, and photos of the first lady with children, vegetables and the family's dog, Bo. She did not accept an advance for her book, and its proceeds will go to the National Park Foundation for programs that promote healthy eating and gardening and for the continued care of the White House garden.

Despite Obama's love for vegetables, there's at least one that won't be making an appearance in the White House garden under her watch.

"One thing the president and I, we don't really like, are beets," she said. "We don't have beets. We're a no-beet garden." THE WASHINGTON POST