

WORLD NEWS



TAIWAN An investigation has been launched in Taiwan, into the construction of a building that collapsed during an earthquake on Saturday, killing at least 33 people.

The 17-storey Wei-guan Golden dragon Building in Tainan City was the only high-rise building to collapse during the 6.7-magnitude earthquake.

Witnesses have reported that the building's collapse exposed blue and white oil cans, which appear to have been used as filler inside some of the concrete beams.

It has also been reported by Reuters that one Taiwanese bank had a policy of rejecting loan requests from residents of the building, citing its poor construction.

The mayor of Tainan, William Lai, said civil engineers had been brought in to investigate the construction of the 20-year-old building, adding, "When it's completed, we'll punish those who should be held accountable."

AUSTRALIA

Light rail project

An Acciona joint venture has agreed a deal to build a 12 km light rail route in Sydney, Australia, worth AU\$2.1 billion (US\$ 1.5 billion).

The project, which aims to help with the reduction of congestion, comprises a 12 km track, 19 stops, a bridge over the Eastern Distributor toll road, a tunnel under Moore Park, Control Centre facilities, housing for the light rail vehicles, a maintenance depot, and substations with other service buildings along the route.

The new light rail network will carry up to 15% more passengers during peak hour and provide 33% more seats across the day.

The joint venture, Altrac Light Rail, includes Acciona, Transdev Sydney, Alstom Transport Australia and Capella Capita.

Construction will begin in April this year, with services expected to start operating in early 2019. The new light rail network is expected to provide more than AU\$4 billion in benefits to the economy, while creating 10,000 jobs.

INDIA

Power plant contract

Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction has been awarded a 350 billion won (US\$ 294.35 million) contract to build three boilers for a thermal power plant in Bihar, India.

The project – awarded by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) – comprises three 660 MW boilers in its Barh Super Thermal Power Station.

The project is expected to be completed in October 2018.

Meanwhile, the company expects to receive additional orders from India, where the power generation industry is estimated to grow, according to Son Chang-seob, managing director of Doosan Power Systems India.

In a bid to expand its presence in the Indian power generation market, Doosan Heavy Industries adopted a localisation strategy through the acquisition of AE&E Chennai Works Private, a local manufacturer of industrial goods, in 2011, to set up Doosan Power Systems India.

DUBAI

Arabtec results

Dubai-based Arabtec – which helped build the Burj Khalifa – has released its results for 2015, revealing a loss of US\$ 626 million.

In its report, the company – which is backed by Abu Dhabi's state-run Aabar Investments – said its revenues for the year were also -12% down on 2014.

Arabtec cited the "continuing difficult environment...and the challenging economic backdrop" among its reasons for the poor performance, but also admitted a number of poorly performing projects had adversely affected its bottom line.

In 2014, Arabtec signed a US\$ 40 billion deal to build a million affordable homes in Dubai – a project which has been beset by confusion and stoppages. In the same year, the company's CEO unexpectedly departed.

Acting CEO, Saeed Al Mehairbi, said the company was now pursuing "...a more selective approach to project tendering, ensuring new projects deliver appropriate returns".

EVENTS DIARY

2016

World of Asphalt

March 22 – 24, 2016
Nashville, USA
www.worldofasphalt.com

Bauma

April 11 – 17, 2016
Munich, Germany
www.bauma.de

Hillhead

June 28 – 30, 2016
Buxton, UK
www.hillhead.com

Bauma China

November 22 – 25
Shanghai, China
www.bauma-china.com

Bauma ConExpo India

Dec 12-15, 2016
Delhi, India
www.bcindia.com

2017

Samoter

February 22 – 25, 2017
Verona, Italy
www.samoter.it

ConExpo-Con/Agg

March 7 – 11, 2017
Las Vegas, US
www.conexpoconagg.com

SMOPYC

April 4 – 7, 2017
Zaragoza, Spain
www.smopyc.es

APEX

(International Access Equipment Exhibition)

May 2-4, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.apexshow.com

International Rental Exhibition (IRE)

May 2-4, 2017
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.IREshow.com

Plantworx 2017

June 6-8, 2017
Bruntingthorpe, UK
www.plantworx.co.uk