

INSIDE: A 14-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

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Sense and nonsense about austerity

The benefits of having three parents

Touch and go for Microsoft

America on a knife-edge

Football, bling and French disdain

The man who must change China





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Xi Jinping will soon be named as China's next president. He must be ready to break with the past: leader, page 9. The Communist Party is preparing for a once-in-a-decade change of leadership. The new team could be in for a rough ride, pages 21-24. Westerners who laud Chinese meritocracy miss the point: Banyan, page 48. China's pigeon craze, page 62. A shocking Chinese account of Mao's great famine, page 83

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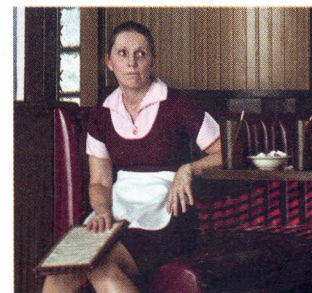
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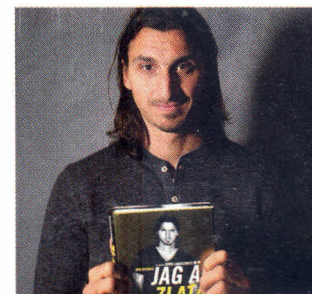
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