

# TODAY

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**HOT NEWS-5**

## Slow start to premium school transport service



## The S'porean in the digital ether: An evolving identity

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**SINGAPORE** – In this “Wild Wild West” as the Internet has been called, individuals and communities band together to speak out on policies, raise petitions for causes they believe in and aid hapless tourists.

On the flip side, lynch mobs and vigilantes thrive in this space, and bad behaviour often ends up amplified.

Without a doubt, like many around the world, Singaporeans are turning to the Internet to spark positive change in their society, as recent incidents have shown. Observers and netizens say this is an online manifestation of a change in Singapore society — with people less afraid of expressing their views — but several



also point to the Internet's role in helping to catalyse this vocality. But with the good, comes the bad and the ugly. As many observers have pointed out, the Internet has brought out the best and worst in Singaporeans. The hope is that, over time, as more Singaporeans become comfortable with the medium and speak out against trolls — there are some signs of this, experts and bloggers point out — behaviour online will veer towards healthier norms.

To Dr Terence Chong, a sociologist and senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singaporeans do not behave worse online than offline. “But because the Internet allows for split-second reactions, the most poorly thought out sentiments and responses are captured for all to see,” he said. “The instantaneity, publicness and permanency

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PHOTO: JASON QUAH

**FUN AND GAMES FOR WORKERS** Construction workers who have been building the new Yale-NUS campus dancing with Yale-NUS students during a music performance at an appreciation carnival yesterday. Around 500 workers who hail from China, India and Bangladesh, attended the carnival, which featured various performances and games and where the workers got to interact with Yale-NUS students and faculty.

## Rehabilitation, reintegration crucial to terror fight: PM Lee

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**SINGAPORE** – Security action is needed to tackle the threat of jihadi terrorism, but this alone will not root out extremism — the religious and social dimensions must also be addressed in the war against terror, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Not only must apprehended terrorists be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society, there is also a need to guide Muslim communities and prevent perverted and dangerous ideas from catching on, as well as build a multi-religious society that is harmonious and integrated, said Mr Lee.

And making progress in this fight is also contingent on the support of the Muslim community and leaders. “One important reason we

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## SINGAPORE, JAPAN WELCOME BILL'S INTRODUCTION

# Obama given fast-track authority to wrap up TPP

*Lawmakers across both sides of political divide back Trade Promotion Authority Bill*

**WASHINGTON** – A mammoth trans-Pacific free-trade pact central to United States President Barack Obama's strategic pivot to Asia has received a timely boost, after senior American lawmakers agreed on a Bill to give the White House “fast track” author-

ity to negotiate the accord.

The move was welcomed by Singapore and Japan, two nations involved in the negotiations for the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

A buoyant Mr Obama immediately said he would sign the Bill if Congress passed it. “It's no secret that past trade deals haven't always lived up to their promise,” he said in a statement.

“And that's why I will only sign my name to an agreement that helps or-



I will only sign my name to an agreement that helps ordinary Americans get ahead.

**Mr Barack Obama**  
U.S. PRESIDENT

inary Americans get ahead.”

In Singapore, a Ministry of Trade and Industry spokesman said the Republic “welcomes the introduction of the TPA Bill”, referring to the legislation to give Mr Obama the fast-track trade promotion authority.

“The TPP is an important agreement for Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region. Strong US Congressional support is critical to bring TPP negotiations to a final conclusion,” the

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