



OPERATION
SANTA CLAUS

South China Morning Post 



SMALL CHANGE



Operation Santa Claus
愛心聖誕大行動

Annual Report
2014



BIG

CHANGE

Independent Charity Advisor

惠施・捐獻文化
WiseGiving



WHAT IS OPERATION SANTA CLAUS?

.....

All good stories about gift giving begin at Christmas, and Operation Santa Claus is no different.

Its roots stretch back to the 1960s when RTHK Radio 3 presenters performed public stunts to raise money for charity, such as jumping into Victoria Harbour, climbing flagpoles and giving rooftop poetry recitals. In the 1970s, the government gave Hongkongers the Community Chest – an official body for receiving charitable donations – which all but put an end to charity fundraising at Christmas.

By the 1980s, worries about Hong Kong's future sparked a renewed interest in charity fundraising as a way of spreading optimism and positivity throughout society. And so, in 1988, Operation Santa Claus was born.

The first campaign set out to raise HK\$100,000. In 1989, the *South China Morning Post* began covering beneficiaries' stories every day throughout December which helped smash the campaign's total target of HK\$150,000 in the first week. Today, Operation Santa Claus has raised over HK\$230,000,000 for charitable causes since 1988, and has benefited some 214 worth projects. Now *that* is a tradition of gift giving that the people Hong Kong can be proud of.

.....

Mission:

To connect the local community to charities by leveraging the voices of two of the city's most respected media organisations, and to share the gift of hope to those who lack the means to improve their lives.

Campaign Organisers:

- South China Morning Post (SCMP)
- Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

Honorary Patron:

- Mrs Regina Leung

Beneficiary Selection Committee (Comprising representatives of):

- SCMP
- RTHK Radio
- OSC Secretariat
- OSC major donors
- WiseGiving of Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Independent advisory body:

- WiseGiving of Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Operation Santa Claus is a charity project of SCMP Charities Limited – a registered charity under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance. (Inland Revenue File No.: 91/7320)



CONTENTS

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What is Operation Santa Claus?	2
Section 1: Overview	4
Section 2: Special Events	6
Section 3: Donors' Fundraising Events	8
Section 4: Publicity and Marketing	12
Section 5: OSC 2013 Projects Achievements	14
Section 6: Personal Stories	17
Section 7: OSC 2014 Funding Projects	19
Section 8: Financial Highlights	22
Section 9: List of Donors	23
Section 10: News Clippings	27

SECTION 1

OSC

2014

OVERVIEW



- (1)

From left: Director of Broadcasting Roy Tang, Dr Lawrence Fung Siu-por representing PMQ, Chief Secretary Carrie Lam, G.O.D. founder Douglas Young, actress Corinna Chamberlain, SCMP editor-in-chief Wang Xiangwei at the Operation Santa Claus opening ceremony at PMQ.
- (2)

The main guests at the Operation Santa Claus closing ceremony. From left: SCMP editor-in-chief Wang Xiangwei, Operation Santa Claus project director Ellen Yeung, Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital deputy medical superintendent Dr Joseph Chan, Director of Broadcasting Roy Tang, Executive Council member Anna Wu, UBS chief communication officer Asia-Pacific Rob Stewart, American International School director of admissions and development Teresa Wong, venue sponsor Greg De'eb of Crown Wine Cellars, Bank of America Merrill Lynch head of global corporate services Asia-Pacific Bob Kee.

OSC and its beneficiaries

once again thank Hong-

kongers for their kindness

Held between 10 November 2014 and 21 January 2015, OSC 2014 marked the 27th time, the *South China Morning Post* (SCMP) and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) have joined forces to persuade Hongkongers to share their good fortune with the needy. To date, OSC donors' kindness and compassion has succeeded in raising over HK\$230,000,000 for some 214 deserving projects.

Each year's OSC opening ceremony attracts an audience of high-profile benefactors. This year was no exception with VIP attendees at the 10 November kick-off event including leading Cantopop star and actress Corinna Chamberlain who also kindly served as OSC Ambassador at the Police Married Quarters in Central. Officiating guest at this year's ceremony was the HKSAR Government's Chief Secretary, Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor.

The glittering line up at OSC 2014's evening cocktails closing ceremony on 21 January 2015 at event sponsor Crown Wine Cellar's prestigious Deep Water Bay premises was equally impressive. Guest of honor this time around Executive Council member Anna Wu Hung Yuk.



A very

successful year

OSC 2014 succeeded in raising a massive HK\$20,759,231 for its 20 beneficiaries. This was the second largest annual total in its 27-year history and only the second time funds raised have burst through the HK\$20,000,000 level. The sum raised included 28 major corporate donations of over HK\$150,000, plus contributions from 22 local schools.

The 10-week campaign involved over 40 donor events and attracted participants from across donating companies' staff, schools' students and indeed the local community at large. Along the way, OSC generated over 60 newspaper stories and 30 radio interviews via the SCMP, RTHK and other leading media channels.

OSC 2014 also Inspired Hong Kong Polytechnic University design students to pioneer an eye-catching "Small Change Big Change" ad campaign.

Gratifyingly, OSC 2014 succeeded in attracted more individual donations than in the previous year. In all, total contributions by individual donors surged from HK\$900,000 in 2013 to HK\$1,600,000 this time around. A measurable rise in funds collected by street fundraising teams was another major plus. In all, our volunteers were given the surprisingly large sum of about HK\$300,000 in small change coins via various donation boxes in retail outlets, plus donation booths at events like this year's Christmas fair and Candy Gram and OSC Santa Hat charity sale.

OSC 2014 broke further new ground and strengthened links with Non Government Organisations (NGOs) by hosting a leadership training programme for NGO executives. The resultant collaboration between OSC, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and UBS will inject around HK\$1,258,000 into a 10-month training course for NGO executives. The course will run from March to December 2015.



SECTION 2

OSC SPECIAL EVENTS

As always, OSC participants put the fun into fundraising

This year, seven special events organised by OSC and its supporters raised some HK\$1,252,000 and attracted many new participants to support worthy causes. As always, the purpose here was to increase public awareness of OSC by spreading goodwill and encouraging people to have fun while raising money for those less fortunate than themselves.



- (1) Polytechnic University lecturer Christopher Cheung (top left), with some of the students who got on-the-job training at the Post to come up with creative ideas.
- (2) Winners and judges of the MBA Challenge, part of Operation Santa Claus, are pictured at an event held at Swire Properties' Blueprint office space in Quarry Bay.
- (3) Donors enjoy the fun at the OSC Holiday Nite Quiz.
- (4) Model Jessica Cambensy gets taken for a charity ride in an iconic German sports car.
- (5) Volunteers from Sino Group of Hotels create artwork for Candy Gram packs with students from Hong Kong Red Cross Princess Alexandra School.



School partnerships

- Established a partnership with Hong Kong Polytechnic University's SPEED design school which was commissioned to mastermind an attention-grabbing OSC 2014 ad campaign. 12 teams of SPEED students subsequently developed top notch creative concepts around a variety of ideas with an entry called "Small Change, Big Change" eventually being cherry-picked for use as OSC 2014's ad campaign.
- Collaborated with City University of Hong Kong's English-major students in planning and implementing a social media campaign for OSC 2014.

MBA Charity Challenge 2014

NOV-DEC **HK\$767,000**

Held from 1 November to 31 December 2014, this second year of the MBA Charity Challenge attracted 15 MBA teams from seven local and overseas universities to go head on behalf of OSC and its beneficiaries. Participating teams devised, submitted and implemented sound business plans for the selling of Santa hats and other festive items to raise money for this year's various deserving causes.

Top Fundraiser was the V Care team from Manchester Business School who raised an extraordinary HK\$300,324 and won a dinner with the chief executive of Swire Properties. Also worthy of a mention are CityU's Team Hitchcock whose efforts contributed HK\$150,000 and were honoured with 2014's Best Business Plan Award. Our thanks to major sponsor Swire for providing grand prizes and seed money for each team.

Website: <http://osc.scmp.com/mbachallenge>

OSC Holiday Nite Quiz

8 DEC **HK\$25,000**

On the evening of 8 December 2014, around 100 people formed into 20 teams and joined the OSC 2014 Holiday Nite Quiz at Grappa's Wine Cellar in Jardine House. The entrance fee for each team member was HK\$200 with a free drink from host, Grappa's. The event proved hugely popular, raising over HK\$25,000.

#UberSANTA driven by Porsche

12-14 DEC **HK\$100,000**

Between 12 and 14 December 2014, ground breaking car-hailing app Uber partnered with Porsche Hong Kong in hosting a wonderful three day benefit for OSC that raised over HK\$100,000.

The initiative enabled users to hail exclusive chauffeur-driven Porsches such as the legendary 911 Cabriolet from the high-end German car marque's exclusive range for as little as HK\$200!

BROOKS HK 15kms Charity Run Challenge

14 DEC **HK\$300,000**

A new event - A collaboration between the Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association and leading sports brand Brooks - took place at Sheung Shui on 14 December 2014. In all, 1,400 participants including 67 individual and 127 charity runners from six corporate teams - OCBC Wing Hang Bank Ltd., Trinity Ltd., IDS Medical Systems HK Ltd., Li & Fung Trading Limited, Toys 'R' Us Asia and the SCMP Group - took part.

Special thanks must be given to eventual Corporate Champion, OCBC Wing Hang Bank and to key sponsor Brooks for kindly providing sports shoes for six members of the Championship winning team and special edition T-shirts for all 127 individual runners.

Hike across Hong Kong Island

20 DEC **HK\$10,200**

A team of 12 Radio 3 and RTHK newsroom staff and their friends raised some HK\$10,200 for OSC by taking part in a 12km sponsored hike across Hong Kong Island. The team was organised by the head of R3, Jim Gould, and included radio personalities Crystal Kwok, Karen Koh, Noreen Mir, Samentha Butler, Mike Weeks and Tom Latter.

The 20 December hike started at Hong Kong Park in Admiralty and finished at Tai Tam Road near Stanley.

Candy Gram Charity Sale

DEC **HK\$60,000**

A one-off Candy Gram package containing a specially designed OSC 2014 Xmas card, jelly beans and OSC-branded wristband was created for sale to the public, schools and students. The HK\$30 packages were a big hit and raised over HK\$60,000 for this year's OSC beneficiaries.

SECTION 3

DONORS' FUNDRAISING EVENTS



An appeal that touched hearts across all walks of life

OSC has long been renowned for its across-the-board ability to attract and engage supporters, donors and participants of all genders, ages and income groups. This year was another fine example of OSC's inclusiveness with 28 major donors (MJs) each donating at least HK\$150,000 while 22 school donors contributed HK\$483,315 and 12 clubs and associations chipped in HK\$190,585.

Other donors organised various additional highly effective fundraising activities of their own. Examples ranged from walkathons and charity sales to game days, fancy dress parties and school football and basketball tournaments.



- (1) Players take part in the Wing Ding squash tournament at the Football Club in Happy Valley.
- (2) Students from the American International School dress up for a school fundraising event.
- (3) Harsh House Harriers Club members dress up as Santa for Santa Hash.
- (4) UBS staff members dress in costumes for a company-wide charity auction.



Swire Properties staff join professional dancers in Santa Claus outfits during a flashmob performance for OSC 2014 in Quarry Bay.



TOP CORPORATE FUNDRAISERS AND AWARDWEES

UBS Fancy Dress Party



12 DEC

HK\$4,927,366

This year's top corporate donor was UBS which raised over HK\$4,900,000. In addition to generous donations from the trading floor, their week-long fundraising drive featured a wide array of exciting staff activities including a fancy dress party.

The 12th Morgan Stanley's Director's Choir

11 DEC

HK\$3,312,446

2014 marked the 12th year Morgan Stanley staff have joined local children in a Directors Choir singalong at the ICC. The event went on to break the bank's past fundraising record by generating a massive HK\$3,300,000 for the needy.

The 11th Wing Ding Squash Tournament



22 NOV

HK\$1,224,915.4

The 140 players and 14 teams, each with its own coloured costume, who dashed around the seven courts at the Football Club raised a whopping HK\$1,224,915.4 for this year's good causes.

Swire Properties - Swire's White Christmas Street Fair

2-4 DEC

HK\$1,000,000

This three-day long Yuletide bazaar was held in Tong Chong Street and tempted funlovers with delicious festive food, games, live entertainment and Christmas market stalls.

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital



15 DEC

HK\$679,914

Doctors, nurses and support staff happily joined the month-long "Jump Rope Challenge" to raise money for the less fortunate.

The hospital team's hard work, passion and sense of fun eventually earned them OSC 2014's Most Creative Fundraiser Award.

American International School



28 NOV

HK\$12,907

Students took part in a Dress Red and Green fundraising day for Operation Santa Claus.

Discovery Mind Kindergarten



15 NOV

HK\$120,000

About 500 youngsters and their families brought Christmas to Discovery Bay during the 9th annual Discovery Mind charity walk.

Santa Hash

7 DEC

HK\$75,000

Some 200 members of 13 local Hash House Harriers clubs dressed up as Santa and showed their care for the deserving by running a series of 4km to 7km hill trails in Braemar Hill and Shau Kei Wan followed by a post-run beer or three!

MAJOR DONORS

FOR 15 YEARS:

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch



Morgan Stanley

SWIRE PACIFIC

UBS

FOR OVER 10 YEARS:

CREDIT SUISSE

J.P.Morgan

宏利
Manulife
For your future™

信和集團
Sino Group



擇善
ZESHAN
FOUNDATION

FOR OVER 5 YEARS:

CLIFFORD
CHANCE

FANCL

養和醫院
Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

美心
Maxim's

FOR 2 YEARS:

中信銀行(國際)
CHINA CITIC BANK INTERNATIONAL

大新銀行
DAH SING BANK

DEACONS
的近律師行

ETAK International Ltd
Since 1969 45

馮氏(1906)慈善基金有限公司
FUNG (1906) FOUNDATION LIMITED

Melco 新濠

PACIFIC PLACE

SEGANTII

SWIRE PROPERTIES

惠康 wellcome

MOST RECENT:

THE REAL LIFE
COMPANY

HANG SENG BANK

Kowloon Shangri-La
HONG KONG



- (1) Morgan Stanley Asia-Pacific co-chief executive officer Gokul Laroia helps Santa ensure one group of children feel the warmth of the festive season.
- (2) Bankers from Bank of America make the cut in a charity drive at Clearwater Bay Club.
- (3) Children and members of the Paediatric Rheumatism Association with Santa Claus at Pacific Place.
- (4) Dr Joseph Chan Woon-tong and Walton Li Wai-tat of the HK Sanatorium Hospital organized a rope jumping competition with nurses to raise funds.

- (5) AIA Group chief operations officer Simeon Preston (centre) joins the charity run at Happy Valley racecourse.
- (6) Melco Group brings Santa to meet pupils from Red Cross Margaret Trench School at the Christmas party.
- (7) Montse Ferrer, Peter Charlton and Rebecca Roth-Biester help Clifford Chance raise money.
- (8) Operation Santa Claus charity walk with Discovery Mind Kindergarten in Discovery Bay.
- (9) Santa poses for pictures with corporate players during Operation Santa Claus' 5-a-side Football Tournament at Stanley Ho Sports Field in Sandy Bay.

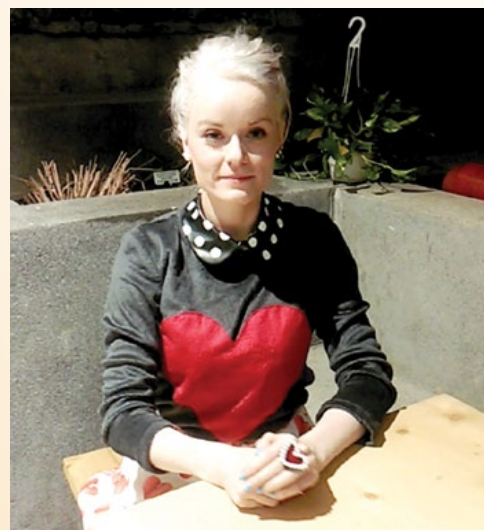


Local TV star Wong Cho Lam is filmed doing magic tricks.

SECTION 4

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

Yet another year of impactful publicity and marketing support



Pop star Corinna Chamberlain is presented with an OSC Santa hat.

OSC 2014 once again saw the SCMP and RTHK's well-oiled publicity machine succeed in measurably adding to public awareness of both beneficiary organisations and their projects. Specific examples of publicity included over 60 newspaper stories and 30 radio interviews in the SCMP, on RTHK and via various other leading media operators. Several prominent local celebrities also showed their enthusiastic support for the campaign, while online platforms such as the OSC 2014 website (osc.scmp.com) and Facebook page also played their part.

Celebrity Support

In 2014, OSC continued its long tradition of attracting leading local celebrities to volunteer time for itself and its beneficiaries free of charge. This time around those happily lending a helping hand to the OSC cause included leading local TV star Wong Cho Lam who filmed several fun videos performing mystifying magic tracks. The videos were subsequently uploaded to YouTube. Following the short performances, Wong Cho Lam urged viewers to try the tricks out on their friends. He concluded each spot by saying, "One doesn't need magic tricks to make a donation. So go ahead and donate to OSC." Local magician "Miss Hunny" also joined him in the coin challenge.

In her capacity as OSC 2014 Ambassador pop star Corinna Chamberlain performed at the opening ceremony and encouraged everyone to donate on social media. Hong Kong movie actress Cherry Ngan was another who joined the campaign and helped boost sales of OSC-branded Santa Claus hats in a series of adverts that ran in *Young Post* and *Cosmopolitan*.



Print, Radio, Online marketing

- Generated over 60 newspaper stories and 30 radio interviews in the SCMP, on RTHK and in other media outlets
- Ran daily social media updates on Facebook and Instagram and achieved a 50% increase in Facebook "likes"
- OSC 2014's opening and closing ceremonies were broadcast live on RTHK Radio 3
- Donors and beneficiaries were regularly interviewed on RTHK radio programmes
- Details of school activities were regularly published in *Young Post*
- The MBA Challenge was covered online in various feature stories in *Education Post*
- Outdoor media included a prominently located lightbox outside the SCMP's office on Leighton Road in Causeway Bay
- Extended publicity to include OSC 2014 adverts in *Cosmopolitan*, *CosmoGirl!* and *HK Magazine*



Actress Cherry Ngan dons the OSC hat to whip up publicity and donations.

SECTION 5

2013
PROJECT
ACHIEVEMENTS

A level of kindness and compassion that benefited 18 very deserving causes

OSC 2013's donors' generosity ultimately funded and benefitted some 18 charitable projects across the following five areas:

- Children & Youth
- Community
- Elderly
- Medical
- Physical & Mental Disabilities

In May 2014, OSC 2013's deserving causes were subsequently awarded up to HK\$360,000 in extra funding to extend either their project's duration or reach.

Whilst still fairly new, all 18 beneficiaries' projects have already succeeded in using their additional funding to generate significant impact on people right across Hong Kong. Particular highlights include OSC-supported charity Sailability's sending of a team of para sailors to the 2014 Para Asia Games in Korea. The team eventually returned home with a bronze medal. For details of other major project landmarks, please refer to the table on pages 15-16.



- (1) CY with Autism Spectrum Disorder receives treatment at the Rainbow Project Centre.
- (2) Bing Me a Book spreads a love of reading to children in the community.
- (3) In an historic first for Hong Kong, Foo Yuen Wai wins the bronze medal in the 2.4mR sail racing event at the 2014 Incheon Para Asian Games. The boat he sails is named "Operation Santa Claus", one of the two boats paid for with the OSC 2013 donations for Sailability Hong Kong, a charity trust for training disabled sailors.

ORGANISATION

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Bring Me a Book
Book Spark: Igniting the Love of Reading for Life

28 Parent-child reading corners and 56 First Teacher Training for parents had been set up and conducted respectively in 20 schools and 8,000 children benefited.

Changing Young Lives Foundation
Kiddies Land

160 underprivileged children from 2 to 5 years old benefited from stimulating cognitive, social and emotional development through various learning activities at the CYLF centre.

Chi Heng Foundation
Heroes in the Mirror

Adapted the Hero Book programme in China to help psychosocial development in 220 high school students affected by HIV.

Half the Sky Foundation
Half the Sky Infant Nurture Programs in Huangshi, Luoyang, and Qingyuan, China

162 orphaned babies living in three social welfare institutions in China were given parental care and love by trained nannies.

Rainbow Project
Low Income Subsidy Project

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in 33 low income families were provided with subsidised therapy treatments.

Watchdog Early Education Centre
Maximising Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Programming for Children with Special Educational Needs

400 children with special education needs benefited from the upgrading of the services of Occupational Therapy and physiotherapy facility.

COMMUNITY

Animals Asia Foundation
Dr Dog Animal-Assisted Therapy Programme

Animals Asia's therapy dogs and enthusiastic Dr Dog volunteers made around 200 visits to elderly homes and other care facilities.

Habitat for Humanity China
Sichuan Post-Earthquake Rebuilding Project

Around 1,400 families affected by the Sichuan Earthquake in 2013 were resettled in the Community. Construction of main framework for 22 units of 4-storey houses has been completed.

The Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge
Shelter For Women Migrants In Crisis

350 women migrant workers in vulnerable situations were given safe shelter and access to critical help, counselling and support networks.

ELDERLY

Charles K. Kao Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease
Outings for Dementia Patients and Caregivers

600 dementia patients with their families benefited from experiencing new routines through 6 outings.

Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association
Fee Assistance Scheme for Specialised Dementia Day Care Services

64 elders with dementia from low income families have been provided with specialised dementia day care services.

ORGANISATION

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

MEDICAL

Children Medical Foundation
A Chance at Life for Rural Newborns

A team of doctors and nurses received neonatal medical training and support equipment. 600 newborns babies in rural China received life-saving medical help.

Lions Kidney Educational Centre & Research Foundation
Purchase of Medical Equipment

Purchased and replaced 3 haemodialysis machines, 1,000 elderly kidney patients who were in financial difficulty benefited.

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre
Maggie's Music Therapy

303 cancer patients joined Maggie's Music Therapy and learnt to cope with stress and pain through playing musical instruments and singing.

MENTAL & PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

The Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association
Sweetie Land

Early Intervention for infants with Down's Syndrome were provided by Sweetie Land. 70 children and their families benefited.

Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired
Therapeutic Services for Visually Impaired Children

42 visually impaired students received necessary Therapeutic Services in school.

Sailability Hong Kong
Para Asia Games 2014

21 paraplegic sailors were provided the opportunity to learn to sail. A team of sailors also took part in the Para Asia Games in Korea and won a bronze medal.

Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth
Replacement of Existing Rehab Bus

A new rehab bus is in operation to provide 1000 rides each year.



- (1) Half The Sky trains nannies to provide parental care and services to orphaned children in China.
- (2) Changing Youth Lives Foundation provides learning activities for underprivileged children in Sham Shui Po.
- (3) A new rehab bus from the Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth.
- (4) Wing Sum, who has Down's Syndrome, follows 2-step instruction training from SweetieLand to strengthen her cognition, communication and interpersonal skills.



SECTION 6

PERSONAL STORIES



Peggy, Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre

1 A mother's love lives forever in song

Peggy, now 34 years old, is a young lady who was diagnosed with stage III ovarian cancer in 2013, just several days before giving birth to her son. She has received various treatments and is now in palliative care. Peggy was well aware that she might leave this world any time and the only thing that she couldn't let go was that her son would lose the memory of his mother when he grows up.

With Maggie's staff's invitation, Peggy joined the Song Writing Programme, one of Maggie's Music Therapy programmes funded by Operation Santa Claus, to compose her own song and lyrics to express her feelings and words to her son. Her song was then recorded into a CD as a gift to her son.

Peggy expressed that "after I created the song, I felt so relieved, released and comforted and, most importantly, connected with my son even in the future. I feel so grateful to Maggie's Centre and the funded programme which could help me cope effectively with the emotional challenges and distress during my cancer journey."

"Despite the fluctuations and near-death experiences, Peggy is determined to continue to stay at her best, especially with the hope to raise her son and with the continued support of Maggie's," says Ms May Cheng, Programme and Volunteer Development Manager of Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre.

2 Stepping on the road to recovery

Yu Lam is a cheerful girl aged 7 who is studying in Primary 1 at Ebenezer School in Hong Kong. She was diagnosed as cone rod dystrophy and global delay. Her visual ability was seriously affected with severe low vision, and she had obesity and flat feet.

With the OSC funding, physiotherapist offered Yu Lam weekly group training to improve her physical abilities. Individualised exercise therapy and training were prescribed to focus on correcting her recent problem of posture, balance, coordination and problem solving skills.

"After 8 months of physiotherapy and gross motor training, Yu Lam has shown impressive improvement in balance and coordination. She walks up stairs or down stairs at a faster pace, more efficiently and more independently," said Jacky Leung Chun Keung, Physiotherapist. "Also, she is more active in participating in physical activities and more independent when solving problems during gross motor training and scenarios of daily orientation and mobility."



Yu Lam, Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired



Yuantao, Half the Sky Foundation

3 The brave boy who learnt to smile

When Yuantao joined Half the Sky's Infant Nurture programme in Guiyang as a one-year old baby, he was very weak. He could not raise his head, seldom smiled and always cried. Yuantao's nanny, Xiong Fang, tried to comfort him, but without success. Still, she persisted. Day after day, Xiong Fang held Yuantao close and spoke to him reassuringly. Slowly, Yuantao started to change. Yuantao followed his now beloved nanny with his eyes, wiggled his arms and feet excitedly when he saw her, learned to sit up and, best of all, started smiling!

"Thanks to Operation Santa Claus, all the nannies in Guiyang are better qualified to handle the challenges of their jobs. All the nannies have received training and taken a certification test to ensure they have absorbed the material. But the real proof is their patient nurturing of the 24 children at Half the Sky's Children's Center in Guiyang," says Carmen Lau, Director of Development of Half the Sky Foundation (Asia) Limited. "So much has changed for the children. There are new mats and shelves in the playroom, new toys and most important, new smiles and laughter."

Hero Book Programme



Xiaolei, Chi Heng Foundation

4 Finding strength by supporting others

Xiaolei, 19 years old grew up in rural Henan. Despite disabilities in his legs, he had done well in school. However he learned that he had contracted HIV when he visited a doctor four years ago. When neighbours began distancing themselves, he lost all hope and even contemplated suicide.

"The Hero Book programme, sponsored by Operation Santa Claus, provided financial support to Xiaolei to enable him to continue his education and gave him a unique opportunity to rebuild his self-confidence through the Hero Book workshop," says Mr Leroy Lam, Operations Director of Chi Heng Foundation. "In the beginning, he kept to himself. With encouragement from facilitators and fellow students, he turned around and became a big brother to the younger students. He was the MC at the workshop is farewell celebration party."

Xiaolei now wants to be the founder of a company and have a family of his own. In his workshop feedback, he said, "The Hero Book workshop helped us realise our inner strength and rediscover our self-confidence. I am actually not weak at all. I feel good and I am very grateful!"



- (1) Hong Kong Red Cross Margaret Trench School
- (2) Remar Association (Hong Kong) Ltd.
- (3) Children's Medical Foundation



SECTION 7

2014 FUNDING PROJECTS

A gratifying 26% rise in applications from potential beneficiaries

The call for proposals from potential OSC 2014 beneficiaries began on 3 June 2014 in ads in the SCMP and via website banner ads and eNewsletters from the Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS). By the 7 July 2014 closing date, some 106 applications had been received. This figure represents a sizeable 26% rise over the 84 applications received the previous year.

The Selection Committee for OSC 2014 comprised eight representatives from five major local organisations: The SCMP (x2), RTHK (x2), OSC, various donors (x2) and the HKCSS.

Selection criteria for OSC 2014 included:

- Project themes
- Project sustainability
- Economic feasibility
- Number of beneficiaries
- Favoured material plan (with tangible items)
- Small organisations with less fundraising ability
- History of past OSC funding
- Well managed organisation
- Transparency

20 charities across six areas (Children & Youth, Community, Environmental, Elderly, Medical Issues, and Physical & Mental Disabilities) were selected as being deserving of OSC 2014's support. Please see page 20-21 for details.

Project Monitoring

All beneficiaries of OSC campaigns are required to submit:

- In-depth project progress reports and presentations
- Detailed summaries of their past achievements and current financial status

OSC staff will also regularly conduct site visits to beneficiaries and request information from beneficiaries' staff in order to monitor project progress.



ORGANISATION	PROJECT CONTENT	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
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CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Rainbow Project Company	To subsidise therapy treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) children from low-income families.	30 low-income families
Benji's Centre	The project aims to provide professional one-on-one speech therapy service to children from low-income families.	30 speech delayed children
Project Space	To mobilise volunteers to clean up and repair homes of families living in a substandard home environment.	50 families living in extreme home environments
Children's Medical Foundation	A specialised Neonatal Care Unit (NCU) with proper equipment will be established and urgent financial assistance will be provided to under-resourced families in Yunnan, China.	600 newborn each year at the NCU; 40 families to benefit from the financial assistance
Sowers Action	To provides all-care support and family-like environment to abandoned children in Shuifu County.	56 children
Morning Tears Hong Kong	To publish national training materials for child protection, and further equip its key staff with the necessary skills to enable them to train more caregivers.	145 children
Diabetes Hongkong	To educate and counsel people with diabetes, their caretakers, and those who are at risk.	2,000 people with diabetes and their caretakers

MEDICAL

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre	To support patients who suffered from cancer to cope with stress effectively through relaxation practices of Maggie's Mind-Body Relaxation Program.	30 low-income families
Hong Kong Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation	To provide Occupational therapy, self-management programme, exercise class, hydrotherapy and physiotherapy programmes to patients.	2124 patients and 296 family members
Centre for Community Cultural Development	Music therapy will be conducted for stroke survivors with aphasia to improve patients' quality of life.	30 stroke survivors and 30 family members
Hong Kong Paediatric Rheumatism Association	To provide financial support to young rheumatic patients to procure medication, rehabilitation equipment, home care support and for those require emergency needs.	555 patients and family members
Lions Kidney Educational Centre & Research Foundation	To improve the existing healthcare facilities with the provision of a Reverse Osmosis Central Water Treatment System.	70-80 kidney patients per year

COMMUNITY

Remar Association	To purchase a new truck to collect old furniture and unwanted goods for resale after restoration, the profit will be used for supporting Remar's rehabilitation programme.	Over 60 drug and alcohol rehabilitators
Association Concerning Sexual Violence Against Women	To set up a legal clinic to educate victims in legal knowledge and raise public awareness through talks, exhibitions and legal research.	7,745 person in need
PathFinders	To raise public awareness on migrant workers' rights, and educate them on employee rights, maternity rights, family planning, pregnancy and health.	1,140 workshop attendees

ORGANISATION	PROJECT CONTENT	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
--------------	-----------------	-------------------------

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES

HandsOn Hong Kong	To employ and train adults with intellectual disabilities to deliver fruit boxes to office pantries of participating companies.	50-100 adults with intellectual disabilities
Hong Kong Red Cross Margaret Trench School	To provide four sets of electrical feeding device to students with severe physical disabilities.	4 severely handicapped students
Art in Hospital	To conduct workshops to help psychiatric patients express feelings and create personal journals through photography and contemporary mixed media.	360 patients, their carers, and hospital staff

ELDERLY

Charles K. Kao Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease	To organise workshops for children, youths, caregivers and demented elderly to interact through toys.	180 dementia patients, children and youth
---	---	---

ENVIRONMENTAL

Foodlink Foundation	To collect surplus edible food from school and donate it to the needy.	To provide up to 250 meals per day
---------------------	--	------------------------------------



UBS OSC NGO Leadership Programme

2014’s establishment of the nine-month-long OSC UBS Leadership Training Programme (LTP) has enabled OSC to reach a whole new level. LTP staff support leaders from small and mid-size local NGOs subsequently work closely with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in developing their business management and financial skills. The NGOs are also shown how to more effectively build peer networks so as to maximise their resources and impact. Aside from providing funds, UBS and CUHK appoint staff to serve as mentors in areas such as financial control, management and marketing. The course will run from March to November 2015.

This year, OSC 2014’s Selection Committee earmarked a total 24 NGOs and corporations from a total of 70 applications across the community service sector.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OSC 2014 raised HK\$20,854,000 through donations, which is the second highest amount recorded during its 27-year history. The majority of this sum – some 80 per cent – came from corporate donations. Other sources of income included donations from the general public, bank interest and surplus rolled over from previous OSC campaigns, bringing the total amount to HK\$22,381,000.

Significantly, 2014 generated more individual donations than in previous years – a total of HK\$1,600,000 compared to HK\$900,000 in 2013 – an increase of around 80 per cent.

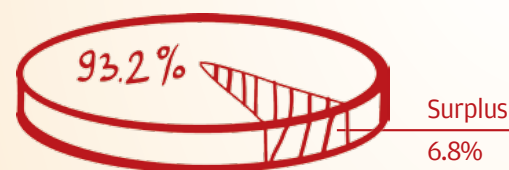
This year's campaign also attracted more donations from street fundraising – much of it in the form of small change dropped in collection boxes. Locations such as retail outlets, donation booths, Christmas fairs and this year's Candy Gram and Santa Hat charity sale contributed an additional HK\$300,000 to aid OSC's efforts on behalf of the disadvantaged.

As always, the SCMP and RTHK met essential costs such as transportation and postage and did everything possible to maintain minimal project administration and fundraising expenses at a level of around 4 per cent. For full details, please refer to the detailed audit we will make available in September 2015.

Total Income:

22,381,000

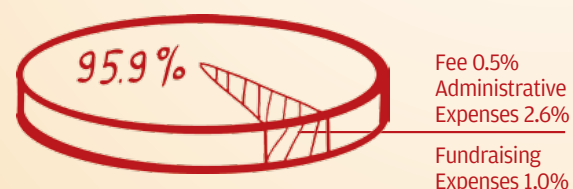
Donations



Total Expenditure:

21,384,000

Donations



Income:

Items	HK\$ ('000)	%
Donations	20,854	93.2
Surplus	1,527	6.8
Total	22,381	100

Expenditure:

Items	HK\$ ('000)	%
Donations (included 1st and 2nd disbursement)	20,513	95.9
Fundraising Expenses	209	1.0
Administrative Expenses	565	2.6
Fee	97	0.5
Total	21,384	100

Note: These figures are unaudited.

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SECTION 10

OSC 2014 NEWS



CLIPPINGS

COVERAGE

PAGE

BENEFICIARIES

Rainbow Project	30
Chi Heng Foundation	31
Sailability Hong Kong	32
Morning Tears Hong Kong	33
Rainbow Project	34
Children's Medical Foundation	35
Sowers Action	36
RainLily	37
Foodlink Foundation	38
Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre	39
Lions Kidney Educational Centre and Research Foundation	40
Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation	41
Centre For Community Cultural Development	42
Paediatric Rheumatism Association	43
Project Space	44
Diabetes Hong Kong	45
Hong Kong Red Cross Margaret Trench School	46
Sowers Action	47
HandsOn	48
Charles K Kao Foundation	49
Art in Hospital	50
Foodlink Foundation	51
Remar Association	58
Benji's Centre	60

EVENTS

OSC 2014 Opening Ceremony	52
OSC 15km Run by Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association	53
Polytechnic University On-the-job Training At The Post	54
OSC MBA Challenge Presentation	55
OSC 2014 Closing Ceremony	56

CORPORATE DONORS

Wing Ding Squash Tournament Top Fundraiser	56
Sino Group of Hotels Artwork Creation	58
Wing Ding Squash Tournament	59
Credit Suisse Hong Kong	60
FAS Football Tournament	61

COVERAGE

PAGE

CORPORATE DONORS

Toys"R"Us Christmas Card Charity Sale At Stores	62
Hang Seng Bank Visit To OSC Beneficiary	63
Swire Properties Sprinkle Fun With Flashmob performance	64
Kowloon Shangri-La Launches Zentangle Artworks Event	65
Sino Group of Hotels Fundraising Event Launch Ceremony	66
Swire Properties Pacific Place Fundraising Event Launch Ceremony	67
Wellcome Visit to OSC Beneficiary	68
Bank of America Merrill Lynch Set Mini-Golf Course	69
Deacons Art For KIDSmas	70
Swire Volunteer Work With OSC Beneficiary	71
Manulife Dessert Class with OSC Beneficiary	72
Melco Group Sponsors OSC Beneficiary's Christmas Party	73
Morgan Stanley Directors' Choir	74
Sino Land Sino Art In Community	75
Maxim's Group Volunteer Work With OSC Beneficiary	76
UBS Dress Party	77
Bank of America Merrill Lynch Charity Golf day	78
HK Sanatorium Hospital Take Part In A Charity Jump Rope Challenge	79
Fung Group Joins The OSC 15KM Running Event	80
Dah Sing Bank Basketball Match	81
AIA Lap Race	82
Clifford Chance Annual Staff Charity Christmas Quiz	83
China Citic Bank International	84
Kowloon Shangri-La Unveil Record-Breaking Zentangle Artworks	85

SCHOOL DONORS

Discovery Mind Kindergarten Charity Walk 2014	86
Discovery Mind Kindergarten Charity Walk 2014	87
Korean Interantional School Students Raise Funds For OSC	88
Shun Tak Catholic English College Organised A Series Of Fundraising Activities	89

CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS

Santa Hash 2014	90
Solicitors' Carol Service At St. John's Cathedral	91
Sai Kung Christmas Quiz At The Hebe Haven Yacht Club	91
Lamma Island Treasure Hunts	91
Pok Fu Lam High West's Goodies Sale	91

6 Sunday, November 9, 2014

BRIEFS

Wars remembered in Cenotaph ceremony

Commemorations for the two world wars, including the 100th anniversary of the first world war, will take place today at the Cenotaph. The service, starting at 10.30am, will remember the men and women who defended Hong Kong. Guests from Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States will attend with government and parliamentarians officials. The event is organised by the Royal British Legion (Hong Kong and China Branch) and the Hong Kong Ex-Service-men's Association.

Occupiers warned to watch for thieves

Occupied Central protesters should be on the lookout for "suspicious characters" lurking near their camps, as police warned they were getting daily reports of crimes. In the early hours of yesterday an opportunistic thief bagged a mobile phone valued at HK\$800 while the victim slept beneath a footbridge near Harcourt Road, Admiralty. A police spokesman said criminals were taking advantage of the open-air protest sites. He reminded the public to always take care of their possessions.

Occupies link probed in assault on policeman

Police have condemned an incident on Friday night in which a police constable was attacked and suffered injuries to his face, head and hands. He was heading to Kwai Chung Police Station to report for duty when he was assaulted. The assailant fled after "uttering intimidating remarks" to his victim, who gave chase in vain. Investigators are exploring possible links to the "consultative" duties in Mong Kok and Admiralty during the Occupy Central protests. A spokesman said the force would "not tolerate any violence" and promised to take "decisive enforcement action" against the assault.

Man, 22, held at border over kilogram of ice

Customs officers seized about a kilogram of suspected methamphetamine, or ice, with an estimated street value of HK\$350,000 at the Lok Ma Chau border crossing. A 22-year-old man who claimed to be a waiter was arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking.

Driver dies after losing control of truck

A 60-year-old truck driver died in a traffic accident in Tsing Yi. He lost control of his vehicle while travelling along the Tsing Sha highway towards Tin Shui Wai and hit a kerb. He was taken unconscious to Princess Margaret Hospital, where he was certified dead at 8.24am.

Suspected drug found on prison returnee

A small quantity of a substance suspected to be a dangerous drug was found inside a plastic bag in the wallet of a 23-year-old man recalled to prison. The man had been sent to the Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre after breaching a supervision order.

MARK SIX

There were no winners of the first prize in last night's draw. The numbers were: 7, 8, 15, 32, 34, 39, and the extra was 43. Three tickets won the second prize of HK\$43,260. Third prize paid HK\$360,560.

ECONOMY

CEOs bullish on Asia-Pacific, survey finds

Blair Perez
blair.perez@scmp.com

Despite slowing growth in China, chief executives at companies in the Asia-Pacific are "very confident" about prospects in the region and plan to increase investments over the next 12 months. A survey by professional services giant PricewaterhouseCoopers, covering 65 chief executives with businesses in the region, found that 67 per cent of

Sunday Morning Post

HONG KONG

INFRASTRUCTURE

WAGES 'SMALL PART' OF BRIDGE COSTS

Union leader argues rising pay for workers is not a big factor in HK\$5 billion overrun for project to link city with Zhuhai and Macau

Amey Nip and Fanny W. Y. Fung

A union boss has questioned how much rising wages are to blame for a cost blowout on the bridge being built across the Pearl River estuary to Zhuhai.

Hong Kong's Transport and Housing Bureau said on Thursday it would seek approval from the Legislative Council for the extra funding needed to build an additional bridge for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge. It said it would need at least HK\$5 billion to top up the original budget of HK\$30.4 billion. The

island works include reclamation and building border-crossing facilities and roads. Secretary of Transport and Housing Anthony Cheung Tsing-hung said the costs of construction workers, material and machinery had all gone up.

But Chow Luen-kun, chairman of the Construction Industry Employees General Union, questioned whether higher salaries had made a big difference to the cost of the bridge project. Average daily pay for construction workers has gone from HK\$100 to HK\$120 since 2012, according to union figures – a rise

of less than 10 per cent a year. Assuming 3,000 workers were involved in the artificial-island project, their pay rises over the three years would amount to HK\$275 million. That is less than 6 per cent of the extra HK\$5 billion being sought.

"Rising housing costs, the express rail link (to Guangzhou) and the bridge project going over budget – it's all blamed on construction workers getting a pay rise," he said.

The union also urged lawmakers not to delay approval of the extra funding, or refuse it, according to union figures – a rise

president of the Institution of Engineers, said wage rises had been a major factor driving up the cost of works projects in recent years. He said the union's calculation that pay rises would amount to just 6 per cent of the extra cost of the island project was an oversimplification.

"A labourer may earn HK\$700 a day, but a worker with special skills, such as a bar tender or a chef, may make up to HK\$2,000 a day," he said. "Each project requires a different combination of workers that would yield very different figures."

RTHK yesterday said the budget estimate for the project was made in 2011. Cheung said building costs had surged since then.

A government index tracking bidding prices on construction projects went up 27 per cent from the first quarter of 2011 to the first quarter of this year. Another one on housing estate fit-outs rose 41 per cent in the same period. And the cost of crushed stone, gravel

sand and paint rose 10 per cent, 55 per cent and 27 per cent respectively in the period, Cheung said.

He said the HK\$5 billion figure was a rough estimate, but he followed it was in the ballpark of the revised costs to be submitted to Legco.

On the possibility lawmakers would filibuster the funding request, Cheung said: "The latter it is, the costlier it will be. There are many large-scale construction projects in the pipeline."

The government has yet to respond to a *Post* inquiry on the total revised cost of the bridge project, which covers more than the artificial island and is scheduled to open in 2016. It was estimated to be HK\$40 billion.

6% The union says wages account for this share of the HK\$5 billion cost increase

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Fund-raiser puts disabled sailors sheets ahead

Sai Kung charity spent donation on boats and coaching that helped dad to Para Games medal

Oliver Chou
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For one beneficiary of last year's annual Christmas charity campaign, everyone involved developed a medal. Oliver Chou, 42, won bronze. Photos: Sally Hong Kong

Salubility Hong Kong – which teaches disabled people to sail – received HK\$27,200 from Operation Santa Claus and was one of 10 groups to benefit from the end-of-year fundraiser. The Sai Kung-based charity had applied for the funds to "support professional coaching sessions of 100 disabled sailors, and to sponsor the Hong Kong International Para Games in 2014".

It also bought two 2.4-metre keelboats with the cash – naming them Operation Santa Claus II. "The one with a sail registration number of 2 is the one Foo Yuen-wai, 42, won bronze. Photos: Sally Hong Kong

South China Morning Post

found himself representing the city in a top-level international competition – fighting his way from eighth place to first, before he secured the bronze medal after four days of racing. "I managed to hold back my tears when I saw the SAR flag go up. The honour isn't just mine, it belongs to the entire team, and to my home city too," Foo said.

"I want to say thank you to those who helped me build the self-confidence so I could dare to dream and turn it into reality. Even my children were surprised with the medal I brought back," the father of three said. Rawbone said: "Thank you, South China Morning Post and RTHK for making all this possible through Operation Santa Claus. The two boats bearing that name will be the training vehicle for our 420 members. So this wonderful spirit of giving will live on."

The annual fundraising drive run by the two media outlets will be launched tomorrow. Funds raised last year totalled HK\$21 million – a record since the campaign was launched in 1988.

Warm welcome



Princess Anna and Queen Elsa from Hong Kong Disneyland's cast of Frozen join the opening ceremony of the Frozen Ice Castle at Maritime Square in Tsing Yi. The eight-metre castle, decorated with thousands of snowflake ornaments, is illuminated every half hour to the strains of *Let It Go*. The theme song from the movie *Frozen*. The film, which earned almost US\$1.3 billion, is the highest-grossing animated production and was the highest-grossing film of 2013. Photo: Jonathan Wong

C2 Wednesday, November 12, 2014

CITY

PUBLIC EYE
MICHAEL CHUGANI

Will civil disobedience become civil resistance?

Will they or won't they? That is the question. The court has spoken. Occupy Central protesters are abusing the rule of law by ignoring injunctions to remove barricades in Admiralty and Mong Kok. Monday's ruling contradicts legislators and law professors who say laws can be broken in the name of civil disobedience. Contrary to their stance, the judge declared that the rule of law was being seriously challenged. So will protesters resist when court bailiffs remove the barricades? Public Eye does not have an answer because Occupy is leaderless. Will the police make

a meeting with central government leaders. Former chief executive Tung Chee-hwa, now a vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, has spurned their request to set up such talks. We all know there is no way state leaders will meet a delegation of Hong Kong students whose main demand is that the NPC retract its electoral reform framework. Meeting them would be an admission. Beijing had bowed to mass civil disobedience. So the question is when will the students fly to Beijing and what do they hope to gain from the trip? Public Eye sees three possible outcomes for this mission impossible. The first is that police will prevent the students from boarding. That can happen if the central government nullifies their re-entry permits. Airline staff can legitimately prevent passengers from boarding if they lack documents for entry to their destinations. The trouble with this is the central government would not know which permits to cancel if the students kept the names of those going to Beijing secret until they boarded. Another option is to deny them entry on arrival as a security risk. Apple Daily owner Jimmy Lai Chee-ying said it would be good if they were arrested because that would provide another 500,000 to join the Occupy protests. But Public Eye believes the central government has enough sense to know it would be stupid to arrest the students. The third possible outcome is to let the students enter and then ignore them unless they stir up trouble by handing out leaflets or unfurling yellow umbrellas in Tiananmen Square. What can the students gain? Just one thing: publicity. China will be portrayed in the local and international media as a totalitarian state that fears letting its own citizens who dare speak their minds enter the country. So what else is new? We expect the coverage to last a day before becoming yesterday's news.

If the protesters resist, can we still justifiably call Occupy a peaceful ... movement?

mass arrests if protesters resist? We do not know that, either, but does anyone remember the original script of Occupy? Protesters were supposed to lie down and let the police arrest them without resisting. Will they return to the original script now that the court has authorised bailiffs, with police help if necessary, to take away the barricades? We will know when the court bailiffs move in. If the protesters resist, can we still justifiably call Occupy a peaceful civil disobedience movement?

Only one thing to be gained from a visit to Beijing

To go or not to go? That is not the question. Student leaders have said they will definitely go to Beijing one way or another. Today is apparently the deadline they have set for Hong Kong members of the National People's Congress to arrange

Michael Chugani is a columnist and television show host. mickchug@gmail.com

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Morning Tears helps children deal with the trauma and hardships of having a parent in jail. Photo: Morning Tears

CHILDREN OF CONVICTS GET SOME DIGNITY BACK

Morning Tears charity helps some of the hundreds of thousands of youngsters with a parent behind bars to deal with their problems

Sarah Karas
sarah.karas@scmp.com

Lina is counting down the years to when she will be reunited with her mother. She is the 11-year-old daughter of a convict, living in Xian (西安). "When my mother comes out of prison, I will travel with her throughout all of China, eat the best things and look at the most beautiful places. I will be 24 then," said Lina.

She is one of over 600,000 mainland children with a parent in prison identified by the Ministry of Justice as in urgent need of

assistance. Independent bodies put that number in the millions. Currently in the care of Morning Tears, a charity devoted to include programmes to help children like Shaanxi (陕西) native Zhang Yi, an 11-year-old whose mother was jailed after killing her husband in self-defence after years of domestic abuse. Thanks to Morning Tears, Zhang Yi receives counselling and is able to visit her mother in prison. "We realise we can't take in every one of the hundreds of thousands of children but we hope the government can replicate our centre throughout the country," Toback said.

"Some of these children come from really violent contexts, and have a lot of trauma and stigma to deal with," he said. "Very often their grandparents won't take them. The children are not welcome by either side of the family so they are left to fend for themselves."

Morning Tears – one of this year's beneficiaries of the annual Operation Santa Claus charity fundraiser, which is organised by the

charity. The charity has expanded to include programmes to help children like Shaanxi (陕西) native Zhang Yi, an 11-year-old whose mother was jailed after killing her husband in self-defence after years of domestic abuse. Thanks to Morning Tears, Zhang Yi receives counselling and is able to visit her mother in prison. "We realise we can't take in every one of the hundreds of thousands of children but we hope the government can replicate our centre throughout the country," Toback said.

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South China Morning Post

Watchdog highlights tricks of developers

Prospective buyers given inflated property details – and three minutes to decide

Fanny W. Y. Fung
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Rushing prospective homebuyers to choose a flat within three minutes, giving them a 400-page sales brochure and exaggerating the popularity of new flats by encouraging customers to file multiple applications. These are some of the tricks used by developers and property agents eager to sell more and sell faster, a Consumer Council investigation has found.

The report, unveiled yesterday, voiced concerns that some consumers were driven into making quick purchase decisions. It made eight recommendations to amend the law and plug loopholes.

In the most extreme case, customers were required to choose a flat within three minutes. In the case of sales by balloting, some developers were found to inflate the number of registrations of intent to buy in order to create a false impression that their properties had been oversubscribed by many times, according to the council.

The subscription rates of the eight properties falling into this category ranged from 1.2 times to 22 times the actual number of flats offered for sale in the first batch. In one case, the developer reported 10,000 applications while only 428 flats out of the 492 available were sold.

The inflation of figures was often achieved by encouraging customers to file multiple forms. "For example, a couple intending to buy a flat may meet the husband and wife filing two registrations, and then filing two other joint registrations, by doing so, a family seeking to buy one flat will look like six potential buyers," council chief executive Gilly Wong Tsang has explained.

While the inflation of registration figures itself was not illegal, the council pointed out that it was often achieved with the help of estate agencies which left cashier orders to prospective buyers, a breach of the Estate Agents Authority's guidelines. Sales brochures of the 17 sampled developments ranged from 64 to 504 pages, with weights ranging from 0.5kg to 3.4kg – with the bigger ones being difficult for buyers to take home and read.

Lee Wing-tat, a former legislator and advocate for law-making, said he agreed with the council's recommendations. "At that time we were in a difficult situation," he said of the past. "We had to sell the flats in a little time, and if we hadn't passed the law by June, perhaps there would be no one to regulate now and the developers would be the happiest. So some compromises were made."

► EDITORIAL A&A

TRADE

TDC events fair well despite Occupy protests

Amey Nip
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The Occupy protests have been blamed for a small drop in the number of buyers attending trade shows but have not dampened the enthusiasm of exhibitors for next year's events, the Trade Development Council's new executive director says.

Margaret Fong Shun-man, who took over from Fred Lam Tin-fuk last month, said about 2,000 fewer buyers had turned up for the seven exhibitions that had taken place since the protests began in late September than for the same shows last year. That represented less than 10 per cent of the total attendance.

Fong said the TDC, a statutory body set up by the government to promote Hong Kong businesses, would do more to explore opportunities in regional hubs such as Indonesia for Southeast Asia and Dubai for the Middle East.

But the difficulty of expanding the Convention and Exhibition Centre, which the TDC owns, means the council must focus on expanding its trade shows. While the wine, jewellery, watch and optical fairs could grow, there would also be more emphasis on the internet, Fong said.

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4 youngpost Thursday, November 13, 2014

news



China and US agree 'historic' deal

Major climate change breakthrough as the two powerhouses agree on emissions ahead of next year's Paris conference

China and the United States announced new targets for greenhouse gas emissions yesterday as part of a deal to help curb global climate change.

As part of the arrangement, announced by the White House, the United States would cut net greenhouse gas emissions 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels in the next 11 years.

At the same time, President Xi Jinping (习近平) agreed that China for the first time would set a date when its emissions would hit a peak, after which it would begin cutting its use of fossil fuels.

According to the White House, China will aim to peak its carbon dioxide emissions "around 2030", trying to hit that target sooner. At the same time, China would work to increase the non-fossil fuel share of its energy use to 20 per cent by 2030.

China and the United States account for more than one-third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The deal is seen as a major breakthrough ahead of next year's climate change conference in Paris.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Beijing, Xi said the deal will help cooperation on climate change.

"We agreed to make sure international climate change negotiations will reach agreement as scheduled at the Paris conference in 2015 and agreed to deepen practical cooperation on clean energy,



Barack Obama and Xi Jinping discussed the deal during Obama's three-day trip to China. Photo: Reuters

environmental protection and other areas," said Xi. Obama praised China's pledge, describing the deal as an "historic agreement".

"As the world's largest economies and greatest emitters of greenhouse gases we have special responsibility to lead the global effort against climate change. I am proud we can announce a historic agreement. I commend President Xi, his team and the Chinese government for trying to slow, peak and then reverse China's carbon emissions," said Obama.

In recent years, China has become the world's largest investor in renewable energy. But to meet the targets, the White House said China would need an additional 800 to 1,000 gigawatts of nuclear, wind, solar and other zero-emission capacity by 2030 - more than all of its current coal-fired power plants.

Agencies

A glimpse of life at sea

Ever wondered what it's like to work on a busy ship? Now's your chance to see a day in the life of a hardworking sailor in one of the world's busiest ports. There's a lot more to it than just tying knots and swabbing the deck.

To help raise young people's interest in a career at sea, the Hong Kong Maritime Museum is holding a Maritime Awareness Week.

"We hope to attract more young people to learn about the prospects of working at sea," says Michael Luk, assistant operations manager at the Hong Kong Salvage and Towage Division of Hong Kong United Dockyards. "Several companies related to port services will have booths telling visitors about the different kinds of jobs that the maritime industry offers and how they can get the qualifications for those jobs."

The highlight of the event will be a visit to a tug boat, the tiny yet powerful boat that tows gigantic tankers and container ships.

"Visitors will be able to visit the bridge, crew living area and engine room of a tug boat. The guided tour is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we are open to the public for the first time for visits," says Luk.

The tour will take place on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4.30pm. Each visit takes around 15 to 20 minutes and it is free of charge with your museum admission tickets.

Wong Yat-hei



Not many people are seeking maritime jobs

breakthrough (n)
突破

curb (v)
制止

commend (v)
稱讚

autistic (adj)
自閉症

glimpse (n)
一瞥

gigantic (adj)
巨大

Santa Claus is here to help, and you can, too

Operation Santa Claus (OSC), the annual fundraiser organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, will once again be sponsoring the Rainbow Project, which provides subsidised speech and occupational therapy for less-fortunate families.

Keith Lee, the director of the Rainbow Project, is grateful that OSC has decided to work with them for a second straight year. "The funding will allow us to give 30 children a discounted rate for a year of therapy. Therapy for autistic children costs around HK\$800 per

session, placing a heavy burden on low-income families," he says.

Seven-year-old Alpha Lai has been attending speech therapy for the past year. His mother took him to the doctor when he was still not able to talk at the age of two, and discovered he had autism.

But Alpha hasn't had consistent speech therapy because his family can't afford it. "It is impossible to pay for weekly speech therapy in a private practice," she says.

Alpha attends Primary Two at a mainstream primary school and his

poor communication skills have caused him quite a lot of trouble.

"One time some other boys at school did something naughty and blamed it on Alpha. He was not good at talking so he did not defend himself," his mother says.

Alpha's parents looked online to find help for their son, and discovered the Rainbow Project.

"I am so happy that Alpha is getting therapy every week and seeing improvement in his ability to talk," she says.

Wong Yat-hei

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OPERATION SANTA CLAUS
South China Morning Post

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C2 Friday, November 14, 2014

CITY

EDUCATION

POLL RANKS LOCAL ENGLISH BEHIND MAINLAND CITIES

But critics question its methodology, saying results of the voluntary test will be skewed thanks to unscientific research samples

Shirley Zhao
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Academics and politicians took issue with a global study of English-language skills that ranked Hong Kong adults marginally lower than residents of major mainland cities including Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin (Xinhua).

The annual study, known as the English Proficiency Index, is compiled by the Swedish-owned global language instruction company EF Education First. This year's index is based on test results gathered last year from about 750,000 people across 63 countries and regions.

A local representative of US employers said the drop among Hongkongers could be due to public schools switching from English to Chinese as their language of instruction.

But critics of the study cautioned that the research samples in some of the regions might have skewed the results.

Professor Simon Haines, chairman of Chinese University's English department, asked people to "be cautious of rankings". International publications had raised questions over the methodology used in such test-based rankings because the sampling base varied across different regions, he noted.

The index is based on results of a free online test and the enrolment tests for those taking the company's courses. Both tests include grammar, vocabulary,

reading and listening sections. Only countries and regions with a minimum of 400 test-takers were ranked.

Hong Kong scored 52.5 out of 100, which the study interpreted as having "moderate proficiency" in English. The scores for Shanghai, Beijing, and Tianjin were 53.7, 52.9 and 52.7, respectively.

Malaysia, the top-ranking Asian location, was 12th in the global index with a score of 58.7. "Maybe we don't need to worry too much about that particular comparison" between Hong Kong and the mainland cities, Haines said.

Hong Kong ranked 31st on the index, nine places down from last year's rank of 22nd. It was lower than Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Taiwan.

But Dr Richard Varytsek, president of the 1,700-member American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, said Hongkongers' English ability had been weakening noticeably.

"English is in decline in Hong Kong. There's no question about it," he said.

Varytsek said the reasons included the change to Chinese instruction from English in classes at government-funded schools since the handover, and the increasing expense of alternative schools that taught in English.

He said the government should move more schools for local children to maintain an English-language curriculum, so that families wanting their children to be taught in English "will have a choice".

English proficiency ranking	
World	1 Denmark
	2 Netherlands
	3 Sweden
	4 Finland
	5 Norway
	6 Poland
	7 Austria
	8 Estonia
	9 Belgium
	10 Germany
China	31 Hong Kong
	1 Shanghai
	2 Beijing
	3 Tianjin
	4 Taiwan
	5 Hong Kong

Source: EF Education First

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



At least 40 sick newborns will be treated in the Save-a-Baby Programme, funded by the Children's Medical Foundation. Photo: SCMP Pictures

Giving sick newborns a chance

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

Elizabeth Cheung
elizabethcheung@scmp.com

At the age of 10, the daughter of Wu Kai and Ao Chengli was diagnosed with a series of potentially fatal diseases.

The couple from a mountainous area in Guizhou (贵州) faced a huge hurdle in meeting a hospital bill of up to 13,000 yuan.

But when they considered taking the child home, the doctor warned that would be very dangerous for a baby suffering from necrotising enterocolitis—an inflammation of the intestines that affects premature babies—and pneumonia.

The Children's Medical Foundation, a charity that aims to establish healthcare access for underprivileged children in Asia, came to the rescue.

With the help of 5,000 yuan from the foundation, the baby was able to receive proper treatment in the hospital for 15 days, which probably saved her life.

The parents were among beneficiaries of the Save-a-Baby programme subsidised by Operation Santa Claus, the annual charity fundraising drive operated by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

"When my baby was discharged from the hospital, my family and I were overjoyed," Ao wrote in a thank you note to the foundation that was established

in 1995 as Project HOPE Hong Kong. Executive director David Wong said the foundation focused on problems that should not lead to death in developed regions.

"The actual need is bigger than what we... know," he said. Wong said the foundation focused on problems that should not lead to death in developed regions.

According to the UN children's fund UNICEF, neonatal mortality cases accounted for some 60 per cent of the 236,000 deaths of children in China young-

er than the age of five. Neonatal mortality means children dying within four weeks after birth. Wong said 70 per cent of China's neonatal deaths stemmed from three main causes: low birth weight, asphyxia and pneumonia.

New projects will be carried out in Yunnan Province (云南), where 40 newborns will be treated by the Save-a-Baby Programme in Zhaotong. The city's average annual income is just 4,600 yuan, but two weeks of treatment in a neonatal intensive care unit costs at least 7,000 yuan.

A new neonatal care unit will also be set up in a hospital in the tea city of Pu'er (普洱).

A team of four doctors and nurses will go to Guangzhou to receive intensive training, and 600 newborns will be treated in the unit's first year of operation.

"In rural areas, paediatricians in hospitals do not have special skills and knowledge in handling newborns... neonatal death happens because the problems cannot be solved immediately," Wong said.

But he said deaths could be reduced if medical staff had the necessary skills and equipment. An incubator costing about HK\$300,000 will be donated to the hospital in Pu'er.

Foundation board member Annie Ho visited Qianxinan, she of a project funded by Operation Santa Claus last year, and met five families who had benefited from the programme.

"The parents are eternally grateful. They think it is touching to have strangers financially helping them," Ho said.



South China Morning Post

The parents are grateful. It is touching to have strangers helping them

ANNE HO

ON SECOND THOUGHT
LAM WOON-KWONG

Wait may help the Shanghai share link run more smoothly

Forty years ago on November 14, 1974, the Hang Seng Index fell to 179 points. The index was down from its peak of 1,774 in March 1973, having lost some 30 per cent of its value in 20 months.

It bottomed out a month later on December 30, at 150 points.

The spectacular drop was due to two factors. First, the Bretton Woods currency system collapsed, leading to a crash of global stock markets in which the US dollar went into free fall and interest rates shot up correspondingly.

Second, oil prices jumped fourfold at the embargo Arab oil-producing states imposed on the West after Israel defeated Egypt and Syria in the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

As a result, the world went into an economic depression. Four decades later, Hong Kong's per capita gross domestic product stands at a new height of US\$38,000. The stock market, though not yet back to its peak of 33,352 in October 2007, is close to a three-year high.

The main driving force this time, however, is not the world economy, which remains in the doldrums. It is a combination of unprecedented low interest rates and a market boost resulting from the Hong Kong Shanghai share trading scheme that is due to come into effect on Monday. This scheme is the first of its kind and is expected to make history for the Hong Kong stock market.

The benefits due from the scheme are much more than the financial investments it will

bring. This is one of several steps in institutionalising the renminbi as a major international currency. If the scheme runs well, the renminbi will be one step closer to entering foreign markets.

That both sides have taken only a few months to work out the logistics of the highly complex operation speaks volumes for the determination and the quality of the respective organising bodies. It is also a firm signal of the central government confidence in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as a key pillar supporting the nation's economic development goals.

This is one of many shining examples of how both the nation and the SAR can work together to achieve a win-win situation. It might have taken longer than we had hoped, but with hindsight, it is worth the wait because both sides are now much better prepared and possess the necessary institutional capacity to make the scheme work according to its designed purpose. Imagine what a mess it could have been had it gone ahead in 2008, the year the global financial crisis hit.

The final test of the pie remains in the eating. There are bound to be hiccups in the system that need sorting out as we move along. But from the market confidence shown on both sides, we can keep our fingers crossed that we will score a big hit this time.

The benefits due from the scheme are much more than the financial investments it will

Lam Woon-kwong is convener of the Executive Council

C2 Tuesday, November 25, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

LETTER OF THE LAW
KAREN LEE

China's traditions make it hard for rule of law to root

Party effort to build up legal system is worthy of praise, but popular attitudes remain a barrier

Speculation abounds about how China will turn words into action following last month's fourth plenary of the 18th party congress, which was unprecedented in being devoted to "the rule of law" or "ruling the country by law".

The proposed reforms, though laudable, may lead one to ponder how these could take root in a society that, according to Randall Peerenboom in *China's Long March toward Rule of Law*, possesses "a low level of legal consciousness".

In *The Concept of Law*, H. L. A. Hart argues the primary rules of a legal system - what one must or must not do - require the support of "social pressure".

The plenary's October 28 "decision" apparently took board the concept of legal culture, it says: "We must make the people understand that the law is a powerful tool to help the people's own rights and is

a behavioural standard that must be respected; strengthen the consciousness in the entire society about learning the law, respecting the law, abiding by the law and using the law; and ensure that the people master, respect and use the law."

It further vows to "build a socialist rule of law culture... shape a social atmosphere in which abiding by the law is honourable and violating the law is disgraceful". It goes on to envisage a "rule of law propaganda" from party cadres down to the masses, including making "rule of law education" compulsory for all school-aged children.

In a 1987 letter to *The New York Times*, sinologist Perry Link said "popular attitudes" were "nearly as important" a barrier as "authoritarian rulers" to the rule of law. Instead of viewing the law as "a tool to help the people", Chinese people

traditionally looked up to a virtuous higher official to rein in a bad one. For years, petitioners flocked to Beijing in search of such a mediating figure.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has recently passed a law encouraging people to sue rather than petition the government.

There are arguably "Chinese characteristics" embedded in the indigenous concept of justice, in which *guanxi*, human feelings (*renqing*) and a sense of righteousness (*yi*) are ideals for a people who predominantly value harmony over litigation.

Yet legal consciousness is rising as the nation modernises. To see what kind of rule of law is in store, watch how the leadership takes on disgraced former party strongman Zhou Yongkang (周永康), whose fate had been expected to be published in the fourth plenary.

Or Karen Lee is assistant professor at the Institute of Education's department of social sciences

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Foodlink Foundation's Ina Lee delivers food to one of its beneficiaries, the Life Foundation, in Sham Shui Po. Photo: Jonathan Wong

BRINGING WARMTH TO THE HUNGRY

With a new truck, Foodlink Foundation can now deliver more meals to the needy and hopes to save up to 113 tonnes of edibles daily

Ernest Kao
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Carrots and sticks may encourage households and businesses to adopt better consumption habits, but changing people's behaviour should start in schools, according to a non-profit organisation.

The Foodlink Foundation - a beneficiary of this year's Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising drive organised jointly by the South China Morning Post and ITHK - has since 2009 been collecting surplus food from hotels as well as food and beverage outlets, and delivering it to those in need.

Beneficiaries include street sleepers, asylum seekers and those living in shelters and elderly homes.

With this year's funding, Foodlink aims to expand its programme to get more schools and board - a much overlooked source of food waste.

"Squaring" behavioural change should start at a young age," Foodlink chief operations officer Joyce Chan Kin-yee said. "Our mission is not just to tackle food waste, but also to spur an overall change in attitudes."

Late in 2012, the government launched a campaign to cut the amount of food waste dumped in the city's landfills.

But many food banks say redistribution efforts are largely ignored. Food recyclers say there is no official fund that specifically supports their work and logistical costs are too high.

A plan issued by the Environment Bureau earlier this year aimed for a 40 per cent reduction in food disposed to landfills by 2022, through a measures such as reducing at source, reusing and donating, recycling and turning food waste into energy.

But at present, more than 3,000 tonnes of food waste each day are still being discarded into the overflowing landfills, and a third of it comes from commercial and industrial sources.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of households and working adults living under the poverty line do not make enough to afford three healthy meals a day.

The foundation estimates that the total average spending per day needed for a balanced diet is HK\$60 per person, but those on low incomes can afford only HK\$30 a day on food, which translates to 40 per cent of their household income.

"There are two objectives here: the first is to save food, but through this, we hope we can also raise students' awareness on the



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Issue of food wastage, share with them strategies on how to reduce waste, and at the same time, help those in need."

Chan said Foodlink would try to get more donors from schools - preferably those with canteen or kitchen facilities.

Other than surplus food collection services, it will also offer students educational talks and seminars.

A new refrigerator-equipped delivery van has been added to Foodlink's fleet of four.

With upgraded logistical capabilities, the group hopes to provide 250 meals daily and help save 113 tonnes of edible food per day. In the end of next year, Foodlink already provides that serve the elderly and low-income families, such as the Chicken Soup programme by the Associates, the J Life Foundation, H of Love, St Barnabas' Society and Home, St Mary's Home for the Aged and the Church of Livingstones.

It collects food surplus from about 45 hotels, 10 canteens and restaurants, and 10 retail stores.

C2 Wednesday, November 26, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

EDUCATION

Scholarships for city's best and brightest students

Annual awards recognise secondary school youngsters who have excelled in chosen subjects

Shirley Zhao
shirley.zhao@scmp.com

A total of HK\$133,000 will be granted to the city's best and brightest secondary school students in this year's Student of the Year Awards, organised by the South China Morning Post and sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The annual awards, now in their 34th year, include a grand prize, which is awarded to the top three "all-round students" who have "outstanding academic results, extraordinary talents or

the six fields will each receive HK\$10,000 scholarships, and the first and second runners-up will get HK\$4,000 and HK\$2,000 respectively.

"We are confident that the Student of the Year Awards will continue to inspire students to live up to their full potential and be part of the most prestigious secondary school event in Hong Kong," said the Post's editor-in-chief Wang Xiangwei.

The awards, which started in 1974, ran for 32 consecutive years until 2006 and were reintroduced last year.

Principals and deans can nominate their best senior secondary students for the awards - two for the grand prize, three for the largest category and one for each of the other categories. The nomination period ended last Friday.

The awards, which started in 1974, ran for 32 consecutive years until 2006 and were reintroduced last year.

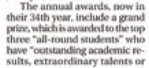
The shortlisted candidates will attend a final interview with the judges by January.

In February, three students in each category (nine for the language category) will be selected and the finalists and the final winners of each category will be announced on February 28.

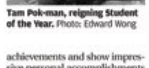
Last year's winners included Shobhan Haghighi from St Paul's Secondary School, who won the silver medal in the 200-metre individual medley and the 100-metre freestyle at the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing (CHN) in August this year.

The winner of the grand prize last year was Form Six student Tam Pole-mun, who studied at Sing Yin Secondary School in Kwun Tong.

The winners of the awards in



Tam Pole-mun, reigning Student of the Year. Photo: Edward Wong



Shobhan Haghighi, winner of the silver medal in the 200-metre individual medley and the 100-metre freestyle at the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing (CHN) in August this year.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre, nestled in a quiet corner among shady trees and greenery near Tuen Mun Hospital, is a picture of tranquillity. Photos: Nora Tam

CENTRE OFFERS GIFT OF PEACE IN PATIENTS' WAR AGAINST CANCER

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre in Tuen Mun helps patients find some relief from the pain and pressure brought by the disease

Raquel Carvalho
raquel.carvalho@scmp.com

Ella Lai, 50, spent a decade under intense stress and dealing with depression symptoms because of family issues and a burdensome mortgage.

When she finally felt that her life was getting back on track, bad news came. In late August, she was told she had breast cancer.

"My life was getting better and then this happened," she said.

At Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre, needed among two near Tuen Mun Hospital, Lai found a place where she did not have to hide her feelings.

She started relaxation therapy sessions at the centre three days a week. "I was very stressed. I had many thoughts running through my head," Lai recalled.

"Before the therapy, I didn't know I could relax. The sessions helped to calm my mind and to deal with sleeping difficulties. Now I practice it at home when I cannot sleep."

Lai grew accustomed to listening to clinical psychologist Vivian Ho Wing-sei's voice echoing softly in a room decorated in shades of blue to inspire calm and tranquillity.

"I see very big improvements," Lai said. "People who didn't believe they were able to relax, who were reluctant to try, especially more so, now seem open to our sessions."

There are three techniques mostly used in each session, usually with relaxing music or nature sounds playing in the background. One is deep breathing, another is guided imagery and the third is muscular relaxation.

"If we control our breathing and muscles, if we control what we see and when we are, we can control our mind state." Clinical research has shown these three relaxation techniques can actually affect our psychological state," Ho said.

The centre, which employs two oncology nurses, two social workers and one full-time clinical psychologist, endeavours to be a place where patients can relax and find relief from the pressure brought by the disease.

"Medication is very important, but emotional and psychological support are equally important," the director said.

The centre now aims to expand its free relaxation therapy project, reaching 4,500 people next year through the support of Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising event jointly organised by the South China Morning Post and ITHK.

"We will be able to help more people," centre head Helen Lai said. "Starting next year, we want to do more individual sessions and try to incorporate relaxation elements into different support groups and other courses."

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre, an institution started in Britain, began operating in Hong Kong in 2008. Its main goal, according to Lai, is "to help people to live through and beyond the illness".

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South China Morning Post

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PUBLIC EYE
MICHAEL CHUGANI

Surrender saga shows our laws aren't oppressive

Do it already, for goodness' sake, or don't do it. We're talking about the Occupy Central trio of Benny Tai Yiu-tung, Dr Chan Kin-man and Leung Kwok-ho. For weeks, they've talked about turning themselves in to police for initiating civil disobedience. And for weeks, they've pushed the issue. Where else but in Hong Kong can people confess to having a right to deny entry to undesirable. A holidaying Hong Kong journalist is blocked from the Philippines for having heckled President Benigno Aquino at a summit last year. He is held right off the Admiralty protest zone. Beijing bosses demand action from Beijing and the Leung Chan-yung administration, which they don't even recognise as legitimate.

Beijing loyalist Ip Kwok-him, silent about the blacklisting of students, criticises the Philippine blacklist. The Leung administration, likewise silent about the mainland ban, expresses concern. Beijing, which banned students, says it

will look into why Manila banned journalists. Ah well, when you need someone to kick, there is always the Philippines.

Better watch out, there are triads about - or are there?

Watch out, triads are everywhere. When muscular masked men tried to remove Occupy barricades in Hong Kong, the pun-dems accused police of colluding with triads to harass protesters. Some, including Jimmy Lai Chee-ying's *Apple Daily*, hinted darkly that Beijing paid triads to tarnish Occupy. But other media say Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Macau had actually cracked down on triads who were stirring up trouble.

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C2 Thursday, November 27, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

ALL AROUND TOWN

Loyalists quit their usual smoking corner

Many lawmakers who smoke have grown used to taking their cigarette breaks outside the entrance of the Legislative Council building. But now that Occupy Central protesters have surrounded the building with their tents, pro-establishment lawmakers have found a new place to satisfy their tobacco craving. Wong Ting-keung, of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, told All Around Town about the new spot - a quiet corner outside the car park of the government headquarters, away from the angry pro-democracy protesters. "When I smoke there, I won't be insulted," Wong said, referring to incidents in which protesters hurled insults at pro-establishment lawmakers passing by the surrounded area after Legco meetings. But smokers from the pro-democratic camp had no need to move, however, as they did not face the same treatment from protesters, he added. Wong also said that a pro-establishment colleague did not appreciate the new smoking corner, preferring instead to take cigarette breaks at the nearby Fennell Park. Tony Cheung

Pan-dems urged to turn against each other

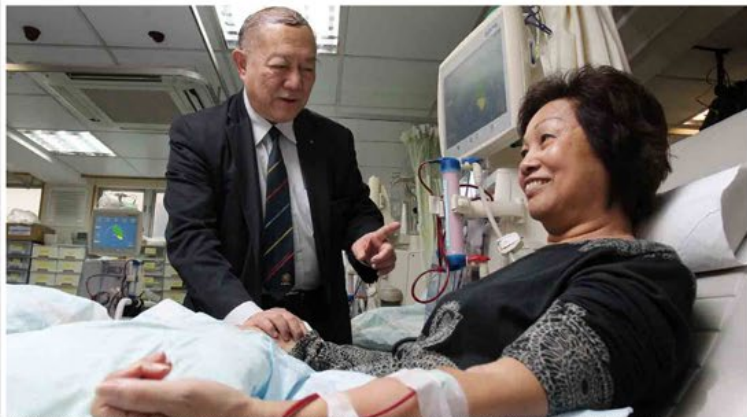
After a number of pan-democratic lawmakers distanced themselves from "radical" democracy supporters who stormed the Legco building last week, pro-establishment lawmakers now want them to also separate themselves from the radical lawmakers involved in filibustering government funding requests. During a public works subcommittee meeting yesterday, Alan Chiang Lai-wan, of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, asked subcommittee chairman Alan Leong Kah-kit not to support a motion to adjourn discussion on a planning study for land

reclamation at Sunny Bay in Lantau. "Mr Chairman, you are a very rational person - sometimes. Can you call on your rational colleagues to break away from those who are violent like Albert Chan Wai-ying," asked Chiang, referring to the People Power lawmaker who had tabled the motion. "I very much appreciate your compliments, Mr Chiang, but I have no right to vote unless there is a tie," Leong replied. The motion was eventually passed 26-15. The pan-democratic lawmakers - who hold a majority on the subcommittee - are carrying out a non-cooperation campaign in Legco to express dissatisfaction over political reform in the city. Joyce Ng

A bad day for People Power's Albert Chan

It must have been a bad day for People Power lawmaker Albert Chan Wai-ying. Not only was he expelled from the subcommittee meeting yesterday morning's Legco meeting for disrupting a question-and-answer session, but a photo was posted on student group Scholar's Facebook page showing him being shouted at by an angry police officer outside the Mong Kok MTR station just the day before. The photo was taken before officers moved in to clear the Occupy Central protesters at the Nathan Road site. In contrast to the angry-faced policeman pointing accusingly at him, Chan appeared calm, even happy. The caption said Chan was trying to talk to the police about their decision to shut that MTR exit. At yesterday's Legco meeting, Chan slammed the force for abusing its power. But Legco president Jasper Tsang Yok-sing ticked him off for making irrelevant remarks, as the session was to discuss the arrangement of an annual marathon. Chan was expelled from the meeting after he refused to comply with Tsang's order. The session was then adjourned for a few minutes when Chan appeared reluctant to leave the chamber, but he did so eventually. Tony Cheung and Stuart Lau

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Timothy Teoh (left), founding chairman of Lions Kidney Educational Centre and Research Foundation, visits patient Ma Suk-lan in Sham Shui Po. Photo: May Tai

KIDNEY CENTRE GIVES PATIENTS THE GIFT OF LIFE, AND OF LIVING



The kidney centre will replace three of its machines. Photo: KY Cheung

Specialised treatment offered by the Lions foundation allows patients more day-to-day freedom, as it only takes place twice a week

Emily Tsang emilytsang@scmp.com



South China Morning Post

Two decades ago, Connie Hung suffered a double blow: she lost her baby in a miscarriage and learned she had kidney disease. Since then, she has undergone two kidney transplants, both of which failed. Now, with her kidneys unable to remove waste from her body, the 52-year-old has to receive a five-hour haemodialysis treatment to remove waste and free water from her blood twice a week. She is among the 168 patients who receive low-cost treatment from a renal dialysis centre run by the Lions Kidney Educational Centre and Research Foundation in Sham Shui Po. "I could not afford to go to private hospitals for haemodialysis, as their prices are triple" those of the centre Hung said. The foundation, conceived in 1987 by Dr Timothy Teoh Sim-shan, and the Lions Club, District 303, HK, Macao, China, is a non-profit organisation funded by public donations to provide low-cost haemodialysis. It is a beneficiary of this year's Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising drive organised jointly by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

Haemodialysis and kidney transplants are two of three long-term solutions available to Hong Kong's 9,000 renal patients. The third possibility is peritoneal dialysis - a method of pumping fluid into the abdomen to flush out the waste every night while the patient is asleep. But Teoh, a urologist, said that

haemodialysis machines, which provide up to 16,000 therapies a year for 168 patients who need at least two sessions each week. It charges patients HK\$1,050 a session after a HK\$400 subsidy.

Hung said she used to receive the therapy at private hospitals for HK\$3,000 a session, until she could no longer afford the cost. Another patient, Ma Suk-lan, 65, said the centre was the only option for people at her age who could not afford private service, much less join the long queue for a kidney transplant.

"Receiving haemodialysis allows me to go on with my life as a normal person. All I need to do is to visit the centre twice a week. But having peritoneal dialysis would mean I would be tied down to the risky process every night."

Teoh said the HK\$1 million funding would cover a third of the cost of renewing the reverse osmosis system, used to clean water used to diffuse waste material in the blood.

He also expressed hope that the centre could raise enough donations this year to buy 20 more machines in an expansion plan next year to benefit more patients from low-income families.

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MEDIA

Internet newshounds 'support protest'

Kathy Gao kathygao@scmp.com

Hong Kong residents who frequently read news online and regularly comment on the internet are far more likely to support the city's pro-democracy demonstrations, a survey has found.

Nearly 75 per cent of respondents who regularly comment online support the campaign, known as the umbrella movement, while more than half of those who primarily read their news online are supporters, the survey found.

The protests, now in their ninth week, were organised by Occupy Central and student groups to oppose Beijing's restrictive framework for the 2017 chief executive election.

Of the 1,012 people surveyed by the University of Hong Kong's public opinion programme between October 23 and November 6, 25.3 per cent said they often accessed political news online. A further 55 per cent said they often

regardless of where they get their news, said they did not have faith in the Hong Kong government. Fewer than 26 per cent said they trusted the government.

Overall, nearly 48 per cent of respondents said they opposed the umbrella movement, while a little over 36 per cent supported the campaign.

Ng said it would be detrimental for television and radio news to be censored. "We have to make sure we still have freedom of speech, given most people still get news from TV and radio," she said.

The survey by the Journalism Association last year found that public trust in some traditional news sources was on the wane. The survey released yesterday also found Hongkongers were unlikely to let politics come between them personally. Nearly 65 per cent said they would not get news from TV and radio, she said.

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"Hong Kong people are still rational and tolerant of different opinions," said Dr Alex Chan Li-shing, who led the survey.

C2 Monday, December 1, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

CITY BEAT TAMMY TAM

All abroad for a confidence boost

As the barricades came down in Mong Kok, CY Leung and Carrie Lam were nowhere to be seen

Dozens of barricades tore down the barricades in occupied areas of Mong Kok last week, with the help of thousands of police officers. Some saw it as a critical time for Hong Kong, yet the city's leaders had vanished.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying was on a three-day official visit to Seoul, while his No 2, Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngai, was in Beijing for two days at a cross-border economic cooperation forum.

Both of them kept track of developments from afar, and indeed commented on the clearance operation, but the fact they were away at this time was significant: the government apparently wanted to show the public that the situation was under control.

And indeed with the protests dragging on for more than two months, the decision to enforce court injunctions to clear the encampment blocking some of the district's main thoroughfares had an unexpected effect - Leung's popularity went up.

His rating rose by 4.3 marks to 44.7 out of 100 in a fortnightly poll conducted by the University of Hong Kong's public opinion programme, released the day the Mong Kok clearance began.

But there are concerns that an increasing reliance on the mainland could come at a political cost for the city. So Leung is also trying to show the public that Hong Kong is still "Asia's world city". That's one reason he went to Seoul. The other reason was to draw on the experience of South Korean

innovations to push forward his plan to set up an innovation and technology bureau, which, after being put on the back burner, then revived, has now been delayed by filibustering in the Legislative Council.

Leung's overseas trip may have been a show of confidence, but he will now have to apply some innovative thinking to tackle the more important, but Occupy challenges back home. tammytam@scmp.com

Back in Mong Kok, the clearance sparked violence and arrests, but it seems Leung was confident that the strategy of allowing fatigue to set in - for protesters and the public - would eventually bring the movement to an end.

Leung was likely encouraged by recent opinion polls showing a shift in public sentiment on the protests, with more people wanting to see a peaceful resolution to the impasse. The fact that Leung and Lam were out of town at the same time can also be seen as a bid to show the public that the protests were no longer getting in the way.

Relations with Beijing are also always been a top priority for Leung. He stayed behind after the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the capital to discuss cross-border ties. Lam and other top officials were then called to a National Development and Reform Commission meeting on Pearl River Delta infrastructure.

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Leung's overseas trip may have been a show of confidence, but he will now have to apply some innovative thinking to tackle the more important, but Occupy challenges back home. tammytam@scmp.com

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



From left: Patients Tsang Yin-ching and Daisy Cheung try some physiotherapy exercises with Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation chairman Dr Chan Tak-hin. Photo: May Tai

FREEING PATIENTS FROM THE BALL AND CHAIN OF ARTHRITIS

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Shek Hip Mei centre offers physiotherapy and educational classes to ease the misery of those who suffer from chronic joint pain and stiffness

Emily Tsang emilytsang@scmp.com



South China Morning Post

Suffering daily from swelling and stiffness in your joints can be debilitating, but staying idle won't make the problem go away.

So says rheumatoid arthritis patient Daisy Cheung Sing-ting. "Exercising is the best way to ease the stiffness and pain," Cheung says, examining her hands. "The more you sit there and refuse to move, the more you suffer."

Cheung, 50, should know - she has spent the last 30 years living with chronic joint pain caused by the disorder.

She is among 300 people who attend intensive physical therapy and training classes at a centre in Nam Shan Estate, Shek Hip Mei, set up by the Arthritis & Rheumatism Foundation.

Another patient, Tsang Yin-ching, who has suffered from psoriatic arthritis for 10 years, says the classes not only helped her cope with the pain from her condition, but also lifted her spirits during a period of depression.

Tsang's condition is a form of arthritis that causes red patches of skin with silvery scales. "I was very depressed about my condition and hid myself at home all the time. But since I joined the weekly classes at the centre, I feel that I have friends now," Tsang, 60, says.

The project will be supported by Operation Santa Claus, an annual fundraising campaign jointly organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

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SOCIETY

Walter finds way home with Range

Emily Tsang emilytsang@scmp.com

Using a stick to help guide him after he lost 90 per cent of his sight left Walter Tsui Yu-hang feeling "cold and alone". Now he has help from a much warmer companion - guide dog Range.

"Holding a stick in my hands make me feel abnormal and uncomfortable," said Tsui, 26, whose vision has declined due to a congenital condition. "That is why I tried to learn more about having a guide dog."

Two years ago, he reached out to Hong Kong Seeing Eye Dogs Services, a non-profit organisation formed in 2012 to provide guide dogs.

After a thorough assessment and training, he was paired with Range, a year-old Labrador retriever born in Nagoya, Japan. But for Tsui, a Chinese University economics graduate who works for a law firm, the hard part was learning to trust an animal despite never having a pet before.

"When Range tried to make a detour, I tried to walk my usual way by memory, but it did not work because something blocked my way," he said. "Gradually I built trust in Range. He is doing a great job guiding me."

Helped revive the idea of guide dogs in Hong Kong, said he was happy to see Tsui and Range doing so well. Finding the right pairing was one of the most important aspects in a guide dog's success, he added, and Range's lively nature complemented Tsui's love of travel.

The dogs are free to users, but the NGO needs HK\$200,000 to raise and train the dogs, which come from Taiwan and Japan.

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"Unlike many overseas countries, there is no government funding for guide dog services for blind people in Hong Kong. We can only reach out to NGOs, which raise funds to cover the training of the dogs," Tsui said.

Cheung said the service now had 13 dogs, of whom two were working and two more had been allocated to owners. But he says the organisation faces a financial crunch next year, as the opening of a training and exhibition centre in Kwai Chung poses annual expenses to HK\$800,000.

"We really hope the guide dog service will allow blind people to travel more and travel further," Cheung said. "We also hope to enhance an atmosphere of social caring, and to nurture the concept of animal protection."



Range the Labrador is described as a lively character who complements Walter Tsui's love of travel. Photo: Jonathan Wong

WALTER TSUI

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C2 Saturday, November 29, 2014

CITY

COURTS

Man jailed over acid-and-chopper attack

Julie Chu
julie.chu@scmp.com

An elderly man has been jailed for seven years for chopping and pouring corrosive liquid on a cleaner who was blinded and later killed himself.

The Kuen, 76, pleaded guilty to one count of inflicting grievous bodily harm on Ma Ying-ho, 77, on May 20 last year after Ma scolded him for messing up a toilet.

The Court of First Instance heard Ma, who lost most of his sight and suffered chop wounds to his head and arms, committed suicide in February.

"It was obviously a planned crime," Mr Justice Patrick J. Hon-leung said, noting that Tse had brought with him two bottles of drain cleaner and a knife that he used to chop Ma while the victim was trying to clean his eyes.

The judge said it was a very serious case and that Tse should be jailed for 12 years. But he imposed a seven-year sentence in consideration of his age and guilty plea.

Prosecutor Paul Leung told the court Tse poured the liquid on Ma while the cleaner was resting outside the public toilet on Kanou Street in Yau Ma Tei.

Ma, feeling pain on his head

and in his eyes, rushed into the toilet to clean his injuries. A man using the toilet at the time saw a knife-wielding Tse chase the victim into the toilet, chopping his back and shoulders.

Arrested at the scene, Tse told police Ma had scolded him for messing up the toilet and hit him about two months before the attack. He alleged that Ma would stare at him every time he went to the toilet.

Tse said he had bought two bottles of drain cleaner in Shenzhen earlier in the day. He poured the liquid into another bottle and added water to it before pouring the mixture on Ma.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Music therapist Chung King-man (left) and Augustine Mok hope to hit the right note to help stroke survivors. Photo: Nora Tan

STROKE SURVIVORS FIND THEIR VOICE IN CHOIR

Music therapy has been slow to catch on in the city, but new project will showcase its benefits and help people who struggle to communicate

Raquel Carvalho
raquel.carvalho@scmp.com

Imagine that you were reading this article and the words you saw didn't make any sense. Imagine that you wanted to reply to a text message but your mind and fingers were incapable of doing so. Imagine that suddenly the sounds in the streets were overly loud, and the images on the screen in front of you were running super fast.

This is how a stroke survivor often feels.

Many lose their ability to articulate thoughts or even to read, speak and write.

To help them improve their communication skills, the Centre for Community Cultural Development is launching a music therapy project called "We Can't Speak But We Can Sing".

Having promoted community arts for nearly 10 years, the centre is now recruiting people to form a choir. The idea is to involve 30 stroke patients and 30 relatives and carers, giving them a chance to play and compose songs.

Music therapist Chung King-man says everyone - regardless of age - can join the group.

"The main goal is to help them to speak through music and to improve their quality of life," Chung said. "After some sessions of neurological music therapy, some people start speaking and therefore are able to express themselves and go back to the community."

Chung started thinking about this project four years ago when he was attending a conference on music therapy in Australia.

"One of the music therapists brought a choir formed by stroke patients. I felt very inspired and touched," he recalled.

After completing his studies, Chung returned to Hong Kong. But he didn't find many doors open to him at home.

"Not many people and organisations believe in music therapy

in Hong Kong," he said. That was until he met centre co-founder and chief executive Augustine Mok (Chiu-yei).

"Mok believed in my idea," Chung said. "We put our heads together to research and look for funding."

The project, which will run for three years, will be supported by Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

Chung hopes to take the choir to the stage three times a year and to launch an album at the end of the third year.

The Centre for Community Cultural Development has been promoting artistic performances and creative arts therapies as well as conferences targeting underprivileged groups.

"The main purpose is to empower people," said Mok. He noted that there was a growing number of music therapy professionals in Hong Kong, but their services were either not available at public hospitals or not affordable to most people. "Our centre is trying to bridge the gap."

Both Mok and Chung, who are striving to raise awareness of music therapy's effectiveness, say the government should hire full-time music therapists for local hospitals.

They hope their project will encourage the government to tune in to the benefits that such therapy can bring.



South China Morning Post

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EDITOR'S PICKS FOR THE WEEKEND

1. WE BAZAR by the (and on) hand designs of Peter Pich.

2. TASTE at crisp seafood and prime ribs at Yukitaka Japanese Sashimi.

3. EMBRACE the night in his and his new book.

4. FREE every Thursday with the book store opening first and available at 1000 (also 1000).

South China Morning Post

PAPER TALK

Sunday, Apple Daily

Tai Po shop sparks outrage by selling pets of dogs and cats

A shop selling wood products at the Yu Shin Street bazaar in Tai Po has come under fire for also selling the pets of dogs and cats.

Mark Ma Chi-ho, executive chairman of the Non-Profit Making Veterinary Society, issued a joint statement with nine other animal welfare groups to demand police examine the case. They also urged the government to amend the law, which does not govern sales of animal skin products.

Monday, Ming Pao Daily

Businesses have smaller budgets for Christmas parties this year

Businesses are cutting their budgets for Christmas parties this year, probably because of

the mainland's economic slowdown, catering companies say. Glod and Sunny's have seen their clients' spending fall by more than 10 per cent and by an average of 15 per cent, respectively. Some of Glod's clients asked to replace croissants with sandwiches and gillnet oysters with curry puffs, a manager at the company said.

Sunny's said a company with 60 staff spent only about HK\$10,000 last year, compared with as much as HK\$30,000 last year.

Three men jump to their deaths in three hours in Ho Man Tin

Three cases of people committing suicide by leaping off high-rise buildings at the Chi

Police investigate the three suicides. Photo: SCMP Pictures

Man public housing estate in Ho Man Tin were reported within three hours on Monday. All three men were chronically or terminally ill. The spate of suicides started at about 9.30am, when a 43-year-old who had long suffered from sleep apnoea three himself down. Ten minutes later, a 71-year-old tongue cancer patient jumped off the same block. They were followed at about noon by a lung cancer patient, 58, who plunged from another block.

Green-belt housing plan will harm butterflies, activists say

The authorities are assessing an application to build 19 three-storey houses and a sewage processing plant on a 2.453-acre green-belt site - as big as Hong Kong Stadium in Causeway Bay - near Tai Mo Shan Country Park in Tai Po. The identity of the applicant was not revealed. This emerged a year after the greenery was cleared and the site excavated in what environmental activists said was typical of the "destroy first, develop later" approach often seen in the New Territories. The Town Planning Board was to examine the application. Conservation group Green Power said the project would undermine the ecology of the area, which is home to 154 species of butterflies, 15 of which are very rare. Compiled by Nelson Cheng and Wayne Chung

June 4, Cultural Revolution 'should be added to textbooks'

Chow Tai Fook, director Henry Cheng Kar-shun has expressed personal support for the inclusion of historical facts - even sensitive topics such as June 4 and the "Cultural Revolution" - in Hong Kong textbooks without distortion. Cheng also said he sympathised with local students in their pursuit of democracy, but that they should do it step by step without affecting other people's livelihoods. The tycoon was speaking about educational issues at a meeting to announce the company's results.

Chinese and Japanese Export English, Indian and Burmese Antique Silver at The Conrad Hotel Caine Room 7th Floor

Today 10am - 7pm

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Thursday, Apple Daily

No more locally bred grass carp for hotpot from next year

A fish farm in Yuen Long that is the only place in the city breeding the crisp grass carp - a freshwater fish commonly used in hotpots - will stop rearing the fish next year. The farm's owner, Uncle Kan, said he could not compete with mainland imports, which sold for about HK\$20 per catty. For him, farming the fish above cost HK\$21 per catty. In addition, he said, the domestic fishing industry was in decline and it was difficult to hire local workers even if he offered to pay them HK\$30,000 per month.

Friday, HK Economic Times

Green-belt housing plan will harm butterflies, activists say

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Sunday Morning Post

'Stop selling ivory'



About 20 people picketed the Chinese Goods Centre in North Point yesterday to protest against the sale of ivory in Hong Kong. WildVid campaigner Alex Hui said the store had removed tusks from its window display ahead of the protest. Ivory legally imported into Hong

Kong before an international trade ban came into place in 1989 can be sold legally. "If New York and New Zealand have been able to ban the sale of ivory, why can't Hong Kong take the lead and send a message to China?" said protester Graham Ford, 65. Photo: EPA

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Easing the pain of young kids living with arthritis

Group aims to raise funds to expand support for children living with crippling conditions



Chairman Raymond Chung



South China Morning Post

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Daisy is a quiet, shy 13-year-old girl, but there is one thing she is quite confident about.

"I want to be a social worker. I like to help people. I like to share my experience of living with arthritis with others."

Daisy was diagnosed with a juvenile form of arthritis when she was just two, after the distinctive swelling caused by the condition appeared around her knees.

"Her joints were constantly painful," mother Candy recalled. "In the morning, she couldn't walk. She could half-walk in the afternoon when the pain wasn't as bad. If there was a walk nearby to support herself with."

Daisy's crippling condition brought mother and child to the Paediatric Rheumatism Association in Kwun Tong in 2005, when it opened. The association provides support for children suffering from rheumatic diseases - a broad spectrum of illnesses with arthritis-like symptoms.

"Her knees will hurt, but she can walk stably now," Candy said. "You almost can't tell she's suffering from this disease."

The association, a non-profit organisation, offers financial support for 243 of its 522 member patients through medication and rehabilitation.

As a beneficiary of Operation Santa Claus, an annual fundraiser organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, the association is seeking some HK\$399,000 to broaden its physical therapy and empowerment programmes, and to educate the public on paediatric rheumatism. The money will also go towards creating the association's first international partnership.

Chung said, "The body does not respond to medicines, the treatment can get expensive," he said.

Such illnesses were often quite costly, Chung said. "When the body does not respond to medicines, the treatment can get expensive," he said.

Her joints were constantly painful. In the morning, she couldn't walk

CANDY, DAISY'S MOTHER

"It could cost a few hundred thousand dollars a year in the most extreme cases. Our members come from all walks of life and it's a pity that some aren't that financially well off."

As well as physical therapy, the association offered consultations and psychotherapy, so that the families of patients can "live like ordinary people," he said.

Chung's daughter also had a rheumatic disease. "Her immune system was attacking her muscles," he said. "Ten times more muscular enzymes (than normal) were released after she exercised. She is back to normal after years of treatment. The best support we had was the experience shared by our members."

HEALTH

'Movember' hits new heights

Danny Lee
danny.lee@scmp.com

The third Movember campaign in Hong Kong is a record-breaker, organisers say, with thousands signed up to promote awareness of men's medical issues and raise funds for health projects.

Some 4,100 "Mo Bros" and "Mo Sisters" registered this year for the month-long Movember - a portmanteau of "moustache" and "November" - up from 2,700 last year and 1,810 in 2010.

The city is a focus of the global campaign attempting to shake off perceptions that encouraging men to put a bit of creativity into facial hair for good cause is just a Western trend.

"It has been very satisfying watching how the local community has embraced the campaign



Fung Yuk-lau is "optimistic about life". Photo: Edmund So

and shown a commitment to supporting men's health here," Movember Asia chief Greg Rafferty said.

Donations stand at HK\$1 million - which will stay in the city. Globally, the campaign has collected the equivalent of HK\$460 million. Gabriel Foo topped the list of biggest individual fundraisers, collecting HK\$104,700 from sponsors and donors.

"It is a case of raising men's awareness, because men tend not to discuss or talk about health issues, especially any one of us below 50, and we think we are invincible and nothing will happen to us," Foo said.

Getting all of the funds raised from Movember is the Cancer Fund's "Going Through" project, designed to help prostate-cancer patients overcome obstacles linked to the disease to achieve well-being. Fung Yuk-lau, 73, who was diagnosed with an early stage of the cancer in September last year, will be the first beneficiary of the new project.

"I have learned a lot through the programme, without which I wouldn't have known about the right treatment or how to deal with the side effects. But I'm very optimistic about life now."

Sunday, November 30, 2014 7

HONG KONG

CRIME

FEWER THIEVES BUT MORE SECRET SNAPPERS ON MTR

Latest figures show a rise in cases of upskirt photography and a drop in pickpocketing - but it's still the most common crime on the trains

Lana Lam
lana.lam@scmp.com

With an average of 5.3 million people packing into the city's trains every day, the latest police figures have shown a surprising drop in pickpocketing but a rise in cases of upskirt photography.

Pickpocketing, however, remains the most common crime reported on the train system, followed by assault.

MTR facilities are now fitted out with more than 4,000 surveillance cameras - on station platforms, at entrances and inside train carriages.

A more recent approach to security, a spokeswoman said, with notices to let passengers know they were being monitored.

The footage was also used for "carrying out post-incident investigations," she added.

About 300 officers from the railway police team.

In addition, the MTR Corporation's public awareness campaigns alerting passengers to pickpockets appear to be working despite a recent spike that resulted in a drop in cases.

In 2011, the number of train passengers who fell victim to thieves peaked at 322, but that dropped to 254 in 2012. Last year, 211 such cases were recorded.

And from January to September this year, there have been 135 cases of pickpocketing.

But upskirt photography increased, with 110 cases last year, compared with 101 in 2012. This year, 87 such cases have been reported.

Choi Rainbow, a Singaporean non-profit group dedicated to helping children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, said the association's website, sympathy.com, can start when a child is just one.

Association founders Angel Fu Lai-kuen and Irene Lam Wai-chun both had children with rheumatic diseases, chairman Raymond Chung Yik-cheung, a practising accountant, said.

Such illnesses were often quite costly, Chung said. "When the body does not respond to medicines, the treatment can get expensive," he said.

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CANDY, DAISY'S MOTHER

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Chung's daughter also had a rheumatic disease. "Her immune system was attacking her muscles," he said. "Ten times more muscular enzymes (than normal) were released after she exercised. She is back to normal after years of treatment. The best support we had was the experience shared by our members."

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CANDY, DAISY'S MOTHER

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CANDY, DAISY'S MOTHER



Anti-pickpocket campaign stopped in its tracks

Alice Woodhouse
alice.woodhouse@scmp.com

An advertisement warning MTR passengers to watch out for pickpockets has been reworked by the railway company after complaints about the ethnicity of the featured thief.

The amended MTR poster now shows a Chinese man in a hat and plain blue jumper. Originally the thief had a beard and was wearing a hat, dark gloves and white top with black stripes.

In both cases, the thief is shown taking a cellphone from another train passenger's bag.

"After the [first] poster was released in September, we received a few comments from the community that one of the characters seemed to bear a likeness to a member of certain ethnic groups," MTR Corporation spokeswoman Irene Lam said.

The MTR Corp declined to reveal which ethnic or national groups were crime hot spots, but previous reports showed Kowloon Tong, Central, Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui were the most popular stations for pickpockets.

Weeks before the insurance ad was aired, some school textbooks were criticised for seeming to encourage children to racially stereotype their neighbours.

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C2 Friday, December 12, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

VOLUNTEERS GET HANDS DIRTY IN RUN-DOWN FLATS

Swire employees spend free time working with NGO to clean up old public housing estates, including the nasty job of eradicating bedbugs

Journalist Ng
jenifer@scmp.com

Eighty-three-year-old Lee Sun sits on his bed, his back to a dirty white wall spotted with agonised bedbugs and the blood they sucked, as he recounts the often quiet days he and his wife spend at their dilapidated public housing flat in Sham Shui Po.

"I guess this is what's left of life," he said, shrugging his skinny shoulders.

But it was far from quiet as Lee spoke, with a dozen employees from Swire bawling around bedbugging and cleaning flats at Lei Cheng Uk Estate for free, in collaboration with Project Space for Squatter Kids, a small NGO that tries to improve the living environment at old flats and subdivided housing units.

"It's not just about the cleaning work; it's to go and talk to

them - especially the elderly - so they know someone actually cares for them," said Maggie Tam Chun-lan, a volunteer from Swire.

Tam and her colleagues removed all the clothes and bedding from each flat, stuffed the items into plastic bags and applied cleaning powder inside.

Then they cordoned the whole flat for fleas and bugs, carrying

out a thorough debugging and cleaning.

"[Lee's] flat has so many bugs," Tam said. "I believe this one-off cleaning is useful. At least there's more awareness about cleanliness."

Another Swire volunteer, Ivy Tong Yick-fung, agreed that the one-off effort would be helpful for the tenants.

"A lot of them are elderly folks and they couldn't really lift heavy things or reach very far," she said. "I think this will be helpful."

But ultimately, regular visits and regular cleaning are necessary. This is my first time actually doing this, and I'm surprised how some of these flats are really

quite dirty."

Swire was already contributing HK\$150,000 to Operation Santa Claus - the annual fund-raiser held by the South China Morning Post and RTHK - and was also looking into more volunteer opportunities for its staff.

group public affairs manager Agnes Lau Ying-hang said.

"Our staff has always been very keen on doing volunteering work," Lau said.

"Cleaning and debugging is a great choice, especially for our younger staff," as that did not require a specific skill apart from being able to move furniture around and being willing to do some "dirty" work.

"We are looking at continuous and one-off volunteering opportunities, and we hope to involve more staff," she added.

For this cleaning exercise, Swire collaborated with Project Space, an Operation Santa Claus beneficiary, and with the pest control company Boreco, which trained the volunteers on how to use pesticides.



Lum Kwong-fai of Project Space (left) helps kill the bugs at Lei Cheng Uk Estate. Photos: Edward Wong

'Men posed as police and assaulted mainlander'

Clifford Lo
clifford@scmp.com

A search is on for four men who allegedly posed as policemen, assaulted a mainland tourist and snatched her cellphone at a hotel room in Hong Kong.

The men confronted their victim, 28, in the presence of six other female travellers at the Stamford Hotel on Soy Street on Wednesday night and attacked her when she queried their identities.

"Their appearances raised suspicion because all of them wore masks," a police investigator said. He added that two of them appeared to be just 1.6 metres tall and were wearing glasses. The force requires entrants to be at least 1.63 metres tall and good eyesight is mandatory. The other two were about 1.7 metres tall, according to police. All four were thought to be aged between 20 and 30.

According to police, the woman was in her room with six friends, also from the mainland, when they heard someone at the door. When she answered it, the four masked men claimed to be police in Puzonghu.

"She felt suspicious and demanded to see proof of their identities," the investigator said.

"They apparently knew their attempt had gone wrong. One of them slipped the victim and snatched her mobile phone before they fled."

The victim called the police at about 11.30pm. She did not require hospital treatment, police said. Mong Kok police district's crime squad is investigating.

"We are investigating what their real motive was and why they targeted her," the officer said, adding that the district had recorded no such similar cases before.

There were 206 reports of robberies in the city in the first seven months of this year, compared with 300 in the same period last year, police figures showed.

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Volunteers from Swire and Project Space get ready to clean house.

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英皇電影 華星電影 SCMP South China Morning Post

C2 Wednesday, November 19, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



(From left) Nurse Eva Li, patients Ann Lau and Tang Chiu-si, and Dr Lee Ka-fai. Photo: Edward Wong

BOARD GAME LETS DIABETICS MAP A HEALTHY FUTURE

Patient groups find teaching technique helps them learn more about their condition and allows them to share issues with other sufferers

Elizabeth Cheung
elizabethcheung@scmp.com

It may be unconventional, but for some patients a board game has helped them to cope with diabetes a little better.

"I got to understand the complex process of treating diabetes ... and how winding the path can be," said Tang Chiu-si after playing the game. Tang was part of a two-month trial of the Diabetes Conversation Map Programme in the summer of 2013.

Similar to the popular board game Monopoly, the game requires players to deal with different tasks as they proceed through the stages. When a player picks a "diabetes myth" card - for example, diabetes is caused by sweet food - they have to explain whether it was true or not.

In this case, sweet food does not cause diabetes, but it can lead to obesity, which increases the risk of the disease.

"Compared to just talking to doctors, I remember the instructions better with this map," said the 63-year-old patient who has been fighting the disease for at least 10 years.

Ann Lau Lai-yee, another 60-year-old patient who took part in the trial with Tang, said she enjoyed the interaction with other patients in the group where they discussed the disease. "I feel

more empathy from the others."

He said there was not enough public discussion on the disease, which affects one in 10 Hong Kong people. "Current resources are now focused on treating the disease but we think early prevention is more important."

He said in highly urbanised Hong Kong, establishing a healthy lifestyle was difficult. "Therefore we have to keep on educating until people understand," Lee said.

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C2 Saturday, November 15, 2014

CITY

AVIATION

CATHAY CABIN CREW DEMAND AN 8pc PAY RISE

Flight attendants say demand is 'realistic' while the airline's pilots are threatening industrial action at Christmas over a salary dispute

Timmy Song
timmysong@scmp.com

Cathay Pacific's flight attendants union is calling for an 8 per cent pay rise for next year and an extra month's salary.

Union chairwoman Dom Lai Yuk-sin said: "It is a realistic demand. There is room for them to offer a 10 per cent pay rise."

Flight attendants were given a 4.5 per cent pay rise this year, but have had demands for negotiations which are due to start at the end of the month.

The move comes as Cathay is already facing possible industrial action at Christmas from 2,100 of its pilots, after 53 per cent of

attendants' union is also demanding the company renew its restriction, which will expire in January, on the number of non-Hong Kong based cabin crews allowed to work on flights.

Lai also wants the company to look into extending flight attendants' retirement age, saying that a vast majority of 7,000 members who responded to a poll earlier this year said an extension was important.

The union also expressed concerns over Cathay's programme that monitors flight attendants who report sick leave from time to time, saying it lacks transparency.

Union vice-chairman Julian Yau Chi-hung noted more cabin crews were placed under an absence monitoring programme this year and had received warnings afterwards.

He said a number of cases people were given warnings just before they were eligible for promotion or their contracts were up for renewal.

You said the company failed to explain the guidelines and how it defines a "pattern" of absence. "It is pressure for colleagues. And some just go to work even if they are sick as they don't want to receive a warning," he said.

Cathay's spokeswoman said the programme targets a high level of short-term unusual absence patterns - for example absences falling on weekends, public holidays, linked to annual leave or days off - to identify possible sick leave abuses.

The union was also concerned at the lack of transparency in the company's promotion system, citing recent cases where several paniers were promoted to senior paniers when they did not meet all the requirements.

But Cathay said it was not a prerequisite to have training and working experience in first-class cabins before paniers were promoted, and it has discussed the criteria with the union.

Apart from pay, the flight

Backhanded record



Frenchman Jerome Lacoste stands at Hong Kong's waterfront ahead of his effort to make tennis history. The professional coach, who is based in Hong Kong, hopes to break the Guinness World Record for playing the most consecutive opponents in tennis singles, starting today. The 40-year-old will embark on the challenge in a fundraiser at the Hong Kong Sports Institute, where he must finish 33 best-of-three-set matches with different opponents from Sun today to

around from tomorrow, to break the record of 32 held by Dutchman Erik van der Laan. "I am confident I can finish the challenge," Lacoste said. "I successfully finished three trials, 14 hours in mid-July, 22 hours in mid-August and the last one, 32 hours in September. I felt OK after all the trials." Money raised will go to the Sports for Hope Foundation, which plays a major role in supporting elite junior athletes as well as underprivileged youths who can't afford to join a sport.

"I have no idea how good my opponents are, but I will give my best in every match," said Lacoste, who has lived in Hong Kong for four years. Former Thai star Paradorn Sitchauphan will be his final opponent tomorrow. "My body condition will be closely monitored by my nutritionists. She will take blood samples and give me supplements from time to time," Lacoste said. "Rather than a record, I am doing this for the kids here." Report: Kevin Kwong Photo: Jonathan Wong

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Feeding the potential of physically disabled

Donations help school buy machines that give students with severe infirmities self-confidence

Oliver Chau
oliverchau@scmp.com

The only part of Lung Kin's limbs that can move with reasonable dexterity is the big toe on his left foot.

A 19-year-old student with severe disability due to cerebral palsy, Lung Kin relies on that extremely alone to control a joystick on his electric wheelchair to get around.

At Hong Kong Red Cross Margaret Trench School in Wong Tai Sin, he made his entrance slowly into the classroom and caught sight of an electric feeding device.

Physical disabilities notwithstanding, Lung Kin's large eyes widened and his lips formed a big smile at the thought of being able to eat on his own at long last.

Principal Lee Cheuk-hong, a

experiences they have never had before.

Margaret Trench, one of the Red Cross' three schools for the physically disabled, takes in those in the severe category. More than 90 per cent of its 100 primary and secondary pupils have learning difficulties as well.

"We are working very hard to train our pupils to overcome physical limitations and develop their potential," occupational therapist Florence Ng Lai-fong said. "But they can do only up to a certain point, beyond which assistive devices have to come in."

Students with cerebral palsy, such as Lung Kin, have limited control of their arms and legs, but also the intellect to cope with life - and hope for the better.

"They display a good level of intellectual capability to appreciate self-dependence," Ng said. "When it comes to eating, they'd rather do it themselves and would feel upset if they can't."

Nothing said it better than Lung Kin's reaction to the feeding device, which was loaned from another school for the interview. "I want to have a chicken dinner with this device," said Lung Kin, a name he preferred to be called. "It's kin for health, so Lung Kin means 'healthy ding-on'," he laughed.

The youngster was keen to live with dignity. "Eating alone, I hope to wash my own face and turn on the music of Leslie Cheung, too," he added, still laughing.



Principal Lee Cheuk-hong, therapist Florence Ng and Lung Kin with a feeding machine. Photo: K. Y. Cheng

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PAPER TALK

The Sun, Oriental Daily

Drainage officials criticised over city's sewer safety

The Drainage Services Department has come under fire for failing to boost inspections of sewers despite frequent blasts caused by biogas in recent years. A contractor for the Water Supplies Department was killed in 2001 after an explosion at a sewer near the Ping Shek Playground in Ngau Chi Wan, where he had been working.

Monday, Ming Pao Daily

Plaster problems to blame for falling tiles at estate: report

Mosaic tiles are falling from the external walls of buildings in the second phase of a housing estate in Healthy Village, North Point, because of problems with the plastering. That's according to a report obtained by the media, after an investigation commissioned by homeowners and the Housing Society.

The sand-based grout in the plaster used at the Flat-for-Sale Scheme estate contained only 0.8 per cent cement - far less than the "at least 20 per cent" stated in the building contract, the report said. Subgrade in the grout was 11 times higher than the acceptable level, and not enough grout was used, it said. Yet the report advised that the homeowners pay 36 per cent of

the maintenance costs. The owners disagreed, saying it was a construction problem and the Housing Society should bear the full maintenance cost.

Tuesday, The Sun

Poisoning suspected after 15 dogs found dead in Sha Tin village

Fifteen dogs have died mysteriously in the past 16 days in Pak Tin village, Sha Tin, and poisoning is suspected. A villager who lends dogs in the area said he had noticed there were fewer around since the end of last month, then their bodies were found under bushes or by the side of streams. Some of them were found with blood around their eyes, ears and snouts. He and other villagers suspect the dogs were poisoned and have reported the case to police.

Wednesday, Apple Daily

Some restaurants near protests fully booked for Christmas

Restaurants in areas affected by the Occupy protests say their Christmas and New Year bookings haven't been affected. In fact, some hotel restaurants near the Admiralty protest zone say they are fully booked for buffet dinners over the festive period. A spokeswoman for the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Central said Christmas Eve buffets at some of its seven

restaurants were fully booked a few weeks ago. Simon Lee Siu-po, a senior lecturer at Chinese University's School of Accountancy, expected it to be business as usual for retailers and restaurants over the festive season - unless the government clamped down on the protesters again with tear gas.

Thursday, Hong Kong Economic Times

Siemens stops selling to Suning over extended warranty

German home appliance manufacturer Siemens has stopped supplying its products to mainland retail chain Suning after it discovered Hong Kong outlets of the firm were selling Siemens washing machines with its own two-year warranty period on top of the two-year guarantee provided by Siemens.

Friday, HK Economic Times

One in seven Hongkongers use only mobile devices to go online

One in seven Hongkongers use only mobile devices such as handsets and tablets to access the internet, a recent Google poll of 3,000 residents found. That number is the fifth highest in Asia, after Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and South Korea. The survey also found that one in three Hong Kong people used three different devices - mobile, tablet and computer - to go online. But the phenomenon of accessing the internet on mobile devices concerned a social worker with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Integrated Centre on Addiction Prevention and Treatment. He said 40 per cent of the centre's patients suffered from internet addiction, and the problem had affected their work and families.

Compiled by Nelson Cheng

48 HOURS

the

LIST

Right place Right time

EDITOR'S PICKS FOR THE WEEKEND

1

CATCH

Wavelengths: Leslie Cheung in production of A Man in a White Dress

2

INVEST

on 100,000 Hong Kong dollars in a 100,000 Hong Kong dollars investment

3

GRAND

opening to be held for the first time at 100,000 Hong Kong dollars

4

SAMPLE

100,000 Hong Kong dollars in a 100,000 Hong Kong dollars investment

5

INVEST

on 100,000 Hong Kong dollars in a 100,000 Hong Kong dollars investment

6

INVEST

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8

INVEST

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9

INVEST

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10

INVEST

on 100,000 Hong Kong dollars in a 100,000 Hong Kong dollars investment

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Tough fight against modern-day slavery

Thanks to Nobel prize winner Kailash Satyarthi's organisation, more than 80,000 child workers have been freed in India

Nobel peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi wants support from around the world for a campaign to end child slavery. The campaign will be launched this week, as new figures suggest almost 36 million people are living as slaves today.

Satyarthi, 60, was the surprise co-winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his work fighting child slavery and exploitation in India. He said not enough was being done to protect children from being forced into a life of slavery.

The Walk Free Foundation, an Australia-based human rights group, estimated that 35.8 million people have been born into a life of slavery. They are trafficked for illegal or criminal activities or trapped because they owe money and are forced to work.

The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are 21 million people in forced labour worldwide. Of this number, 5.5 million, or 26 per cent, are aged under 18.

Satyarthi's organisation, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, has helped free more than 80,000 child workers in India over the past 30 years.

OSC helps Yunnan orphanage

Fifty children who lost their homes because of domestic violence or poverty will get to live in a children's home in Zhaoqing (肇慶), Yunnan (雲南) province, because of Operation Santa Claus' (OSC) donation to Sowers Action.

The Mong Kok-based charity recently opened the home in Zhaoqing. Orphans will be allowed to live there until they reach age 18.

Albert Ho Ngai-keung, chairman of Sowers Action's board, said he is grateful for the donation by Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraiser organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

He said many children in rural Yunnan lose one or both of their parents because of poverty or domestic violence and need a home. "In some cases, the father has died, and the mother has to marry another man for financial support, as she can no longer take care of the children," he says. "In these



Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi. Photo: AFP

On Monday, Satyarthi asked the world to support an "End Child Slavery Week" campaign starting in London today. Satyarthi will speak to the Trust Women Conference today and help launch the End Child Slavery campaign.

The campaign involves groups including the Global March against Child Labour and Anti-Slavery International, while media company Thomson Reuters have launched #Choosetosee as part of the project.

"The fight against child slavery is the fight against traditional mindset, policy deficit and lack of accountability and urgency for children across the globe," he said. He says the hardest part is keeping people focused on the issue.

Reuters

She had the brain to win the game

Congratulations to Anushka Purohit, 14, of Renaissance College Hong Kong.

Anushka won the latest round of Young Post's Brain Game, beating nine other contestants. Her prize is Sony's digital music player NWZ-A15 and Sony's headphones MDR-1A, worth HK\$3,860.



Britain won't block tear gas sales to Hong Kong

Britain Reuters

LONDON - Britain said on Monday that it had decided not to block the sale of tear gas to Hong Kong. Police used the gas against pro-democracy protesters in September.

In a written statement to the British parliament on Monday, Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said the current licence did not break the rules. Swire had said in October that a review was likely following the Hong Kong clashes.

"The government has reviewed licences for tear gas exports to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government... the government has decided it will not be revoked on the basis that it does not [break the agreed rules]," he said, referring to the rules used to control arms exports. The rules are supposed to ensure that weapons made in Britain are not used against innocent civilians.

Swire added that the British government had not been able to confirm pictures which appeared to show British-made tear gas canisters being used against protesters.



Riot police used tear gas against protesters in September. Photo: AP

C2 Thursday, December 11, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

WHEN THE LAWYERS MET ART IN HOSPITAL

Lawyers from Deacons team up with art group to bring joy to physically disabled children at Sandy Bay hospital - and all for a good cause

Jennifer Ngo and Oliver Chou

A unique feature of Operation Santa Claus is to pair up donors and beneficiaries whose paths may never have crossed otherwise. The result often exceeds just give-and-take. Nice surprises crop up.

A case in point is when Deacons, a law firm and a major donor for Operation Santa since 2011 met with Art in Hospital, a

staff to call on the paediatric hospital. It is their fourth year to take part in Operation Santa Claus, an annual fundraising campaign co-hosted by the South China Morning Post and RTHK. Songs and gifts aside, they brought in Santa, played by registered patient attorney Jeff Molau, to surprise the youngsters.

"The kids told me they did not believe Santa would come in such warm weather. But then when a Santa came in full costume with personalised gifts for each boy and girl, they were truly elated," said teacher Ching Ting-wah, adding that he or any other Chinese person would never entertain the kids as much as a "real" Western Santa.

Observing the scene was Grace Cheng San-yee, director of Art in Hospital, a small NGO in Wan Chai and a beneficiary of this year's Operation Santa Claus.

Over the past 20 years, she and her group, which specialises in art therapy for hospital inpatients, have noticed that the profile of the people they serve has changed, particularly with an increase in the number of mentally ill people they come across.

"We started off by painting murals in hospital rooms," Cheng said. "Now, we increasingly do projects involving the elderly in infirmaries or people dealing with different types of psychological illnesses." But the art projects and handicraft workshops the group conducted for the sick did not constitute art therapy, she stressed, instead calling these sessions "art as positive energy".

That approach was reflected in the activity-oriented services the NGO formulated, especially for younger people, who were creative, more active and needed more stimulation - and who they are truly heroes," she added.

Ching led a team of seven solicitors and administration



Volunteers from the Deacons law firm join Art in Hospital in bringing smiles to youngsters at the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital - and a close encounter with Santa Claus. Photo: Jonathan Wong



HOW YOU CAN GIVE

- Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com/donate
- Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC (account number 502-676299-001 for SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus)
- You can donate with a cheque payable to "SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus" and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories.
- Donations of HK\$100 or more are tax-deductible. If you would like a tax receipt, please send the completed donation form and original bank receipt to the address above.
- Please call 26808859 or e-mail osc@scmp.com with any inquiries, or you can visit us online at osc.scmp.com

Small NGO in art therapy, at the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital in Sandy Bay one warm winter morning.

In addition to their "match-making", the two groups were also there to bring festive joy to a group of physically disabled young patients through games and gifts.

It did not take long for the sight of the wheelchair-bound youngsters to dawn on the elite professionals.

"You call me an elite in the professional circles. Well, I am not quite sure about that when I look at these brave children and their parents in the face of adversity," said Lilian Chiang, the senior partner at Deacons.

"They may not have a high position in society, but I think they are truly heroes," she added.

Chiang led a team of seven solicitors and administration

staff to call on the paediatric hospital. It is their fourth year to take part in Operation Santa Claus, an annual fundraising campaign co-hosted by the South China Morning Post and RTHK. Songs and gifts aside, they brought in Santa, played by registered patient attorney Jeff Molau, to surprise the youngsters.

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With a cash injection from Operation Santa Claus, Art in Hospital is now planning a workshop to possibly teach the elderly and people living with psychosis to put together a photographic diary.

Providing cameras for patients, Cheng said a team of volunteer designers, artists and photographers would teach them photographic skills and help them build their own "life book".

"We hope that the process will be therapeutic as well," she said. "Like painting murals - which is what we did most during our early years. It's using art to change the environment and make it happy. I strongly believe in the healing power of art."

Cheng said Art in Hospital worked mainly with public hospitals at their invitation, but usually had to raise its own funds.

Sue Chan, principal of Hong Kong Red Cross Hospital Schools, which runs the Sandy Bay facility, considered this a God-given gift on a special occasion.

"This year is the 60th anniversary of our schools in Hong Kong, and I am thankful for your sharing that brings a smiling moment to all of us," she said.

Sponsored Feature

Deck the Halls with Objets d'Art from Christofle

Add a touch of French art de vivre to your holiday festivities this Christmas with top-drawer gifts from Christofle coveted by the cognoscenti.

Home sweet home

Burnish your home with a candelabra from Christofle. An essential for contemporary interiors, these exquisitely crafted candelabras make a sense of subtle luxury - the perfect embellishment for every home especially for the holiday season.

For something truly precious, the Peuplier vase from the Christofle Haute Orfèvrerie collection is a must-have for art connoisseurs. Reproduced from the original models from the 1950s and limited to 100 pieces globally, the vase features flowers and leaves chased in the metal with such precision that they look like natural imprints. Created by Christofle's master silversmiths employing traditional techniques for a strictly hand-made approach, it is a piece of living art.



Silver wearable art

Extend the silver moments with ultra-contemporary jewellery in sterling silver. Whether as presents to bestow on yourself or others, the new 'Agent Double' collection of rings, necklaces and bracelets designed by Amelie Riech are pieces of wearable art. Based on duality, the collection's sophisticated simplicity is expressed through graphic combinations of negative and positive space, straight lines and curves.

Equally smart and sleek are sterling silver cutlives for men that make stylish Christmas stocking fillers.



Savour silver moments

Transform your festive feasts into silver moments with the new Silver Time collection. Designed by Jean-Marie Massaud, one of the leading lights of contemporary French design, the collection offers a complete 10-piece silver-plated brunch service in a remarkably modern spirit conveying softness and lightness. Oozing with style, they add a new factor to joyful, modern entertaining. Showstoppers include a large tea fountain in glass and a curvy silver-plated teapot that optimises the minimalist and organic aesthetics of the collection.

Complete the feast with exquisite handcrafted crystal wine glasses, Champagne flutes and decanters designed to combine the functions of proper degustation and aesthetics. Make it a lavish Christmas by stocking up on these sumptuous objets d'art at Christofle.



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18.12.14 news



Taliban attack kills 141 in Pakistan

Survivors recount the brutal details of the deadly massacre at an army-run school as world condemns 'act of terror'

Young Hongkongers reacted with shock yesterday at the news of 132 children and at least nine staff being killed by jihadists at their school in Pakistan.

Helen Wong, 15, from Shatin College, said: "141 [people dead]. That's the number of students in my year group."

Rais Azad, 22, a Pakistani who works in Hong Kong, says the Pakistani army is doing a good job regaining control of the area.

"Hopefully, we will get everything back in Pakistan's control, but of course we will see more bloodshed."

Joy Pannani, 16, from PLK Ngan Po Ling College, believes it is time Hongkongers paid more attention to the violence in Pakistan. "When I asked some classmates whether they knew about this, they all said no," she said.

Students gunned down

The attack began on Tuesday morning when seven Taliban gunmen, wearing suicide vests, attacked the Army Public School and Degree College in the north-west of the country. Students were gunned down and some female teachers were burned alive.

During the eight-hour massacre 141 people were killed, including school principal Tahira Qazi. A further 121 students were wounded, many critically.

I folded my tie and pushed it into my mouth so that I wouldn't scream. My body was shivering. I felt like it was death approaching me

They lay in overwhelmed hospitals surrounded by relatives as hundreds of people lined up outside to donate blood.

One student who survived, Shahrul Khan, 16, said he and his classmates were in a careers guidance session when four gunmen burst in.

"Someone screamed at us to get down and hide below the desks," he said. "Then one of them



An injured student who survived the massacre recovers in hospital, but 141 students and staff weren't so lucky. Photo: AP

shouted: 'There are so many children beneath the benches, go and get them!'

Shahrul said he felt searing pain as he was shot in both his legs just below the knee. He pretended to be dead as he tried to hide from the gunmen.

"I folded my tie and pushed it into my mouth so that I wouldn't scream," he said. "My body was shivering. I saw death so close ... I felt as though it was death that was approaching me."

Only I survived

He is currently recovering in a local hospital. Another student at the hospital, Hammad Ahmed, also survived the attack.

"I was with my friends ... when we heard gunshots," he said. "We rushed inside the classroom, our teacher closed the door, she was trying to lock it when the terrorists forced it open. All 10 of my classmates and our teacher died, only I survived."

The Pakistani Taliban, a militant group who want to overthrow the government, claimed responsibility for the attack. Meanwhile, Pakistani Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai condemned the violence. Malala, 17, was shot by a Taliban gunman in Pakistan in 2012 for campaigning for female education.

"I am heartbroken by this senseless and cold-blooded act of terror in Peshawar that is unfolding before us. Innocent children in their school have no place in horror such as this. I condemn these atrocious and cowardly acts," she said.

"I, along with millions of others around the world, mourn these children, my brothers and sisters - but we will never be defeated."

The New York Times and Agence France-Presse with additional reporting by Melanie Leung

Feeding a hungry HK

Foodlink has expanded its food collection points from hotels and restaurants to international schools.

The charity now has four vans collecting unsold food at hotels and restaurants and taking them to charities around the city, providing needy families with free meals.

To cater for new food collection points including six international schools, Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraiser organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, will pay for a fifth van for Foodlink.

Chief Operation Officer of Foodlink Joyce Chan says kitchens at international schools prepare a huge amount of food for students and teachers every day. One of Foodlink's school collaborators, Chinese International School (CIS), prepares meals for 1,500 students on campus and most of the unsold items will be collected by Foodlink.

"Our job does not only help people in need and saves food, it inspires children to respect food. We have

held many seminars at school to educate students about reducing food waste. Making schools a surplus food collection point shows students what can be done to reduce food waste," says Chan.

In 2013, Foodlink prevented 367 tonnes of edible food from going into the landfill, and raised public awareness of food waste.

"We have had a lot of positive feedback from parents about their children not wasting food anymore after schools joined the Foodlink programme. We are working closely with school caterers and more international and local schools will collaborate with Foodlink in the future," she says.

Wong Yat-hei



CIS has joined the Foodlink programme. Photo: May Tse



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overwhelmed (adj) 不堪重負的	searing (adj) 熾熱的	laureate (n) 得獎者
senseless (adj) 無意義的	atrocious (adj) 殘酷的	defeated (v) 擊敗
collaborators (n) 合作伙伴	seminars (n) 研討會	edible (adj) 可食用的



South China Morning Post

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DIGEST

China's Mars rover to go on show in Zhuhai

China will today showcase its prototype Mars rover at an aviation show in Zhuhai (珠海) as the country prepares for its first mission to the Red Planet in 2020. The rover is similar to the ill-fated one that broke down on the moon earlier this year, though scientists are confident the new version will be much sturdier. - CHINA XIN

Tax shock for wealthy Japanese expats

Japanese citizens living abroad will have to brace themselves for new taxes being proposed by Tokyo. Those with assets exceeding HK\$5.6 million - including big apartments and yachts in Hong Kong - are the main targets of tax reforms being considered by the finance ministry. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hopes to have many of the changes enacted into law in 2015. - ASIA XIN

Avic scores a first by setting plane to US

The Aviation Industry Corp of China (AVIC) has become the first mainland aircraft manufacturer to sell a plane to US customers. The Y-12T, a 19-seat turboprop transport aircraft made by Havbe Aviation, a core unit of AVIC, will be the first mainland-manufactured plane sold to a developed nation, as previous models were mainly sold to countries in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia. - BUSINESS B1

Mental tests for banker accused of murder

An expatriate banker charged with murdering two women at his apartment flat in Wan Chai has been ordered to undergo psychiatric tests, to see if he is fit to make a plea. Eastern Court also heard yesterday that the Briton, Ruffi Jutting, 25, would not agree to take part in a reconstruction of the crime, a common practice in Hong Kong. - CITY C2

G20 must prove its worth, say analysts

The Group of 20 industrialised nations meeting in Brisbane, Australia, later this week will have to show the bloc is still relevant, analysts say, after failing to make much of an impact since helping the world economy recover from the 2008 financial crisis. - WORLD A1

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

'Tis the season to be giving as charity drive begins

Oliver Chau
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The city's largest year-end charity campaign has kicked off to raise funds for the less fortunate, heighten awareness of sharing and salute those who give.

This is the 27th year that Operation Santa Claus, co-organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, will galvanise corporate and individual donors for two months of fundraising activities and fun.

More than HK\$210 million has been raised since 1988, and with 20 new beneficiaries for 2014, the number of charitable projects will exceed 200.

The launch last night started off in style at the former Police Married Quarters in Central with jazz and a string quartet. Official guests, donors and beneficiaries were on hand to celebrate and reflect on the campaign's theme for this year: "Small Change, Big Change".

APEC SUMMIT



Tension shows on the faces of Shinzo Abe and Xi Jinping as they shake hands at their meeting in the Great Hall of the People. Photo: Reuters

SIGNS OF STRAIN AS XI MEETS ABE FOR TALKS

Chinese and Japanese leaders hold discussions in symbolic bid to thaw frosty relations, but Xi emphasises 'rights and wrongs' are very clear

Kristine Kwok
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They shook hands, and they did not speak before going into a closed-door meeting. It was not clear if the tension eased at the state dinner hosted by Xi afterwards, where the president and first lady Peng Liyuan (彭丽媛) charmed amiably with Russia President Vladimir Putin and US President Barack Obama, the third-largest economies.

The two leaders met for about half an hour on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit that opened in Beijing today. Many observers said it was an important first step to contain escalating tensions between the two sides.

The bilateral relationship - crucial to the region's peace and stability - has deteriorated since Abe took power in 2012. The two countries have sparred over disputed maritime territories, wartime history and perceived military threats from the other side.

Xi looked frosty when greeting Abe at the Great Hall of the People. Both appeared stern and strained in front of the cameras as they shook hands, and they did not speak before going into a closed-door meeting.

President Xi Jinping (習近平) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held their first meeting in two years in Beijing, making a symbolic move to break the ice between the world's second and third-largest economies.

gion," Xi said. "Only when Japan upholds bilateral documents and promises made by other Japanese governments - such as the speech by former Japanese prime minister Murayama Tomiichi - can it foster a friendly relationship with neighbouring countries."

Abe, for his part, said the face-to-face contact was "a first step" towards improving the Sino-Japanese relationship. He said he had raised the issue of establishing a crisis-management mechanism at the meeting. He also said Tokyo would uphold an apology Tomiichi made in 1995 for Japan's wartime aggression.

Both sides agreed to develop a strategic relationship and resolve differences through dialogue. Liang said yesterday's meeting could only temporarily contain tensions between the two countries while fundamental issues on history and maritime rights remained unresolved.

But the meeting will definitely send positive signals for governments and people from both sides to resume efforts on addressing the problems," he said.

Xi said Abe that the "rights and wrongs" that have been troubling the bilateral relations were very clear, a Xinhuas statement said. The historical issues bear on the feelings of the 1.3 billion Chinese people and to the peace, stability and development of the region.

"Operation Santa Claus comes as a welcome reminder that [behind] our disagreements, first and foremost as a society, we should come together," said Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor.

"Hong Kong is a successful community built on mission and dedication, on decency and mutual respect. "They are the values that have made Hong Kong, they are the values that will see through today's challenges, they are the values that will make this year's Operation Santa Claus another celebrating success."

FINANCE

Markets steam ahead as date set for through train

Imminent launch of Shanghai-Hong Kong stock exchange link boosts shares worldwide

Jing Yang
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Share prices rallied globally yesterday after regulators in Shanghai and Hong Kong confirmed that the widely anticipated \$50 billion (HK\$700 billion) scheme to directly link stock trading in the two cities would start next Monday.

A joint statement by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission said that all rules had been agreed for trading and clearing as well as the terms for dealing with cross-border market misconduct.

The news sent the Hang Seng Index to a one-month high of 24,180.24 before it settled to end the day up 0.8 per cent at 23,744.78. The Shanghai Composite Index jumped 2.3 per cent to close at 2,473.67 - its highest since November 2011. It also helped lift the 45-country MSCI All World Index, a benchmark for international fund managers, to its highest since late September.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying and Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-tsin have held lobbying efforts in recent weeks to get the scheme started.

Leung met President Xi Jinping (習近平) on Sunday for the first time since the protests began. Xi said Beijing was committed to the city's democratic reform within the framework of set down in the Basic Law.

At No 4 is HK SAR vs Singh Gurnawal, a recent decision of the Court of Appeal, in which a man charged with theft and fraud was tried in absentia in the District Court and convicted. In allowing the defendant's appeal, the court reminded us of a basic common law principle that trials in absentia are "rare and exceptional... particularly if the defendant is unrepresented".

It was not enough that the unrepresented defendant had "deliberately breached their bail conditions and had absconded". At No 3 is HK SAR vs Tso Kin-shing, another decision of the Court of Appeal, which

illustrates how a defendant, without legal representation, can be severely disadvantaged. The defendant was convicted of serious sexual offences and sentenced to eight years' jail. In the jury trial, the admissibility of a confession statement was not tested even though police abuse was alleged, the defendant's closing speech was "cut short", while the senior prosecuting counsel made a closing speech which was "not only biased, but also evasive".

At No 2 is HK SAR vs Pung Hung-fai, which narrowed the ambit of the money laundering offence. In deciding whether a defendant had grounds to believe properly he dealt with represented the proceeds of an indictable offence, the test is now whether anyone looking at the grounds objectively would have concluded that the defendant's knowledge, beliefs, perceptions and evaluations. The court acquitted the defendant and said that the new approach had a "strong element of moral blame".

"Topping the list is the case of HK SAR vs Han Ming-long, not for what the case said about the law, but for what recently retired vice-president of the Court of Appeal, Mr Justice Frank Stock, said in his 31 paragraphs of judgment, in which he chastised the lawyers for delay and the "extraordinary" waste of public funds and expressed the "urgent need" for criminal justice reform. A change from the "adjudication culture" that has developed was "long overdue".

He reminded lawyers of their "professional duty... to ensure that the wheels of justice run smoothly", a duty "not at all at odds with their duty to the client".

It is remarkable to see that there are still unrepresented defendants being tried on serious charges

When it comes to helping underprivileged young people, the Fung Group believes a hands-on approach to mentoring and inspiring teenagers is a recipe for success.

This is where its employees come into the picture. Under a job-shadowing scheme run by the International Society for the Education of the Gifted, staff members go on the front line to act as mentors to underprivileged children, opening their horizons and encouraging them to see options in their careers and life development.

"It's very much in our philosophy to support our community," said Wong Kai-man, director of the charity, the Fung (1996) Foundation.

Wong is spearheading the drive to boost the social mobility of young people.

In the past eight years, 551 staff members from the Fung Group's network of companies have acted as mentors to 737

pupils from 43 schools. The foundation is involved in projects focused on three areas: community-building, entrepreneurship and the environment.

"Youth development is very much in our theme and it's one of the themes for Operation Santa Claus," Wong said, referring to the annual festive fundraising drive held by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

In aid of Operation Santa Claus, which supports 20 beneficiaries in Hong Kong and on the mainland, to Hall, general manager of Toys 'R Us Asia, said the running event, combined with philanthropy, was "something that brings us all together to line up behind a common goal".

"[It] is a testament to... doing the right thing for the charity because we believe in it so much," she said. "We don't put on any airs and graces for these kids."

Another of the Fung Group's programmes to help young people who have fallen through the cracks is Step Up.

This is a skills-based scheme designed to build essential confidence and workplace readiness in people who are aged between 18 and 28 and are not in education, employment or training.

Karen Seymour, community engagement director at Li & Fung, said: "These are the hidden youth of Hong Kong, representing a 10 per cent youth unemployment rate that is treble the general unemployment rate."

"These young people are at great risk of being trapped in the cycle of poverty forever."

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C2 Wednesday, December 31, 2014

CITY

PUBLIC EYE
MICHAEL CHUGANI

Property fat cat thinks high home prices are hunky-dory

Was he asleep throughout the 79 days of the "umbrella movement"? If so, he's a pretty good sleeper. Young people wearing hard hats and goggles and armed with spiked shields clashing with baton-wielding police officers—did all that somehow escape his notice? Nearly 50,000 Hongkongers competing for just 2,000 Home Ownership Scheme flats last week—did he miss that too? Looks like it. Why else would businessman Sir Leung Chai-kin say it was healthy for property prices to soar up to 10 per cent a year? *Public Eye's* jaw dropped when Leung told the media last week that not only should home prices go up, the government should also scrap its cooling measures. But then Leung is a property tycoon. He heads Wharfedale Properties and the Real Estate Developers Association. Why should he give a damn that home prices are already so sky-high that tens of thousands of families can only afford shabby subdivided flats barely bigger than prison cells? Like our other developers, his priority is to squeeze every cent out of ordinary Hongkongers. That is what he means when he says it is healthy for overpriced home prices to rocket further. It is certainly healthy for developers to be able to demand HK\$2.5 million for 180 sq ft flats. Whether it is also healthy for ordinary Hongkongers or Hong Kong as a whole is not a factor that enters their equation. Ordinary Hongkongers know something is seriously wrong when 50,000 people clamour for 2,000 government-subsidised flats. They know the Occupy movement was not just about democracy. It was also about pent-up fury over unaffordable housing, the disproportionate power of the tycoons, rising poverty and the wealth gap. Why else would thousands of otherwise law-abiding residents stage the police down even when bombarded with tear gas? But do not bother explaining that to Leung and his tycoon pals. You will only get puzzled faces.

Myths about ATV exposed as broadcaster sinks
Public Eye is a freeholder for ATV. There, we have declared our interest. Now let's talk about the many myths exposed by the sad saga of the cash-strapped broadcaster. Myth No 1: *Public Eye* is a pro-Beijing mouthpiece that panders to the central government by thrashing the pan-democratic camp. If that were true, Beijing would have strong-armed a wealthy white knight into rescuing the sinking station by now. But that has not happened, even though staff are threatening industrial action that may sound the death knell for ATV, because licence conditions require it to have daily news shows in English and Chinese. Myth No 2: Hong Kong is an advanced city with labour protection laws equivalent to those in other developed societies. ATV has not paid its staff for two months, but the Labour Department is powerless to do anything. Secretary for Labour and Welfare Matthew Cheung Kin-chung has warned he might force ATV bosses to pay wages. Myth No 3: Labour Party legislator Lee Cheuk-yan, who also heads the Confederation of Trade Unions, is a crusader for workers' rights. Yes, he shows up at labour disputes, and put on a big show last year by championing striking dock workers demanding better pay from container terminal boss Li Ka-shing. But targeting tycoons fits into his unrelenting and pre-democracy politics. Backing ATV workers does not. Why? Because he believes the myth ATV is a Beijing mouthpiece. That is why he has lost his seat in the support of its 700 workers.

Michael Chugani is a columnist and *Public Eye* show host. mickchu@pau.com

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Polytechnic University lecturer Christopher Cheung (top left), with some of the students who got on-the-job training at the Post to come up with creative ideas. Photo: Dickson Lee

SANTA'S 'ELVES' HAD DESIGNS ON CAMPAIGN BEFORE IT STARTED

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

- Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com/donate
- Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC, Citibank, number 502-636299-000 for SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus
- You can donate with a cheque payable to "SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus" and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post, Centre, 22 Dal Fat Street, Tai Po, New Territories
- Donations of HK\$500 or more are tax-deductible, if you would like a tax receipt, please send the completed donation form and original bank receipt to the address above
- Please call 26808599 or e-mail osc@scmp.com with any inquiries, or visit us online at osc.scmp.com

Post helps group of students put their creativity to the test and get real-world experience in competition to help promote this year's event

Oliver Chou

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Behind all the donors and beneficiaries for Operation Santa Claus, there was one group of "elves" who were busy even before the campaign took shape. Students of applied and media arts at Polytechnic University got a rare opportunity to put their creativity and skills into practice through a term project as part of the campaign to come up with a theme and designs for items such as keychains.

"Michael [Chi of strategic marketing at the South China Morning Post] said the campaign has been going for 20 years and it has run a little dry. So I said, 'Let my students have a stab at it,'" said programme director Christopher Cheung.

Cheung, who was trained in Australia and the UK, said on-the-job training was common among design firms abroad but rare in Hong Kong because of the shortage of space. "How can a small office with right to 10 people have two to three interns for weeks?" he asked.

"Placing students in a working environment was essential to get them 'battle-ready' for the real world after graduation."

Some 70 students were divided into 12 design teams to compete for the best ideas for Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising event organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

"Each team was required to come up with three ideas by mid-term and the Post would select the four best ones, which were distributed to the teams for further competition, and the best team would get a six-week internship at the Post during the summer," Cheung said.

"During our six weeks at the Post, we learned how to generate ideas that can be put into practice," said Cherry Young Hui-tung, one of the six winners.

"We brainstormed among ourselves and came up with all kinds of ideas to bear out the theme of small change leading to big change," she said.

In the end, it was Thomas Wong's design of using the coin as the wheel of a wheelbarrow that was adopted for the official Operation Santa Claus advertisement.

"Competing with my peers and presenting it not just to my teacher but to a real client really gave me the task of putting together a business plan to secure donations, and then implementing it over an action-packed two months."

By raising a total of HK\$767,000, the teams surpassed all expectations, and the challenge let them put their business and marketing skills to very practical use. But it was also a steep learning curve, great fun and, most importantly, a chance to make a real contribution to improving the everyday lives of less fortunate members of society.

The judging panel consisted of Mark Michelson, senior advisor for APC Worldwide; Hugh Chiverton, head of the English programme service for RTHK; Michael Chu, South China Morning Post's director of strategic marketing; and May Lam-Ko-bayashi, head of public affairs for Swire Properties, which generously provided seed capital for each team and hosted this week's round-up event in their new business office space in Quarry Bay.

Participants in the MBA Challenge beat expectations to raise HK\$767,000 for festive fundraiser

John Chan

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Participants in the MBA Challenge for Operation Santa Claus proved they really are the business, with the contest proving a resounding success in terms of both fundraising and spreading awareness about the annual campaign's aims and beneficiaries.

Competing teams, which represented some of the top MBA programmes in Hong Kong, were given the task of putting together a business plan to secure donations, and then implementing it over an action-packed two months.

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C2 Friday, January 9, 2015

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Winners and judges of the MBA Challenge, part of Operation Santa Claus, are pictured at an event held at Swire Properties' Blueprint office space in Quarry Bay. Photo: Jonathan Wong

TEAMS EXCEL IN BUSINESS CONTEST

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South China Morning Post

50-storey tower plan for mall in Admiralty

Replacement of Queensway Plaza would meet demand for Grade A offices

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A 50-storey office and hotel tower could be built on the site of the low-rise Queensway Plaza shopping mall under a government proposal intended to offer more green space in the future, said the city's prime business district.

The plan would also take advantage of the site's location above Admiralty MTR station, a transport hub that will become even more vital when the new South Island Line and Sha Tin-Central Link opens in 2016 and 2020, respectively, the Planning Department says.

Property experts said the government-owned mall was in an area with high demand from office tenants.

The plans are revealed in a paper to the Town Planning Board, which will discuss the matter today. The department suggests turning a 6,220 sq m site into a high-rise tower, with offices and a hotel above seven storeys of dining and shopping space. The total floor area of the development would be 93,300 sq m.

The development would also cover Admiralty Garden, a small public open area. But new open space would be provided, including a landscaped garden that would be connected to existing rooftop open space to form a "green link" to nearby Harcourt Garden and Chater Garden.

The new office space there "will help meet the traditionally strong demand in the Central/Admiralty area," the department said. It also offered a vacancy rate for Grade A offices of 6.2 per cent in the district, lower than the figures of 7.7 per cent for Hong Kong Island and 7.2 per cent citywide.

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The development would also cover Admiralty Garden, a small public open area. But new open space would be provided, including a landscaped garden that would be connected to existing rooftop open space to form a "green link" to nearby Harcourt Garden and Chater Garden.

The new office space there "will help meet the traditionally strong demand in the Central/Admiralty area," the department said. It also offered a vacancy rate for Grade A offices of 6.2 per cent in the district, lower than the figures of 7.7 per cent for Hong Kong Island and 7.2 per cent citywide.

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C2 Thursday, November 20, 2014

CITY

ALL AROUND TOWN

Lego decisionmakers miss midnight calls

When suspicions arose that masked men had led Occupy Central protesters to invade into the Legislative Council building yesterday, Lego secretary general Kenneth Chen Wei-on must have panicked. Why? Because none of his bosses answered his calls. Chen needed instructions on whether to seek police help and allow officers into the building for checks – a thorny issue as Hongkongers want the legislature to be as free from interference by the government's executive branch as possible, especially in these days of political turmoil. Chen first called Lego president Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, followed by House Committee chairman Andrew Leung Kwun-yuen and then deputy chair Ronny Tong Ka-wah, who were supposed to act on Tsang's behalf when he was absent. Predictably, none of them could be reached at that uncharitably hour, so Chen made the decision himself and let police in to search for the handful of people who were believed to have broken in. An apologetic Tsang later said "I am sorry I didn't answer his calls." Down with a host, he had also been missing in action at a Tuesday dinner hosted by the Federation of Public Housing Estates. Tsang did not say if he was in bed but commented: "It was past 11pm. It would have been strange if they could get hold of us... I realised I missed the calls only this morning."

Doctor walks out of Oxfam trailwalker

Duty calls, says Medical Association president Dr Louis Shih Tai-cho in explaining why he did not take part in the Oxfam Trailwalker charity race last Friday, instead leaving the scene after the opening ceremony in Sai Kung. It certainly was not because he was up to the challenge, he said. At Around Town, "I was invited to join business leaders and share my experience, but I had to go," Shih said, adding that he had finished the full 100km trail in eight out of 10 attempts since 1996, clocking between 25 and 38 hours. He was there to support at least 76 doctors who were taking on the 100km challenge. The 20 business representatives – including executive councillor and Oxfam Trailwalker advisory committee member Bernard Chan and General Chamber of Commerce chief executive Shirley Yuen – finished a 4km walk along High Island Reserve as thousands of others trekked 100km over 20 hills along the MacLaurin Trail and other trails within the area, ending in Yuen Long.

No need for petition, rural leader says

Unlike Jasper Tsang, Tsing Yi rural committee chairman Tang Shui-wah is not the least apologetic. Tang's team has failed to collect a single signature in the Alliance for Peace and Democracy's petition in support of police efforts to control Occupy Central, despite being one of rural powerhouse Henan Yee Kuk's 27 rural committees. Over the nine-day campaign, the

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South China Morning Post

Making a wish

Student Gigi Yung Wing-chi (left) and Amina Chan, marketing manager of the Sino Group of Hotels, show off some of the artwork they've made to help raise funds for Operation Santa Claus – the fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTIHK. Six Form Two students at Hong Kong Red Cross Princess Alexandra School joined volunteers from the Sino Group to design and craft recycled coasters to make a wish on their favourite festive food. The artwork will be on display next month on Christmas trees at the group's hotels along with sales of candy grams at HK\$30 each package. Photo: Jonathan Wong

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

REFORMED ADDICTS HELP OTHERS IN REHABILITATION



Remar's John Silva uses the organisation's truck to gather old furniture before restoring and selling them. Photo: May Tie

Remar Hong Kong volunteers get funds for new truck to help some 60 drug addicts and alcoholics in the city overcome their vices

Alic Cheung alic.cheung@scmp.com

The headquarters of Remar Hong Kong is in the middle of a field in Yuen Long, surrounded by greenery and mountains. The only two-story house is also home to fish, birds and two big, friendly dogs. "We really like animals," said Claudio Salguero, a recovered addict and volunteer. Salguero and John Silva have seen an estimated 60 addicts come and go each year from non-profit Remar Hong Kong since 1996 when they started free rehabilitation services. But after 18 years of hard work, the organisation's Hong Kong branch faced a premature end because of an old truck. Remar Hong Kong receives donations from large companies and other charities, but its self-sustaining model also requires them to gather old furniture from donors, which they then restore

and sell. According to Salguero, the truck is still running but is nearing its end. "Our truck is worn and it cannot run much longer. We cannot support this programme next year if the truck isn't replaced," he said.

The non-profit organisation – a beneficiary for this year's annual Operation Santa Claus fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTIHK – is getting HK\$400,000 for a new truck to continue its rehabilitation service for addicts in Hong Kong. Addictions, Silva said, range from heroin and cocaine to cough syrup. "We have around 12 addicts at a time," he said. Volunteers often give these addicts massages and join them in group sessions daily. "Sometimes we take them to the mountains for fresh air. The house here helps addicts to recover due to the nature and quiet," Silva said. "Some of our addicts are clean after two to three months. We know many of them with good jobs now and a lot of them have taken up work at other (rehabilitation) centres."

Apart from rehabilitating addicts, Remar Hong Kong also offers help to the needy. "Poor people from churches get our help too when furniture doesn't all sell," Salguero said. The pair used to be addicts themselves. Silva, a Portuguese national and former electronics repairman, fought alcohol addiction. "My alcohol problems started in school, and then I drank with colleagues. When I got my first job, I drank every lunch, every dinner," Silva said. "I was struggling when I learned of this organisation and decided to stay after I overcame my addiction."

Salguero went from marijuana to hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin. "I came to Remar in 1999 in England for my first rehabilitation," Salguero said. "Since then, I've been 10 years free from addiction and I want to help people like Remar helped me."

Salguero has been helping Silva in Hong Kong since 2012. Remar was founded in Spain by Miguel Diaz and his wife as an evangelical organisation in 1982.

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Sunday Morning Post

Dialogue is 'possible if occupiers want it'

Exco's Fanny Law says government likely to resume talks under framework set before

Joyce Ng joyce.ng@scmp.com

A top aide to Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying says the government is likely to resume dialogue with student leaders of Occupy Central if they accept its earlier offer to produce a report and form a consultative platform. Executive Council member Fanny Law Fan Chiu-fan also said she was "open" after a friend shared the idea of immigration because of "fears about the students, rather than the Communist Party", for taking a lead line on resolving the stalemate.

She urged the students to give up their civil disobedience struggle that has occupied Mong Kok, Admiralty and Causeway Bay for more than 20 days. "I believe if the students accept what the chief secretary had offered earlier, she would be willing to resume talks," Law told a radio talk show yesterday.

On October 21, Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor suggested, as a solution to end the protests, submitting a "report about public sentiments" to Beijing to reflect Occupy's demand for genuine universal suffrage, and to set up a multiple-front platform to discuss constitutional developments beyond the 2017 chief executive election. Lam made the offer at a meeting with the Federation of Students that was televised around the world. But the students said the proposals would not ease dissatisfaction with Beijing's framework for the 2017 poll, which put contention potential candidates. "A dialogue without you bringing the full glare of the whole world's media to bear could take place more smoothly," Law added on the talk show.

Law, a local deputy to the National People's Congress, said she did not know why three representatives of the federation had their travel permits to the mainland invalidated as they were about to fly to Beijing to seek a meeting with state leaders last weekend. "Silva said."

She said the students should "reflect" on themselves. Student protest leader Joshua Wong Chi-fung was later quoted as saying that Law's "upset" friend could move to a country without a Communist Party, but never to a country without youth.

EXHIBITION

Social workers a first for South Asian community

Jennifer Ngo jennifer.ngo@scmp.com

Sliding out his new plastic licence card, Jeffrey Andrews works with pride at the product of four long years of hard work – studying part-time while holding down a full-time job – that identifies him as a social worker.

The licence represents a first for ethnic minorities getting their social-worker qualifications through the local school system, an impossible feat previously because of language barriers. Andrews, 29, an ethnic Indian, and ethnic Pakistani Arif Abbas, 31, are the first to complete associate degrees in social work at the Caritas Institute of Higher Education, formerly known as Caritas Francis Hui College.

They got their licences as social workers in September and November, respectively. "It took more than half a year to get the approval" from the Social Workers Registration Board, a statutory body, Lai said. It had been an uphill battle, he said, from campaigning for acceptance from the board, to persuading Caritas and other schools to accommodate the change and produce English-language study materials.

Finally, however, it all came down to the students' hard work, studying part time and working full time, and also having lots of family responsibilities and pressure, Lai said.

Since Caritas began accepting ethnic minorities into its social-work associate-degree course, other schools had started to follow suit, he said.

Andrew's schoolmate Abbas, also armed with the new degree, is now a case worker with ethnic minorities at an NGO.

"I can communicate well with the minorities that use the service," he said. "Without the social worker qualifications, there would have been many things – like the more vulnerable cases – that could not be handled. But Abbas said he ultimately hoped to work with all kinds of Hongkongers, not just those from minorities.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Some 140 players took part in the Wing Ding squash tournament at the Football Club in Happy Valley. Photo: Edward Wong

HANDS UP IF YOU'RE A CHARITY SUPERHERO

Players dress as Captain America and Pink Panther to take part in the Wing Ding squash tournament and raise funds for Operation Santa Claus

Other Cheung other.cheung@scmp.com

Captain America, the Pink Panther and Fred Flintstone were among the many swasty bodies battling out on the squash court in Happy Valley yesterday, all in aid of the city's top charity event. From 11am to 7pm yesterday, 140 players in 14 teams, each with their own colour and costume, dashed around the seven courts at the Football Club for the annual Wing Ding squash tournament, which was raising funds for Operation Santa Claus for the eleventh year in a row.

Adrian Poon from Britain, an eight-year veteran of the event, was dressed as Captain America. Pierce had not wanted to miss the tournament because "if I miss a year, that's a sign of final decline". Bjorn Fjeldahl, a branding professional from Sweden who has taken part in all 10 Wing Dings, said he was in it for "the combination of sports and fun

through the outfit and getting out there and getting tired". His teammate in green, French banker Eli Bitan, said it was a great occasion for like-minded people to get together, perform good deeds and have fun. "For me, the biggest fun is to see Tim get a thicker cheekbook [of donations]," he said.

Wing Ding was among the top three donors last year to Operation Santa Claus, a fundraising campaign hosted by the South China Morning Post and RTIHK.

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Sunday, November 23, 2014 7

HONG KONG

TRANSPORT

Medieval well at MTR site likely to be moved

Development minister hints that cheapest option may be used to preserve To Kwa Wan relic

Fanny W. Y. Fung fanny.fung@scmp.com

Development minister Paul Chan Mo-po yesterday dropped the strongest hint yet that the government's preferred option and move a medieval well which has delayed progress on the under-construction To Kwa Wan MTR station.

Chan, whose brief includes heritage policy, said in an interview with TVB's *On the Record* that he would look similar to its present state even if it was moved and reassembled elsewhere.

The well concerned dates back to the Song (960-1279) or Yuan (1279-1368) dynasties and is one of the most valuable finds among an extensive trove of relics dug out of the new station, part of the Sha Tin Central link.

While the government last week put forward a proposal to preserve seven other archaeological features in situ at a total cost of HK\$4.1 billion, the future of the well was left open, with four options presented including removal and reconstruction.

"With today's technology, our colleagues can recover 80 per cent of its original appearance, which is not bad," Chan said just for the sake of conservation.

This option was estimated to cost 1.83 billion, the cheapest of the four possibilities presented to the Antiquities Advisory Board. Preserving both the well and the water channel is also the most expensive, at HK\$3.1 billion.

Officials told the board last week that the engineering works involved in protecting the well would be more complicated than that of other relics because it was located on the site of the new station's road.

The MTR Corporation said that construction work on the Sha Tin Central link was 11 months behind schedule because of the To Kwa Wan archaeological dig. Other stations along the line have also encountered problems, with work at both Lin Kong and Hung Hom stations lagging behind by about three months.

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C2 Friday, November 28, 2014

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Credit Suisse employees with Benji's Centre founders (far right) Viola and Raymond Wong at their Sham Shui Po branch. Photo: May Ho.

BANKERS' VISIT TO CENTRE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

Credit Suisse staff spend time with children suffering from speech problems as charity enables centre to offer free therapy to 30 kids

Oliver Chow
oliverchow@scmp.com

When international bankers spend a weekday afternoon monitoring stock and currency but the laughter of children with delayed speech, the unlikely has happened.

Six Credit Suisse Hong Kong staff members in power suits and smart heels visited children undergoing speech therapy at Benji's Centre in Sham Shui Po only to find a big surprise as party games ensued then.

Within minutes, laughter and music filled the room at Fu Cheong Shopping Centre as the children and banking high fliers passed a ball around or slid underneath a rainbow canopy.

"The activity connected with the beneficiaries directly, and we can see the smiles on the children's faces and appreciate what the charity is doing," said Peter Mo, chairman of Credit Suisse Hong Kong's charity committee.

Liz Green, vice president of the company's corporate citizenship section, called it a "real treat to be away from the office" to let

min, who had Down's syndrome, died at age five. "We did all we could to make him happy," Raymond Wong recalled.

Benji's Centre was a clear choice to benefit from this year's Operation Santa Claus after it did a presentation at the bank that "pulled at the heartstrings of our staff," Green said.

Operation Santa Claus, a year-end fundraiser held by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, brought Credit Suisse and Benji's Centre together as donor and beneficiary.

Raymond and Viola Wong founded the centre in 2004, two years after their only son Benji

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South China Morning Post

ON SECOND THOUGHT PAUL YIP

Minimum wage is the least we can do for working poor

As our economy grows, a winner-take-all scenario is emerging in terms of income

The national minimum wage has reduced symptoms of depression in low-wage workers in Britain, according to a research report for the 7th European Public Health Conference this month. In 1998, the country legislated for a national minimum wage set at £3.60 (£3.54 US) at the time an hour. It then studied 7,681 individuals over time, comparing the health effects of income gains on people whose salaries rose to the minimum wage with those of otherwise similar workers who were unaffected because either their incomes were equal to or above the eligibility threshold or their firms were non-compliant despite paying wages below the threshold. The first group experienced significantly greater improvements in mental health. They also had, on average, lower likelihoods of self-harm and anxiety. There was no change in blood pressure, hearing ability or smoking rate.

At the University of Hong Kong, our poverty research also found districts whose average income was in the bottom 20 per cent of the citywide range experienced mortality rates 136 per cent higher than those in the top 20 per cent. Poverty is indeed related to health problems, self-harm, premature death and domestic violence.

Two years later, last year, the Minimum Wage Commission raised the level to HK\$28. That amounts to US\$3.67, a figure among the lowest in developed societies including Australia (US\$4.38), New Zealand (US\$11.17), Britain (US\$8.23), Canada (US\$8.77) and the United States (US\$7.25). However, Hong Kong ranks among the higher strata of gross domestic product internationally. In terms of per-capita GDP, it is on a par with the United States and Switzerland, when we account for purchasing power, as the World Bank does in its global ranking. And it surpasses New Zealand and Britain in terms of

per-capita annual income adjusted for purchasing power. Is our standard of living close to Switzerland or the US? Despite impressive economic growth in the past decade, people have not shared in the gains proportional to the city's growth. Our low-income earners still work long hours to meet their basic needs.

Our minimum wage has helped narrow the income gap. The increases in unemployment statistics have been strong, with a jobless rate of 3 per cent. However, the rate of increase in the cost of living has offset potential gains from the wage rise to improve the quality of living. There are still many working poor in our community.

There have also been concerns that higher production costs would make the city less competitive. However, competitiveness simply cannot be achieved at the expense of low-wage workers. What about our investments in skills and technology? Local labour has paid a relatively high social cost that has never been taken into account properly in our equation to maintain profit.

In order to reduce tension and promote a harmonious society, it is time we re-examined the core values of our community, empowered one another and came up with a win-win solution rather than a win-lose solution for Hong Kong.

Paul Yip Siu-fai is a professor at the University of Hong Kong's department of social work and social administration

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Builders' labour costs rose 15.5pc last year

Ng Kang-chung
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Construction labour costs rose more than 15.5 per cent last year compared with the previous year, the latest Census and Statistics Department report showed.

The year-on-year increase in 2012 was 16.2 per cent. Updates about the business performance and operations of the construction and real estate sectors were released yesterday in the department's annual report.

Last year, operating expenses and compensation for construction employees amounted to HK\$27.3 billion, the report showed.

About 22,300 companies were in business, directly hiring some 185,000 people, an average of 8.3 employees each. Employment in the sector remained fairly stable in 2012, 22,300 companies hired 184,563 workers.

In real estate, 7,100 companies engaged about 110,400 people last year. By the end of the year, 277 projects were still under construction. These were expected to provide a total 6.4 million square metres of gross floor area on completion.

Among them, 19 per cent were located on Hong Kong Island, 26 per cent were in Kowloon and 55 per cent were in the New Territories and outlying islands.

The department will issue its full report at the end of next month.

C2 Tuesday, December 2, 2014

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



More than 300 goals were scored as players put their bodies on the line to raise money for Operation Santa on a hot day in Pok Fu Lam. Photo: Jonathan Wong.

CHARITY THE WINNER FROM DAY OF 5-A-SIDE SOCCER FUN

Annual tournament sees glut of goals in the sunshine as 250 junior and adult players help raise more than HK\$500,000 for good causes

Danny Lee
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There were goals galore as soccer players - from primary school children to businesspeople - braved Sunday's unseasonably warm temperatures to find the net more than 100 times in a day of five-a-side action.

With temperatures hitting a warm 28 degrees Celsius, more than 250 junior and adult players showed off their silky skills for the Operation Santa Claus tournament at Stanley Ho Playing Fields in Pok Fu Lam.

And as well as working up a sweat, the players also helped to raise more than HK\$500,000 for Operation Santa, the annual

fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, and the 20 charitable causes it supports.

The money came from donations and sponsorships, including the support of main sponsor, the property agency CBRE.

Craig Shuttle, the firm's managing director for Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, said raising money for charity was one of the firm's core principles. In the last four years, it has helped raise some HK\$20 million for Operation Santa.

The millions raised makes a material difference to the different charities involved and we have real faith that those donations raised go directly to the charities in need," he said.

One of the highlights of the day for Shuttle was the performance of the Hong Kong Football Club Crusaders, a team of players with special needs. The "crazy" got right behind "the team, Shuttle said, and the games brought "joy to the players' faces".

Kevlin Brown, a coach for the Crusaders, said the tournament was a great way to get his players involved out of their love of the game of soccer.

"Operation Santa Claus has been great because they don't get many opportunities to play a competitive game, and also in front of a lot of people, and they just love it," he said.

"It feels good to raise money because raising money for charity really helps other people," said Shaun, who attends Kennedy School in Pok Fu Lam.

Edwin Chan Jee-hin, who captained a team from law firm Linklaters, said finding players for the charitable tournament was easy.

"Our staff have seen these charities in action, do help out and do know the impact they give so it's an easy sell to our staff," Chan said.

Now in its 19th year, the five-a-side tournament has been a mainstay of the annual fundraising drive since its launch.

The final fundraising total for the day was HK\$502,000, just ahead of the organisers' target.

Amount raised so far
HK\$ 2,241,284

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South China Morning Post

LETTER OF THE LAW MICHAEL C. DAVIS

Government can't shirk obligations on human rights

Hiding behind court orders and power of police won't make calls for universal suffrage go away

A court order, followed by more aggressive police tactics, seek to clear the streets in Mong Kok and Admiralty, the non-violent civil disobedience campaign in Hong Kong has reached a climax. For two months, the protesters have impressed the world with their peaceful sit-ins. Allegations that they are undermining the rule of law have met with scepticism.

In this moment of difficulty, we should not lose sight of the fact that primary responsibility for maintaining the rule of law rests with the government. The administration cannot simply hide behind civil court orders and police powers in exercising its responsibility. How it tackles the many problems with the underlying reform process will be crucial.

In the face of the court orders and strategies of escalation by both sides of the row, protesters committed to non-violence are now confronted with whether to stand firm or accept arrest or to withdraw peacefully. They have posed little risk to the rule of law. Ignoring a court order might be a sign of disrespect, but resistance by protesters is not a sign of disrespect. Individuals must escalate to a more widespread level of lawlessness to undermine the rule of law in any substantial way.

That the campaign aims fundamentally to resist government interference of the Basic Law may also be relevant to assessing the evolving situation.

Civil disobedience campaigns often articulate a strong concern for unjust laws and public demonstration. While protesters must shoulder responsibility for responding peacefully to law enforcement, the government must take greater responsibility for both sides of the row. The circumstances that gave rise to the protests and protesters will just fuel more protests.

So, while the courts and protesters should take seriously compliance with court orders, this obligation does not relieve the government of its responsibility to uphold the Basic Law and guard human rights. Anything less will degrade our courts and law enforcement institutions.

Professor Michael C. Davis, of the University of Hong Kong, specialises in constitutional law and human rights

While protest fatigue at the incoherence posed by Occupy has become increasingly apparent in opinion surveys, public demonstration for democratic reforms to better secure autonomy will surely not change this. Excessive force against protesters will just fuel more protests.

Government intransigence to protesters should take seriously democracy and human rights and heavy-handedness in the government of the government will surely undermine the rule of law. The Occupy Central action was initially fuelled by Beijing's white paper in June that appears to greatly undermine Hong Kong's democracy and consequently its rule of law. The National People's Congress Standing Committee's decision in August then brought people

to the streets by taking great liberty with the Basic Law's commitment to universal suffrage. Taking such liberty with human rights guarantees in the Basic Law and human rights treaties undermines the rule of law by undercutting the reliability of constitutional guarantees.

The government's duplicity in this decision by misrepresenting Hong Kongers' views is widely known and clearly adds to the public's anger.

It has become apparent that the administration can ignore protesters' concerns at its peril. While it might use force to bring the occupation to an end, public the many problems with the underlying reform process will be crucial.

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SOCIETY

Firefighters' union collects funds for injured

Elizabeth Cheung
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The fire services trade union has set up a bank account to collect donations for the nine firefighters injured in a gas explosion at a residential building in Shek Mei last month.

The final fundraising total for the day was HK\$502,000, just ahead of the organisers' target.

The firefighters, at least one of whom is still in critical condition, were caught by surprise by the blast as they responded to a report of a gas smell inside the building.

"We want to show our condolences and regard to them," Nip said. "If they have any financial problems in livelihood or medi-

cal treatment, the union would offer help as well."

He stressed that the union would only collect and transfer money to the affected firefighters, and would not take a fee.

The union will also follow closely the progress of its injured members, and will provide assistance when possible, it said in a statement yesterday.

The collection period, which started yesterday, runs to the end of this month. The money is going into an account at Nanyang Commercial Bank.

Of the nine injured, seven are still receiving care in hospital while two have been discharged. Firefighter Leung Kwok-kei, who sustained a brain injury, is still in critical condition and remains in the intensive care unit of Princess Margaret Hospital.

Nip said union personnel were not allowed by the medical

team to visit Leung in the ward as his condition was still unstable and dangerous.

The blast happened on November 22 in Mei Ying House of Shek Mei Estate, where neighbours reported the smell of gas coming from a flat. The explosion hit the firefighters when they broke into the flat on the 11th floor. In addition to nine firefighters, three members of the public were injured.

The body of a 56-year-old man was found in the flat. He was suspected to have committed suicide, as the door was sealed with clear tape and locked from the inside.

The man possessed qualifications in chemistry-related professions and had worked at a laboratory for two years.

He had quit his job because of health conditions and had been living on social welfare since July.

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C2 Wednesday, December 3, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

TOY STORE FINDS TIME FOR KIDS WITH EMPTY STOCKINGS

Toys 'R' Us staff are in their busy season, but have still managed to join the charity drive with candy grams and other donation initiatives

Sarah Karas
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Christmas is a hectic time for staff at Toys 'R' Us. Decorations must go up and shelves are stocked with all the hottest new seasonal toys — and that's before the poster of hundreds of little feet as children bustle into the store to pick out what they hope Santa will bring them.

But the staff are not so busy they ignore those not fortunate enough to be receiving generous gifts. This year, they are combining keeping their customers mer-

can and believe Operation Santa Claus offers the best reach across Hong Kong," added Hall, who is from Britain.

The stores will be helping out in several ways. First, customers taking advantage of the free gift-wrapping service in stores will be encouraged to show their gratitude by making a donation.

Customers will also be able to pick up special Operation Santa Claus candy grams, at HK\$30 a packet each — an initiative that could generate up to HK\$70,000. Messages encouraging shoppers to donate will also be broadcast in stores and on the company's social media sites.

"Operation Santa Claus is a wonderful conduit for our customers and our colleagues to support people who are not as fortunate as you or I," said Hall. "We are very happy to support the campaign because we can use the great work and immediate benefit brought to such needy

beneficiaries.

Staff would also support the campaign in other ways. Hall added, Eight are to take part in a 15km charity run.

The causes Operation Santa Claus is backing this year include Morning Tears, which shelters children of conflict on the mainland, and Pathfinders, an NGO that helps mothers and children for 12 months of planning here, and every face comes together.

"Christmas is a very important time for giving and nothing could be closer to our hearts, being the world's biggest toy retailer," said Li, regional manager for Toys 'R' Us, which has 15 stores across the city. "Giving toys to children at Christmas puts smiles on faces and brings much family happiness. We want to spread the goodwill as wide as we



At Hall (left) and deputy supervisor Adia Chan at the chain's store in Harbour City. Photo: Edward Wong

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

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● Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC (account number 502-06299-001 for SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus)

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● Donations of HK\$500 or more are tax-deductible. If you would like a tax receipt, please send the completed donation form and original bank receipt to the address above.

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PUBLIC EYE
MICHAEL CHUGANI

It's a phoney civil disobedience movement

Can we please stop the pretence now? Yes, it makes us all feel nice inside to say this is a peaceful democracy movement. But it is not. It never was. We just did not want to admit it. Occupy Central was peaceful only on paper. The script called for people to sit on streets and be arrested without resistance. But that script was abandoned when students scaled the security fence of government headquarters in Admiralty on September 26.

When thousands surged to demand their release, would the police have used pepper spray just for fun? Would they have fired tear gas subsequently for the hell of it? Yes, these are politically incorrect questions that we are not supposed to ask because the police are the bad guys who beat peaceful protesters brutally. But they need to be asked if we want to be honest with ourselves as a society.

Mahatma Gandhi wore a dhoti and sandals on his month-long march to the sea in civil disobedience against the British rule. He never even threw a grain of sand at his British oppressors. On Sunday night, our peaceful civil disobedience protesters were hard hats and goggles to Admiralty, carrying makeshift shields, some spiked with nails. They charged police lines with metal barriers. They

hugged and kissed each other, bottles and eggs, and even sprayed the police with fire extinguishers. When the police used pepper spray and bataron-charged them, they yelled police brutality. What did they expect the police to do — allow themselves to be stampeded over by a mob intent on storming government headquarters?

Participants in Sunday night's mob have no moral right to say they drew inspiration from Gandhi for their civil disobedience movement. Gandhi would have been ashamed of them. It is fake peace and non-violence when protesters don hard hats and carry spiked shields. It is a

phoney argument to say they are only protecting themselves from police brutality. Does anyone honestly believe the police would baton-charge peaceful protesters? Half a million marched in the July 2003 anti-government protest. Such marches are held yearly. Have the police ever used pepper spray and batons before? We can keep kidding ourselves by saying this is a democracy movement of love and peace because it makes us feel good, or we can dare to question the truth of that. Choose what you believe will make you sleep better at night.



Police clash with protesters

Hug a police officer instead of charging at him

Public Eye was going to write about the tale of the politician and the policeman. Outrage erupted when seven policemen beat up Civic Party member Ken Tsang Yin-chik. Outrage did not erupt when Sunday night's protesters kicked policeman Loung Koon-chai into unconsciousness. Maybe the pun-demon was loose from condemning so loudly the assault on Tsang.

But let's talk about Descente Hart instead. He's the 12-year-old boy who held a "free hugs" sign at a protest in Portland, Oregon, during protests across the United States against a white policeman's shooting of an unarmed black teenager. A white police sergeant went up to the boy and asked, "Do I get one of those?" The two hugged. Let's replace batons, goggles and hard hats with "free hugs" signs.

Michael Chugani is a columnist and television show host. michug@gmail.com

C2 Friday, December 5, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

ON SECOND THOUGHT
PERRY LAM

The increasing acceptance of mediocrity

Commercial success is trumping artistic merit and Christopher Nolan is a case in point

According to Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, the new mediocrity has become the new normal. She was referring to the global economy, which, she thought, would just "muddle along with subpar growth" for some time.

But the new mediocrity reigns in other areas of our lives as well. Culture, for example, has defined excellence down to such an extent that fewer and fewer people seem capable of distinguishing between commercial success and artistic merit, surface and depth, style and substance.

Hollywood director Christopher Nolan is a case in point. About a month ago, *The New York Times Magazine* ran a nearly 2,000-word profile on Nolan titled "The Conqueror of Hollywood" in which he is called a visionary and a true auteur. The evidence that the article has collected to support this extravagant claim, however, is

almost all about money: the eight movies Nolan made over the past 14 years have together earned more than US\$3.5 billion in revenue. It is last three movies count among the 100 highest-grossing films of all time. "Is it possible to think of a film that grossed more than US\$1 billion and is better than Nolan's *The Dark Knight*?" the article asks almost stridently.

Well, the one thing you can certainly say about *The Dark Knight* is that it is dark, literally. That an article which appears in *The New York Times Magazine* can so blatantly and shamelessly confuse quantity with quality is not only disheartening, it is a sign of the times. Nolan may be a masterful technician, but he is no master. And his intellectual pretensions are mistaken for intellectual depth.

The jargon and name-dropping in his new movie, *Interstellar*, are impressive — black holes, relativity, singularity, the fifth dimension, and speculations by physicists



Matthew McConaughey in *Interstellar*. Photo: SCMP Pictures

Nolan may be a masterful technician, but he is no master

Stephen Hawking and Kip Thorne are all mentioned in passing. But the movie's message — love is all we need even as the world around us is crumbling — is as banal and clichéd as the printed words on a Hallmark card.

Movies are a form of mass entertainment. What they

provide is easy pleasure. Nolan is very good at giving easy pleasure, not so much depth as a vanished surface of cleverness and thoughtfulness. Viewers come away from his movies feeling not just satisfied but smart and therefore good about themselves.

Two weeks ago, I went to see *Gone Girl*, which, according to everyone I know, is a powerful, subversive attack on our most deeply held ideas about heterosexual love and marriage. But one has to be unusually naive or cloistered to find any of the film's observations remotely startling. By now, who doesn't already know that love is the only war in which you sleep with the enemy, or that the courtroom drama inevitably comes of the genre ones?

So unconcerned wisdom will be woefully familiar to anyone who has read Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* or Eileen Chang's *Love in a Full Moon City*. But in this age of instant classics, who would have the time and patience for the genuine ones?

Perry Lam is a local cultural critic

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Hang Seng team volunteer Kitty Lai Man-ying helps primary school pupil Lee Kit-ho. Photo: Edward Wong

BANK VOLUNTEERS IN FUN RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM

Hang Seng employees show community spirit, helping pupils and organising games on visit to Sham Shui Po school for Sowers Action charity

Alec Cheung
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At a primary school in Sham Shui Po, 20 first- to third-graders raced one another excitedly across a classroom, looking for the correct English words passed on the walls in a vocabulary game.

The children rarely play games after school, teacher Ip Sai-ho said, so this was a treat.

And bringing this special entertainment to the Shamshui Po Kalfong Welfare Association Primary School was a group of Hang Seng Bank employees assuming the roles of Sowers Action charity volunteers.

"Most of the children come from low-income families," Ip said. "Most of the parents aren't Hong Kong natives and some of the children were even raised by single parents."

"In some cases, the children don't even live together with their mother and father. These pupils really need help from the school."

Before the games started, the Hang Seng people helped pupils with their homework — to put themselves in the shoes of the charity that is a beneficiary of Operation Santa Claus, the yearly fundraiser held by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

Voluntary work is an ongoing venture for Hang Seng, said Allison Cheuk-wai, the bank's head of corporate responsibility.

"We have around 150 volunteer projects, mostly focused on the pupils. 'I'm really going to miss them,' third-grader Wing Yau said. 'I hope to see them again.'"

Hang Seng became affiliated with Operation Santa last year. So far this year, it has amassed more than HK\$150,000 in donations.

Sowers Action used to focus solely on helping underprivileged children on the mainland, but turned its gaze to Hong Kong pupils in 2011. "As a lot of parents work two jobs, our services release the stress on them," the charity's chief executive Brianna Hui Han-hui said.

Edith Liu I-n, relationship officer of corporate banking at Hang Seng, said her first experience volunteering with children was unexpected.

"The kids are a bit wild," she said. "But it's a good experience. You can see how these children learn, especially how some struggle with their homework. Society needs us to be mentors of our younger generation."

Liu and her colleagues certainly left their mark on the pupils. "I'm really going to miss them," third-grader Wing Yau said. "I hope to see them again."

Hang Seng employees showed their community spirit by helping pupils and organising games on visit to Sham Shui Po school for Sowers Action charity

Amount raised so far

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EVENT REPORT: JACOB'S CREEK

Toast to a lifeste concert

Australian winery uses cooking course to promote special theme during social gatherings

With more than 160 years of heritage and winemaking expertise, it is no wonder Australian winery Jacob's Creek is one of the most recognised brands across the globe. Its classic, sparkling, reserve and superpremium collections are made with the highest-quality grapes from Coonawarra, Barossa and Adelaide Hills. Jacob's Creek believes that sharing is the new lifestyle for wine drinkers and, with this in mind, the South China Morning Post Marketing Solutions team organised the Jacob's Creek "Share in Style" cooking course at the Towngas Cooking Centre, the event venue sponsor, in Causeway Bay.

It involved an integrated marketing campaign to reach its target audience via the MTR and social media.

"Share in Style" is a new lifestyle nowadays for wine drinkers, says Karen Shum, marketing director of Pernod Richard Hong Kong, which owns the brand. "More and more friends gatherings and home parties include different types of enjoyment, drinks, food, atmosphere and music, but sharing is the key. Jacob's Creek acts as a perfect catalyst for such an occasion."

The competition featured

two groups of four taking cooking classes over a month led by celebrity chef Christian Yang, who shared his expertise in fine food and wine with the cook-off on November 12. The first week of classes, entitled "Party in Style: Tiny Million Dollar Burgers", saw participants making prawn and soft-shell crab burgers with mayonnaise and fresh oysters, and black truffle burgers stuffed with fide grass.

Week two, entitled "Entertain in Style: Simple Food Made Fabulous", featured participants trying their hand at a roasted chicken and deconstructed trip chocolate cake recipe.

In the following weeks, participants made a stylish family Christmas dinner of a chicken with grain sweet potatoes and sweet wine cranberry jam, a hanging layer cake, Lane New Year auspicious dim sum and crême brûlée walnut cookies.

The participants were allowed to take photos inside or had to be in keeping with the theme of the sharing in style. Photos were uploaded for the public to view on Instagram. The most liked photo from each group each week won a prize of bottles of Cool Harvest Sauvignon Blanc and Moscato Rose.

"I enjoyed the cooking class a lot," one participant said. "And I got to meet Christian Yang, the judges were Yang Shanta, Pernod Richard Hong Kong marketing manager Patrick Fong and vice-president of Hong Kong Sommelier Association Edwin Chan."

Yang says competitors produced some quality dishes. "I never thought my job as judges would be so difficult. The judging criteria involved knowledge of balance and harmony of the food and wine pairing and how they complement each other, presentation and innovation, taste and balance of the food with the correct proportion of seasoning and texture, the use of appropriate ingredients to deliver overall quality, flavour, acidity and consistency.

The winner was an individual entrant, Ellie Kam Shue-kei, who made a salmon roll with cucumber and pear salad.

Her prize was a trip for two to Australia to experience the rich heritage of Jacob's Creek. The runner-up and second runner-up each won a complimentary dinner for six at Michelin-starred restaurant The Boss.

"Simple finger food or an appetizer can be a snack or an antipasto for a party," one competitor said.

"Most of the preparation can



Chef Christian Yang (left) with winner Ellie Kam (centre) and judges in the cooking course. Photos: Manuel Wong Ho Photography



Celebrity chef Christian Yang shows off his cooking skills.

C2 Thursday, December 4, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

ALL AROUND TOWN

Taking the lead on leadership

In the game of politics, what are the chances that your defeated rival will turn around and support you? Democratic Party chairwoman Emily Lau Wai-bing must have thought her colleague Sin Chung-kai, who lost to her in the 2012 election for party leadership, might let bygones be bygones. At the Legislative Council's media area yesterday, Lau and Sin were sitting side by side when she brought up her bid for re-election later this month and jokingly asked him to nominate her. Sin did not say yes on the spot, only focusing on his smartphone messages. But he said he would not run for the party leadership this year. The nomination deadline ends early

Just the job for an ideal candidate

Liberal Party lawmaker Fung Chi-ning had publicly explained why Vincent Fung King's experience made him a better candidate to lead the Liberals, so it came as a surprise on Monday when the party said Fung would be its chairman. The leader mustly oversees affairs related to the Legislative Council, but the chairman has a bigger responsibility - for the party's development. Fung told All Around Town jokingly that he believed the chairmanship was an easier job to handle. Fung, 71, became a legislator representing the whole-sale and retail sector in 2004, while Fung was elected to represent the textiles and garment sector only in 2012. On Monday, chairwoman Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye said she was stepping down because it was a chance to give the Liberals a facelift. The 58-year-old is under no pressure looking at globe-trotting next. Tony Cheng

In need of a little retail therapy

So, Occupy Central protesters in Mong Kok have been "shopping" - or gaw-wai - on the streets in the last few nights since police and bailiffs removed barricades and reopened the roads this week. In theory, police cannot arrest them as they are simply wandering along "window-shopping". Why has the term gaw-wai become a buzzword? It is a Cantonese translation of gaw-wai, the Pinyin pronunciation of "shopping" that translates as "buy objects". Gao is distorted into gaw in Cantonese - tricky, because it means "bad" in a classic Chinese poem but has become a staple in Cantonese food language. Occupy supporters mockingly use gaw-wai after a mainland tourist, when asked on television why she was taking part in an anti-Occupy rally, replied: Gao and Gao and!

EMILY LAU (PHOTOGRAPH)

next week, and Lau has yet to seek nomination from party members. "I would go ahead if there is no strong opposition within the party," she said. Meanwhile, leadership is also on the agenda at the Civic Party. Current leader Alan Leong Ka-kit and chairwoman Audrey Eu Yuet-mee were expected to retain their posts at a vote held during the annual general meeting on Saturday. Lawmaker Dr Kenneth Chan Ka-ko said, Peter So

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Swire Properties staff join professional dancers (in Santa Claus attire) during a flashmob performance in Quarry Bay for Operation Santa Claus. (Photo: May Tai)

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR AT SWIRE CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL

Property firm is hoping to better last year's fundraising effort of about HK\$1 million



South China Morning Post

Danny Lee

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Christmas wouldn't be the same without a traditional fair to celebrate the winter holiday season. The White Christmas Street Fair in Tung Chung Street, Quarry Bay, opens today and will be filled with festive treats over the next two days as Swire Properties suggests Talloo Place into a candy wonderland. Organisers also hope to spin-

A little bit of fun with a flashmob performance.

A group of 14 dancers practised their moves in front of unsuspecting lunchtime office workers and shoppers in Talloo Place.

Dancing to *Candyman* by Christina Aguilera and Pharrell Williams' hit *Happy*, performer Adriana Laca said: "We decided to get a group together and have a bit of fun and spend a bit of holiday joy and sweetness."

Choreographer Alex Tam Kaiting said the dance was focused around happiness and fun and was designed to get visitors to "shake their bodies" along with the performance.

Visitors to the fair can also have a fun-filled five-minute ice-hockey session or be more daring and compete in an actual ice hockey championship.

With a focus on sustainability, company staff will sell their own handmade black sugar soap and leather accessories to raise funds alongside more than 20 stalls offering Christmas ornaments, decorations, jewellery and lifestyle accessories.

If shopping isn't your thing, then a steak and Guinness pie and a glass of mulled wine will help beat off the chilly weather.

Last year, Swire Properties helped to raise HK\$1 million for Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK. It's helping 20 charities this year.

Internet users are being encouraged to raise extra money online for good causes. For every "I like" on the Swire Properties White Christmas Street Fair Facebook page, the property arm will donate HK\$10 to Operation Santa.

As of 5pm yesterday, 1,718 people had signed up, meaning an extra HK\$17,180 had been raised for charity.

Tung Chung Street means Sugar Factory Street in Chinese. It is the site of the Talloo Sugar Refinery, which was established by Butterfield and Swire in 1881. It now stands next to Swire's Talloo Plaza development.

Last year, tech-savvy shoppers snapped up bargains using their smartphones and tablets at the fair. Their efforts unlocked discounts at Swire's nearby City-plaza mall and Pacific Place in Admiralty.

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C2 Saturday, December 6, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

City to favour large lots to redevelop

Owners of smaller properties won't be able to sell to Urban Renewal Authority

Fanny W. Y. Fung

fanny.fung@scmp.com

Owners of dilapidated buildings on small-sized lots will face more difficulty in persuading the Urban Renewal Authority to redevelop them, under tightened application criteria of its demanded redevelopment scheme.

The rules were amended yesterday following a review of the scheme that started in May amid doubts over its financial viability. But the URA denied the change was made for financial reasons.

This is because we hope our redevelopment projects will bring about planning gains for the public," said Mr. Tam Siu-ying, the URA's managing director. "For example, we provide public open space as much as we can in our redevelopment sites. If the site is too small, there is not much to give back to the community."

Another amendment is that applicants will have to get consent for the redevelopment from at least 80 per cent of the building's co-owners before they apply. Instead of the previously required two-thirds, Tam said it was to increase the success rate of the projects.

The old rules required a two-thirds majority to apply, but projects still needed 80 per cent approval to commence. Two applications have fallen through because they couldn't get sufficient final approval.

Since the launch of the scheme in 2011, the authority has received 110 applications and selected ten, including seven successful cases, the two which failed, and one in process.

Tam said the scheme had so far lost a total of HK\$1 billion for the authority, but dismissed suggestions that the URA decided to make applications more difficult in order to avoid losing more money.

"There are a lot of considerations in heightening the application threshold," Tam said. "It is absolutely not just a financial matter."

But Vincent Ng Wing-shun, an architect and a member of the government-appointed Steering Committee on Review of Urban Renewal Strategy, was not convinced.

"Buildings can be dilapidated regardless of their sizes. I think the URA should not select buildings based on the size areas, but rather the condition of the buildings," he said.

Ng believed the real reason the URA had decided to rule out small sites was that they were not profitable. "If it is not because of money, there is no need to change the application conditions at all."

Olga Wong and Fanny W. Y. Fung

Heritage advisers and archaeologists have called for a more holistic approach to preserving and reconstructing relics found at the future To Kwa Wan station.

Their call came a day after the Antiquities Advisory Board endorsed the government's preferred plan for dealing with an ancient well found at the top of the station site.

Under that scheme, the well would be dismantled and reassembled later. But the decision came with a condition - the well should be restored at or near the original location.

This option would cost an extra HK\$30 million, compared to between HK\$800 million and HK\$1.3 billion for the other options, and cause no further delay to the opening of the extended railway, scheduled for 2018.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Executives join artists and celebrities for the unveiling of the record-breaking Zentangle at the Kowloon Shangri-La. Photo: Jonathan Wong

3000-tile mosaic is a world-beater

Zentangle art work created by donors boosts campaign by HK\$150,000

Alec Cheung

alec.cheung@scmp.com

In the lobby of the Kowloon Shangri-La is a mosaic of 3,024 tiles, the world's largest Zentangle art piece made up of the drawings of individual charity donors who pay HK\$50 per tile.

From an original idea of just 200 tiles, the project ballooned into a 4.2 metre by 5.6 metre creation because, according to the hotel's communications director Patsy Chan, their "crazy" general manager Ulf Bremer asked for 3,000 during a meeting.

Chan was only a small part of the project, Bremer said in unveiling the world-record-setting artwork in the Tsim Sha Tsui



South China Morning Post

hotel yesterday. "The most important thing was to get people involved," he said. "We showed that they could help the needy through their actions alone."

Zentangle is an art form inspired by meditation and drawing. The Shangri-La project made use of tiles, each of which contained part of the design for the larger picture, but members of the public were encouraged to make their individual marks on their sponsored tiles as well.

The resulting mosaic has a flowing style akin to embroidery, depicting Hong Kong icons such as the Bauhinia flower.

It is a collective made up of individual work and donations of HK\$50 per tile that amount to HK\$151,200 for Operation Santa Claus, the fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

Fina Man, the project's chief artist, believes that Zentangle allows anyone to show off their artistic potential. Man designed

the combination artwork while donors added their personal touch to each tile.

"The effect of drawing this type of art is finding peace of mind," she said.

Man's words echo the sentiments of donor Simon Maas, a paramedic from Australia who said the artwork almost made it feel like drawing.

"It's a sense of being comfortable," Maas said. "I have zero artistic abilities, but having a bit of a guideline with Zentangle really gave me a sense of direction when I was drawing."

Bremer and his family completed 10 Zentangle tiles, whereupon he realised how the differing art styles from his wife and children blended into one piece.

The endeavour showed "our family was one unit, and that I really cherish," he said.

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Hugh Chertown of RTHK, Kowloon Shangri-La's Ulf Bremer and artist Fina Man help put together the Zentangle. Photo: Jonathan Wong

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POLITICS

RITA FAN NAMES TWO FOR 2017 ELECTION

Establishment heavyweight tips Regina Ip and Antony Leung to take on CY, but is accused of trying to create the appearance of real choice

Stuart Lau

stuart.lau@scmp.com

A Beijing-loyalist heavyweight has become the latest - and most significantly connected - voice to tip two former senior government officials as contenders for the city's top job in 2017, sparking claims a campaign was under way to create the appearance of democratic choice.

As the city grapples with the unprecedented Occupy Central protests - now into their third month - and rancour over what constitutes true democracy, Rita Fan Hui Lai-sai tipped ex-financial secretary Antony Leung Kam-chung and lawmaker Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye as candidates for chief executive in 2017.

While their names are not new to the political rumour mill, some have interpreted the intervention of Fan - a former president of the Legislative Council and now Hong Kong's sole representative on the powerful National People's Congress Standing Committee - as an indication that a strategy is being deployed to give the perception of a race with many runners.

Fan's remarks were also criticised as they seemed to rule out the chance of a pan-democratic candidate joining the first chief executive election to be voted by the whole population.

Leung was financial secretary and Ip the secretary for security in chief executive Tung Chee-ho's administration. The former resigned amid a conflict of interest row when he bought a car before a tax rise, and the latter quit amid the controversy about a national security bill under the Basic Law's Article 23 which prompted a 500,000-strong protest.

"As I can see now, those possible to throw their hat in the ring include, one, Mrs Regina Ip and, two, Mr Antony Leung," Fan said in an interview with RTHK. And if incumbent Leung Chun-ying ran again, "among these three people, I think I do have a choice".

In 2012, Fan supported Leung's arch-rival Henry Tang Ying-yam.

Ip, an Executive Council member, tried to run for the top job in 2012 but failed to get enough nominations. She thanked Fan, adding: "She's my mentor. I'm grateful for her high regard for me."

Political commentator Ma Ngok said Beijing seemed to be "establishing some sort of expectation" of competition.

"That expectation was - like the rivalry between Leung and Tang in 2012," said Ma, a Chinese University political scientist.

"What's interesting is that [Beijing] is telling Hongkongers in 2014 who they will be voting for in 2017. The plot seems to have been written. And that's not what a truly democratic race is like."

PAPER TALK

Sunday, Apple Daily

Weekend traffic banned from red maple hills of Tai Tung. The Hong Kong Police, a once-splendid tourist attraction in Tai Hang, is to be transformed into a music training school. The Aw Boon Law Foundation, a traffic jams on Tai Tung Road, so this year private cars are banned from using the road during

Monday, Oriental Daily

Retired fire officer accused of cheating on 40 leave days. A recently retired senior officer from the Fire Services Department is accused of failing to log more than 60 days of leave - worth about HK\$100,000, based on her monthly salary - over the past five years. It went unnoticed until recently, when the department checked staff members' duty log books against computer records.

Tuesday, Sing Tao Daily

Airport upgrade sees most luggage reduced. An upgrade to the procedures at Chek Lap Kok airport is helping passengers identify lost luggage for the authority said they received about 80 reports of lost or found items every day, adding up to about 20,000 cases a year. In one case, a French man reported the loss of HK\$10 million worth of jewellery.

Friday, Apple Daily

New speed detection cameras to come into use soon. New speed-detection cameras will soon be installed across the city after the police and Transport Department conducted tests of the new device over six months, according to sources. The cameras have no flashlight and detect the speed of passing cars through a coil circuit under the road. Twelve such cameras were built into different locations in the New Territories for testing purposes. They are expected to replace all existing detectors in the near future.

Compiled by Nelson Cheng

6 Sunday, December 7, 2014

Sunday Morning Post

HONG KONG

SOCIETY

DISABLED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Centre says attacks on intellectually disabled are 'quite a common occurrence' and calls for better education and greater public awareness

Jennifer Ng
jenniferng@scmp.com

Sexual assaults on mentally disabled people in Hong Kong were an increasingly common occurrence, social workers said, reflecting both the vulnerability of the victims and the hidden nature of sexual violence.

The CHASE Crisis Centre, which works with victims of sexual violence, said it recorded 17 cases involving mentally disabled victims in the first nine months of this year, against 12 for the whole of last year. Some 75 such cases - about 10 per cent of the centre's total caseload - had been reported since it opened in 2007. All of the male victims it had worked with had mental disabilities.

We are reaching a very small proportion of the [sexual assault] victims

PANDORA LUI, CHASE CRISIS CENTRE

Yet even those statistics did not reflect the scale of the problem, said Pandora Lui, the centre's assistant supervisor. Discussions with other NGOs revealed that sexual violence was "quite a common occurrence".

"Social workers from different NGOs serving the intellectually disabled community tell us there are quite a lot of sexual violence cases, and they are common," Lui said. "Intellectually disabled people are very vulnerable - they tend to be very trusting and think simply, making them easy prey."

"Normally no one reports these cases but it doesn't mean they don't happen."

"We are reaching a very small proportion of the victims."

The centre is calling for better sexual education for mentally disabled people and greater public awareness of the issue.

Among the victims was a young woman in her 20s with mild disabilities, who was raped twice, in both cases, she became pregnant.

The woman, who joined social workers to share her story yesterday, was first raped by her boyfriend in 2009. The second rape occurred last year and involved a man she had known for just two days. In the second case, she chose to keep the baby and is now raising the four-month-old child with the help of her family, with whom she lives.

Asked whether she felt better now, she said in a barely audible voice that she was "not happy."

She said she was worried about raising the child and whether the baby would also be disabled.

"It's important to remember that these are human beings - like like all human beings - to be loved," Lui said.

The number of mentally disabled people contacting the charity had increased by 41 per cent since 2007, she added.

A growing number of those with mild or moderate disabilities were working full time and were more engaged with society, she added. This meant they would come into contact with more people and, especially for women, be increasingly vulnerable to sexual predators.

They were often taken advantage of because, despite being disabled, people contacting the charity had increased by 41 per cent since 2007, she added.

"There is a serious lack of sexual education, as well as understanding of these women's needs by their families too," said Anna Au Suk-ling, social work coordinator of the vocational rehabilitation service of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

"If they get into a relationship with another person, family members often try to stop it, which further isolates them."

The centre, part of the hospital group, had collaborated with 23 different service centres in the past month, holding information sessions on sexual violence.

The centre operates a 24-hour hotline on 18281, and offers short-term housing and outreach support for victims.

But a photograph that was sent to the *Sunday Morning Post* yesterday showed two elderly people getting a sneak preview in September by climbing up the 60-metre wheel.

The picture shows photographer Kwok Wai Long, who came into the attraction within 24 hours of its opening, and a woman named Alice Woodhouse, who climbed with Long, balanced on the structure.

The long-awaited attraction, formally known as the Hong Kong Observation Wheel, finally opened on Friday, and has received acclaim for its dramatic views.

She said the climb was made in September when Long was last in the city, but declined to comment on security at the site. Alice said Long could not be reached for further comment.

Timothy Peirson-Smith, spokesman for operator Swiss AIX, said 24-hour security had been in place during construction, and remained in place.

A police spokesman said security at the attraction was the responsibility of the operator.

The wheel has long been controversial. The contract to operate the attraction was awarded more than a year ago, but the wheel was slow to appear, leading to complaints from rival builders that the wrong operator was chosen.

Loong, a Malaysian photographer, has scaled other buildings in Hong Kong. An image from September shows him barefoot and wearing a black bandana across his face as he unfurled a Malaysian flag atop a tower in Shuang Wan.

Hong Kong's myriad skyscrapers have become a magnet for overseas engineers.

A group calling themselves the Crazy Russians climbed the city's fifth-tallest building, the 346-metre The Centre in Central, in August.

The Crazy Russians post videos of the conquests online and sell sponsorship of their clips to fund their travels.

Other beneficiaries represented included Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre, Red Cross Margaret Trench School, Rainbow Project, Sowers Action, Diabetes Hong Kong and the Lions Kidney Educational Centre and Research Foundation.

Each of them received an anti-Christmas globe, which is a gift pack containing hand-made Christmas cards and letters.

Sino Group is a major donor to Operation Santa Claus, and the club showed its support by buying 250 Operation Santa hats at HK\$50 each and distributing them free to those at the party.

The atmosphere was much enhanced by the singing of Christmas carols by choir from Po Leung Kuk Ngan Po Ling College and Light and Love Home.

ENTERTAINMENT



Kwok Wai Long climbed the Ferris wheel in Admiralty months before it finally opened to the public last week. Photo: UDAY KIRTI

Ferris wheel security questioned

Daredevil publicises pictures of unauthorised preview of attraction

Alice Woodhouse
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Security at Hong Kong's new heart-of-the-city Ferris wheel came into question within 24 hours of its opening, as a daredevil climber posted pictures of himself on the structure.

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Civic Party co-founder leaves executive

After years of tension with colleagues over political issues, Ronny Tong steps down

Fanny Wai Fung
fannyfung@scmp.com

Maverick pan-democrat Ronny Tong Ka-wah moved further away from the leadership of the party he co-founded yesterday, stepping down from the executive of the Civic Party.

Tong, who had previously indicated he would not seek a new term as head of the party's New Territories East division, was replaced by fellow lawyer Alvin Yeung Ngok-ku.

Yeung, 33, was Tong's running mate in the 2012 Legislative Council poll and is seen as a rising star of the party. He refused to be drawn on whether Tong would run for a new term in 2016.

"Since the founding of the party, Ronny has been making significant contributions," Yeung said. "I think whether he holds a title or not will not change this."

Tong, a senior counsel who has served as a lawmaker for a decade, was out of town last night and unavailable for comment.

His decision to step down follows years of tension with party colleagues. While Tong has favoured moderation and attempted to find rapprochement on democratic development with Beijing, many of his colleagues have taken a harder stance.

Earlier this year, Tong condemned pan-democrats for failing to take a "national and pragmatic" approach to talks on political development.

He had put forward a compromise plan for reform, in which candidates for chief executive in 2017 would need the support of a proportion of the members of an expanded nominating committee.

He shed tears on television when Beijing ruled in August that hopefuls would need majority support from a panel similar to the Election Committee that chose previous chief executives.

In 2010, Tong said he was still close to the party on livelihood issues but they were moving apart on political matters after two of his lawmakers quit amid an attempt to spark a "de facto referendum" on democracy.

The party's main leaders were re-elected to their positions yesterday. Lawmaker Alan Leong Kah-kit remains leader and former lawmaker Audrey Eu Yue-mei stays on as chairwoman.

The Civic Party was formed in 2006 by a group of lawyers who came to prominence in the fight against national security laws under Article 23 of the Basic Law in 2003, as well as other professionals who shared their views.

In the 2012 election it won more than 250,000 votes, beating the Democratic Party to be the most popular in the pan-democratic camp for the first time.

C2 Monday, December 8, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

EDUCATION

PUPILS OFFER MODERATE PATH AGAINST APATHY

With the goal of helping young people become more politically aware, the new group Children plans less radical approach than Scholarism

Tony Cheung
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The Occupy Central protests that started in September have encouraged more young people to pay attention to Hong Kong's electoral reforms, but for Form Six pupil Li Ka-wing, there is much more to be done to boost teenagers' political awareness.

For that reason, the 18-year-old Ho Lap College pupil formed a new group in October, hoping to publish a monthly booklet about the city's political issues, as well as conduct an opinion poll to help others understand the younger generation's views.

Li and several other co-founders named their group "Children" - a portmanteau of "child" and "idea". The Chinese name of the group, 27 Yin, roughly translates as "childlike words".

Li, a former student union president at the Wong Tai Sin school, said that while Children and the city's best-known student activist group, Scholarism, shared similar political beliefs, her group would be "relatively moderate" and would not compete with Scholarism.

Those who take part in Scholarism's activities may have already been knowledgeable and passionate about political issues, so ours will target those who don't have a good understanding yet, and those who just want to come and see," Li said.

I wanted to eliminate the political apathy among secondary school pupils."

On August 31, Beijing ruled that while the city could elect its own chief executive, the number of members of the Executive Council would be reduced from 10 to 5, and the members would be appointed by the government.

The controversial ruling of the court prompted her to start a group to discuss further plans.

Children was a product of that discussion, she said.

港樂 HKPhil

SWIRE

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OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Children and members of the Paediatric Rheumatism Association with Santa Claus at Pacific Place. Photo: Edward Wong

Offering a big smile for a good cause

Children with rheumatism get to visit the Santa House in Pacific Place

Alec Cheung
alec.cheung@scmp.com

"Eveon't smile? Believe he will!" said Santa Claus with his signature hearty laugh, as he looked at nine-year-old Wayne's face. The boy looked nervous sitting on Santa's lap, surrounded by other children from the Paediatric Rheumatism Association.

But when he thought nobody was looking, the boy cracked a tiny smile.

"I really liked Santa Claus," Wayne said. "It was just too crowded in the Santa House."

The children all suffer from rare diseases that often display arthritis-like symptoms. Wayne's Kawasaki disease manifested itself in the form of high fevers and blood-shot eyes. Other illnesses being symptoms such as joint pains and muscle aches.

Set up jointly by the non-profit Paediatric Rheumatism Association and Pacific Place for Operation Santa Claus - the annual charity event co-organised by the *South China Morning Post* and RTHK - four children and their families were brought to Pacific Place's Santa House, where the children had a meeting and great session with their favourite bearded old man.

Santa Claus, who has shown up in Pacific Place over the last three years and declined to be identified, professed his love for Hong Kong and his job. "I love the people, it's a beautiful city," Santa said. "And I especially love the egg tarts."

He added: "When you have a passion and enjoy what you do, you'll never work a day in your life... There is a lot of sadness in this world, and there's no greater honour than being able to bring joy to people."

Yoni Kove So-fong, a marketing and promotions manager at the non-profit, expressed heartfelt thanks to the children and their families, saying they give us a sense of really helping and giving back to the community.

As a beneficiary of Operation Santa Claus this year, the Paediatric Rheumatism Association aims to provide material and support to the patients suffering from rheumatic diseases, as well as to educate the public on such diseases.

Rain, another member of the non-profit group, put on the brightest smile of all as he sat on Santa's lap. The boy had a particularly small stature for a nine-year-old, which his mother said was due to his rheumatic disease.

his mother said the association had helped her family a great deal since they joined five years ago. "We came to the group for a community and a chance to share experiences with other patients," she said. "They have really been a lot of help."



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REVIEW

Pipa master mesmerises the audience

In Praise of Elegance
Lai Pui-yuen pipa-guqin recital
Grand Hall, HKU

With flawless technique and depth, a classical music grandmaster shows how his art has seasoned with age.

Lai Pui-yuen, a living legend in traditional Chinese music, treated a packed house yesterday to his time-honoured mastery in not one but two musical instruments. A total of 10 works for pipa and guqin were played with not artificial but genuine, tape-free fingerings.

The 82-year-old master opened the recital with a pair of works for solo pipa, a pear-shaped lute that drew Lai to music in Shanghai 70 years ago. The mellow rhythm and gentle pluck played with not artificial but genuine, tape-free fingerings.

The ancient melody, *Music of a Friend*, showing the free-style of the guqin at its best in depicting elements of the past. The solo-guqin way to accompany as Lai was joined by his students to form a trio for three works. Though the three played in unison, the augmented sound brought out vibrancy.

The audience was only willing to call it a day after two encores from the master and the trio.



Lai Pui-yuen performs.

homestead sentiment of a Han Dynasty princess married to a Hun for the sake of peace as Lai's recital for the United States 40 years ago. After the pipe, the master proceeded to the guqin, a seven-stringed zither, from which he produced some of the most exquisite sounds. In *Three Variations of Plum Blossom*, he struck the harmonics passage with extraordinary precision, an effect that left the audience breathless.

The octogenarian's accuracy and precision in his left-hand glissandos was equally impressive. In *Floating Waters*, he took the harmonics to a high register that was barely audible. The multi-string slide produced a spectacular soundscape.

Then the music turned introspective in *Remembrance of an Old Friend*, showing the free-style of the guqin at its best in depicting elements of the past. The solo-guqin way to accompany as Lai was joined by his students to form a trio for three works. Though the three played in unison, the augmented sound brought out vibrancy.

The audience was only willing to call it a day after two encores. Only what he White Snow in Spring. Sunlight. Other Chou

C2 Tuesday, December 9, 2014

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

WARMING UP HEART WITH A KNITTED SCARF

Wellcome volunteers make the clothing and then give it to elderly dementia sufferers at a centre linked to the Charles K Kao Foundation

Elizabeth Cheung
elizabethcheung@scmp.com

A smile or a hug might warm up your heart. But volunteers from Wellcome have come up with a more practical idea by knitting scarves for elderly people with dementia, so they stay warm during cold spells.

Some 15 volunteers from the local supermarket chain last Friday visited a group of elderly people with mild to moderate dementia in Kwun Tong. The day care centre, run by local charity Yim Oi Tong, is also a partner body collaborating with the Charles K Kao Foundation, an organisation seeking to raise awareness about dementia.

The effort was part of Operation Santa Claus, a charity drive organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

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- You can donate with a cheque payable to "SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus" and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories.
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South China Morning Post

Laughter filled the room when volunteers in smart yellow T-shirts put the scarves on the old folk.

"I will definitely wear it. It is pretty and I like it very much," said Lai Fung-sin, an 81-year-old regular visitor to the centre.

"The volunteers looked really adorable," she said.

The young and old partici-

pants also worked together to make name tags with coloured sequins. The name tags could be attached to the scarves.

Joy was not reserved just for the elderly. Tiffany Shum Ying, a Wellcome sales and marketing graduate trainee, was touched when she gave out the first scarf she had ever made.

"Knitting was hard for me. I made mistakes in the middle so I had to undo it, start again and ask my mum to help," the 22-year-old said. She started knitting three weeks before the event.

The hand work pays off as the product has a double function - either as a scarf or a headband.

A scarf is long-lasting and durable... even if the product does not look too nice, the feeling of warmth is still there," said Benjamin Law Ka-chun, a senior business systems analyst at Wellcome.

To help employees like Shum, Wellcome even organised two sessions on how to knit.

But most important, volunteers reached a better understanding of dementia patients. It was the first time for Shum to interact with them. "I thought they would respond slowly, but in reality everything was very smooth and we had a great time," she said.

"I might have to repeat things, but otherwise they are similar to other people," Law said.

Both Shum and Law agreed that serving others was an important experience.

This is the fourth year that Wellcome has taken part in Operation Santa Claus. Wellcome is donating HK\$150,000 this year. It collaborates with the Charles K Kao Foundation, which is also a beneficiary of the charity drive.



Law and Shum give a scarf to Lai Fung-sin. Photo: Edmund So

Amount raised so far
HK\$ 3,326,516

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South China Morning Post

LETTER OF THE LAW
GRENVILLE CROSS

Time for a neutral chief prosecutor

Recent events prove the need for independent, non-political, director of public prosecutions

Justice is the end of government, said Daniel Defoe. Although radical changes are occurring elsewhere to promote prosecutorial freedoms, they have, lamentably, passed Hong Kong by.

In Australia, Canada and England and Wales, for example, attorneys general have withdrawn from the prosecution process, in whole or in part, in favour of a politically neutral chief prosecutor. Similar moves are currently afoot in many smaller jurisdictions, including the Bahamas, Malta and Samoa.

In Hong Kong, however, the Secretary for Justice, Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung, a government minister, still calls the shots, and progress towards achieving a wholly independent director of public prosecutions was blocked by Yuen's predecessor, Wong Yau-kang, in 2011.

At a time when the current and former chief executives, along with sundry other politicians and the ICAC's former commissioner, are under criminal investigation, and pro-democracy protesters are facing prosecution for public order offences, the case for the justice secretary to retain prosecutive control. However, the Hong Kong Basic Law Institute has said that not only is an independent DPP wholly consistent with the Basic Law, but that for the justice secretary to be involved in public prosecutions is, of itself, contrary to the Basic Law.

Hong Kong is blessed with an advanced legal system, but, to progress, we need an independently led prosecution service no less than we need an independent judiciary and the all-important respect of neutrality.

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for determining which of the street protesters opposing his proposals should be prosecuted, which is a stark conflict of interest. Just as an independent chief justice must administer judicial affairs, so also must prosecutive affairs be controlled by an independent chief prosecutor, without ministerial responsibilities. While Yuen has recused himself from sensitive investigations, this is no substitute for a wholly independent DPP. The prosecuting guidelines of both the United Nations and the International Association of Prosecutors highlight the need for the prosecutorial director to be exercised independently of government, and Hong Kong must move more with the times.

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C2 Saturday, December 13, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

Lamma IV navigation 'not up to standard'

Trial told Sea Smooth skipper should have spotted other vessel, despite fog lights

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The navigation of HK Electric's Lamma IV did not measure up to international standards, an experienced captain told a manslaughter trial of two skippers at the centre of a fatal National Day collision in 2012.

He examined by prosecutor Andrew Bruce SC, captain Cheung Hon-ye told the High Court that Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry's Sea Smooth failed to turn to starboard at 20.32. According to marine police radar data, the Sea Smooth altered its course to port instead. Cheung said that the Lamma IV had turned to starboard at 20.50, but the turn was "very late", and was not up to international collision regulations.

Audrey Campbell-Moffat SC, for Sea Smooth skipper Lai Sui-ming, had earlier argued the captain's view of the Lamma IV was obscured by a fog light on the bow of a typhoon shelter.

See [Sea Smooth] would have had no difficulty seeing the Lamma IV

Captain Cheung Hon-ye

Cheung said that when the Lamma IV was coming out of the shelter, the Sea Smooth captain "may not have been able to see too clearly because of the strong light". He added, "When the Lamma IV was gradually leaving the bow of the typhoon shelter, he would have had no difficulty seeing it."

He said that the Sea Smooth should have been able to see the Lamma IV at 20.17.47. The collision took place at 20.20.17.

Captain John Third, a marine consultant with Brookes Bell, was called by the prosecution as an expert witness. He will continue his evidence on Monday.

Lai, 56, and Lamma IV captain Chow Chi-mai, 58, each deny 29 counts of manslaughter and two counts of endangering the safety of others at sea.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Michael Huddart, his wife Liz, and Dr Tsang Chi-chi and Dora Chow from Diabetes Hong Kong prepare a Christmas feast. Photo: May Tai

DINNER FOR DIABETICS IS ANYTHING BUT BLAND

Grilled scallops with truffles were on the menu as volunteers from Manulife helped prove that a restricted diet doesn't have to be boring

Elizabeth Cheung
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When volunteers from Manulife and diabetes patients prepared a colourful Christmas feast, it proved that a diabetic diet doesn't have to be boring.

Some 32 volunteers from the insurance company and members of Diabetes Hong Kong had a cooking session on Thursday at the Tang Shiu Kin Scout and Guide Centre in Kowloon.

Under the instruction of chef Calvin Tsui, volunteers and patients were paired up to prepare a three-course meal together - grilled scallops with truffles and rocket as the appetiser, baked turkey rolls as the main course and traditional butter cookies for dessert.

Food, who has worked with Diabetes Hong Kong for about five years, said the essence of cooking for diabetes patients was simple cooking. "We use organic and natural ingredients without any additives. No chicken powder or MSG is used."

What interested Ioni Yau, assistant agency director of Manulife, was the secret of baking cookies for diabetes patients.

"We can't use too much butter or sugar. When necessary, we use a sugar substitute instead," Yau said.

To reduce the amount of but-

ter, olive oil was used to prepare the dough.

Li Wan-lai, who has suffered from diabetes for 16 years, was glad to learn some new cooking tips.

"Now I know spices can also bring out the flavour of the food," said Li, who cooks Chinese food most of the time. "It is all right to use less salt to prepare delicious food."

Now in its 11th year with Operation Santa Claus, an annual fundraising event co-organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, Manulife this year has its first partnership with Diabetes Hong Kong through the charity drive. It has pledged HK\$200,000 for this year's campaign.

"Being an insurer, health is of a particular interest to us," said Michael Huddart, executive vice-president and general manager of Manulife Greater China.

With the prevalence of diabetes around the world, Huddart said raising awareness of the disease was a positive for both the company and the community.

"There is a great move in the insurance industry now to work on wellness, to encourage people to play a role in their health," Huddart added. "Manulife is very much part of that movement."

Huddart, who was joined by his wife in the cooking session, said food might be a good way to promote the health message.

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CONSERVATION

Discord over design for historic Mong Kok houses

Planning board puts condition on project after critics say refurbishment plan lacks authenticity

Olga Wong
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The revamp of a row of historic shophouses in Mong Kok was approved by the Town Planning Board yesterday despite criticism that canopies in its proposed design were "not compatible with the preserved facade" and height concerns.

The 14 shophouses on Shung-hai Street - 10 of the pre-war verandah-style, with three or four stories, and four in the post-war six-storey style - are set to be renovated by the Urban Renewal Authority. The project was announced in 2008.

But the approval came with a condition that the facade design of the houses has to be approved by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

That condition follows criticism by the Architectural Services Department in a paper submitted to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department board.

The paper said the proposed canopies for the two redeveloped post-war buildings were "not compatible with the preserved facade". It also asked the authority to reduce the height of the

buildings, or to set back the upper floors, to "achieve the effect of a continuous uniform height" with other pre-war buildings.

Going on the artist's impression, the new canopies are to be smaller than the existing verandah, and designed with different materials.

But the authority's planning and design director, Michael Ma Chiu-chi, said the proposed design conformed to existing building rules, which state that a building should not be built over a public pavement, and that a canopy extending from a building should not exceed 10cm.

"The design aims to show the changes to the streetscape since 1920," Ma said. "Making the new buildings visually the same will only produce fake antiques."

Dr Lee Ho-yin, director of the University of Hong Kong's architectural conservation programme and a shophouse specialist, also said the new canopies were acceptable.

"According to international guidelines, new elements added to a heritage site should be distinctive from the old scene. Otherwise, the public cannot recognise the original parts a few decades later," Lee said.



An artist's impression of the refurbished buildings, which will differ significantly from the original structures. Photo: SCMP Pictures

PAPER TALK

Sunday, Apple Daily

Rules on food, drink and glasses a steep learning curve for pupils

The rule book is proving a tough assignment for some pupils, with reporters finding somewhat arbitrary rules in place at local schools. One Kowloon Tong school has banned pupils from eating on the streets outside school gates, while those at a Christian school in Tai Po cannot eat pork or seafood or drink caffeinated beverages such as Coca-Cola due to the religious background of its sponsor. And pupils at a Ma On Shan school cannot wear spectacles with rims thicker than 0.8cm - simply because big, heavy frames are fashionable.

Hotel cleaners paid HK\$40 a day for trial shifts, union says

Some hotels have been accused of failing to pay the minimum wage to cleaners doing trial shifts. The Catering and Hotels Industries Employees' General Union said a poll of 300 hotel cleaners found they had been paid just HK\$40 a day to cover their transport costs while on trial for the job. A lawyer said the hotels could have broken the law since the workers would still be covered by the Minimum Wage Ordinance, even on a trial basis.

Wednesday, Ming Pao Daily

Marathon effort for runner after kidney transplant

Runner Chan Kwai-ming, 55, who had a kidney transplant four years ago, aims to take part in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon next year, after he completed the half 42km race this year. Chan's renal function has returned to normal, but he still takes 10 types of medicine and has regular health checks.

Thursday, Hong Kong Economic Times

443 Form One places to go at English-medium schools

English-medium secondary schools will lose 143 Form One places for the next school year under the allocation system as the pupil population shrinks. The plan is to eventually cut a total of 500 Form One places.

Friday, Ming Pao Daily

Animal welfare groups criticise MTR over report into dog death

The MTR Corporation is under fire for failing to explain its decision to resume services on the East Rail Line - resulting in the death of a stray dog that had wandered onto the tracks - after staff at Shuang Shui station were unable to remove the animal. Animal welfare groups also criticised the railway operator for not releasing the full report of its investigation. Compiled by Nelson Cheng

In Memory of Captain Michael Davis

The Management and all of the staff at Sino Jet Management Limited are very saddened to learn of the passing away of Captain Michael Davis, and extend its deepest condolences to his family.

Captain Michael Davis was the Chief Operating Officer of Sino Jet Management Limited. He was an aviator, a fighter and a true legend. For the time he was at Sino Jet, we shared ideas, challenges, and laughter. It was the great honor to have known him personally and professionally. Captain Michael Davis has brought the spirit of a fighter pilot to the company and to the aviation industry in Hong Kong and Asia. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Sino Jet Management Limited

C2 Monday, December 15, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

CONTINUED FROM C1

Old liver gives bodybuilder a new chance

day he used to eat to build bulk have been swapped for five meals, mostly of steamed food.

He also giving himself much more rest than the four hours per night he used to manage.

"I went straight to do exercise after finishing work at 6pm. It was then 11pm when I had dinner and I got to bed at around 2am," he says. He is still up at 6am but is in bed by 11pm.

While hepatitis B is caused by a virus, doctors told Wong that his hectic lifestyle and unbalanced diet may have helped trigger the liver failure.

"I used to be really impatient and persistent. I would insist on doing things that I reckoned to be correct. Now I understand there

are a lot of things beyond my control," Wong adds.

He no longer takes family dinners for granted, and spends more time with his loved ones, including fiancée Jessie Lee Cheuk-ze. The couple, who have been together for seven years, plan to tie the knot some time next year.

"A wedding is just a ceremony. I no longer expect any glamorous details. Having him by my side is enough already," Lee says. She has no more when she calls the anxious wait for a donor, him again," she says.

Now, like Wong, she has a new perspective. "I focus more on what I possess and am less persistent... the most important thing is having your loved ones with you," she says.

Meanwhile, Wong is not the only one to have benefited from his transplant. The couple of months since his case was first reported, there has been a small flurry of donations.

Seven livers from deceased donors have since saved the lives of eight people: one was split into two for an infant and an adult.

"Eight liver transplants within two months is a big number for us... there were only about 20 livers from deceased donors in the first 10 months this year," said Professor Lo Chung-mau, head of surgery for Queen Mary and the University of Hong Kong.

Lo said patients' real-life stories had a great impact in stimulating organ donation.

"Hongkongers are quite forgetful. Therefore it is vital to remind them of the importance of organ donation."

People can register as donors online at organ donation.gov.hk and can withdraw from the register at any time. People should tell their families of their wishes, as their consent will be needed.

ORGANIC FACTS

● As of June 30, 56 people were waiting for liver transplants. Only 25 livers were donated from deceased and live bodies between January and June this year.

● Donations of livers remain between 30 and 50 every year.

● About 30 per cent of patients needing liver transplants die each year while on the waiting list.

● Kidneys are in even greater demand: a total of 1,066 people were waiting, while only 32 kidneys were donated in the first half of this year.

● Waiting times for organ transplant patients with type O blood are longer, as they can only receive organs from people with the same blood group.

● Donors can sign up at organ donation.gov.hk

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Santa meets pupils from Red Cross Margaret Trench School at a Christmas party that was made extra special thanks to the support of Melco Group. Photo: Jonathan Wong

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● You can donate

Charity campaign brings Melco Group and Margaret Trench School together for a festive party with extra fun - but no scary clowns

Oliver Chou
oliver.chou@scmp.com

A school on a quiet hillside in East Kowloon became a noisy place of laughter and joy as 300 people gathered for a large party for pupils, parents and alumni.

"In addition to a HK\$350,000 donation, spending a day with school kids with special needs as volunteers conjures up a sense of belonging among us as a team, and that is conducive to the corporate culture," she added.

Thanks to sponsorship from leisure and entertainment company Melco Group, the scale of the party had grown appreciably. Gifts, games, shows and food all made for an unforgettable day.

"For the past two nights my son couldn't get to sleep until 4am because of the excitement, mostly about the food," said the mother of pupil Lung Kin, who has cerebral palsy.

"I love to eat chicken with Coke," the 19-year-old boy added, with a big smile.

For Belinda Chow, also 19, the gifts and prizes from the games

the annual fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK, for making the event possible by connecting the school, one of the campaign's 20 beneficiaries, with Melco Group, a major donor.

"Our company's charity work focuses on youth, environment and education," said Kristy Tsang, Melco Group's corporate communications manager.

"In addition to a HK\$350,000 donation, spending a day with school kids with special needs as volunteers conjures up a sense of belonging among us as a team, and that is conducive to the corporate culture," she added.

Pinky Chow, senior officer and one of 10 volunteers to join the group, said extra precautions were taken to ensure that the particular needs of the disabled pupils were taken care of.

"We brought in a magician and Santa Claus but no clown - they can be frightening for these kids," Chow said. "And we prepared the food in ways - such as cutting it up into small chunks - so that everyone can enjoy it, including a few South Asians, for whom we prepared special vegetarian dishes."

"The students were absolutely mesmerised by the magician. I was very impressed," said Lee, a Red Cross volunteer of 34 years. He thanked Operation Santa

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C2 Thursday, December 18, 2014 South China Morning Post

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



The children get ready to dig in at the Kowloon Happy Teens Club. Photo: Jonathan Wong

LEFTOVERS MAKE FOR A DELICIOUS LESSON FOR KIDS

NGO Foodlink joins with star Maxim's chef to
prepare a Christmas feast at youth centre - and
send a message about the city's wasteful ways

Oliver Chou
oliverchou@scmp.com

This Christmas meal came with a serious message, but you couldn't tell that from the sight of boisterous children talking, laughing and eating.

That was the scene last Saturday morning when Maxim's Foodlink Foundation and Green Monday at the Happy Teens Club under the Hong Kong Christian Service in Kowloon.

The volunteers were soon outnumbered by a horde of primary pupils with a big appetite for fun and food. That was exactly the mindset the group expected of the boys and girls for its "waste-not" theme.

"We hope to help these youngsters appreciate food, and enjoy it, even if it's just leftovers," said Amanda Chan, a Maxim's volunteer.

According to Foodlink, the volume of food that is wasted in the city has doubled in the past five years.

It says 3,337 tonnes of food waste is disposed of in landfills each day, accounting for 36 per cent of all municipal solid waste in Hong Kong.

To highlight the recycling theme, Chan and her colleagues started with a handicrafts session, teaching the kids to turn toilet-paper rolls and used gift wrappings into a variety of festive objects.

"Look around at home or school. With a little patience and imagination you can turn something into an artwork," Chan told the crowd.

Enthusiastic comments and exchanges ensued. But the room suddenly turned silent with the emergence of a chef with seven years of Michelin stardom under his belt. In full attire, he demonstrated how to turn leftover chicken into a mouth-watering lettuce wrap in just minutes.

"Our philosophy is always

and abalone," said Kevin Wong, who is the district head chef at Maxim's Group.

By altering the form of the leftover chicken by mincing or dicing, and mixing it with fresh ingredients on a bed of lettuce, even unwanted food became healthy and tasty, the chef added.

"The food is really tasty. I will finish all the rice in my next meal," said Lau Sen-he, six.

He was joined by a group of Hong Kong-born Palauans, who appreciated the food in a different way.

"Our religion forbids chicken, but we enjoyed the rest of the food and the party," said Tayiba Biki, 22, in fluent Cantonese.

Maxim's is a donor and Foodlink is a beneficiary of this year's Operation Santa Claus, the fund-raising campaign that is organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

They appreciate colourful ingredients ... more than shark fin and abalone

MAXIM'S CHEF KEVIN WONG

cooking to the satisfaction of clients. In this particular case, my clients are the young folks out there, and they appreciate colourful ingredients like corn and carrot more than shark fin



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APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL AND AMENDMENTS OF LICENSE HOTEL JEN HONG KONG

Notice is hereby given that Christian Posing of Room 3228, 32/F, Four Seasons Place, 8 Finance Street, Central, Hong Kong is applying to the Liquor Licensing Board for renewal of the Liquor License in respect of "Theater House Hong Kong" situated at 1/F, 2/F, 3/F, 4/F, 5/F, 6/F, 7/F, 8/F, 9/F, 10/F, 11/F, 12/F, 13/F, 14/F, 15/F, 16/F, 17/F, 18/F, 19/F, 20/F, 21/F, 22/F, 23/F, 24/F, 25/F, 26/F, 27/F, 28/F, 29/F, 30/F, 31/F, 32/F, 33/F, 34/F, 35/F, 36/F, 37/F, 38/F, 39/F, 40/F, 41/F, 42/F, 43/F, 44/F, 45/F, 46/F, 47/F, 48/F, 49/F, 50/F, 51/F, 52/F, 53/F, 54/F, 55/F, 56/F, 57/F, 58/F, 59/F, 60/F, 61/F, 62/F, 63/F, 64/F, 65/F, 66/F, 67/F, 68/F, 69/F, 70/F, 71/F, 72/F, 73/F, 74/F, 75/F, 76/F, 77/F, 78/F, 79/F, 80/F, 81/F, 82/F, 83/F, 84/F, 85/F, 86/F, 87/F, 88/F, 89/F, 90/F, 91/F, 92/F, 93/F, 94/F, 95/F, 96/F, 97/F, 98/F, 99/F, 100/F, 101/F, 102/F, 103/F, 104/F, 105/F, 106/F, 107/F, 108/F, 109/F, 110/F, 111/F, 112/F, 113/F, 114/F, 115/F, 116/F, 117/F, 118/F, 119/F, 120/F, 121/F, 122/F, 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C2 Saturday, December 20, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

Swoop on parallel traders nets 20 people

Immigration officers and police arrest mainlanders in three-day operation

Emily Tsang
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A joint immigration and police swoop on mainlanders involved in buying goods in Hong Kong for sale across the border resulted in 20 arrests this week.

The operation, codenamed Windsong, ran from Tuesday to Thursday and found people in the city as visitors who were working illegally as so-called parallel goods traders. They were buying goods including milk powder, food, skincare products, electronics and daily necessities with the intention of selling them across the border, dodging higher mainland taxes.

Parallel trading in most goods is not illegal in Hong Kong, so any action against the traders is taken under the immigration laws. Seven men and 13 women aged between 27 and 50 were arrested in areas near the border, including Lok Ma Chau and Sheng Shui. None have yet been charged.

"The Immigration Department will continue to take enforcement action with related law enforcement department against the offences concerned," a spokesman for the department said.

The Immigration Department will continue to take enforcement action

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

Since September 2012, some 1,600 mainlanders and 14 Hong Kong residents have been arrested for suspected involvement in parallel goods trading. Of those, 200 were later jailed for breaching conditions of stay and 1,400 were sent back to the mainland, the spokesman said. Parallel goods trading has grown dramatically in recent years and become a key bone of contention between Hong Kong and mainlanders, especially those living in the northern New Territories and mainlanders. Traders have been accused of clogging up the MTR network, hogging daily necessities and fundamentally altering the retail landscape of large parts of Hong Kong, with traditional stores priced out of the city by the needs of the traders. The operation has taken place in Sheng Shui against their presence.

According to Shenzhen customs, more than 20,000 parallel traders cross the border between Shenzhen and Hong Kong every day, taking advantage of tax regimes which make many goods cheaper in Hong Kong.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



From left: Timon Liu, Roy Li, Kai Cheong Kwok, Chao Wang Li, Ho Distebrink, Huen Wong and Meng So last Friday. Photo: Edmund So

BANKERS MAKE THE CUT IN DRIVE FOR CHARITY

Bad weather can't keep Bank of America from doing its bit at elite Clearwater Bay Club, part of a HK\$800,000 contribution from lender

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The blustery conditions gave players an excuse to play poorly at Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club, organizers of the day's fundraising game joked.

Golfers were in good humour on December 12 despite the rough patch of weather, all in aid of Operation Santa Claus.

All of the money raised from the events and promotions organized by Bank of America Merrill Lynch – a total of HK\$800,000 – will be poured into the charity campaign's coffers.

Two Liscobank, the bank's head of Asia-Pacific global transaction services, said: "Banking more money than last year is nice. It reflects the staff and the bank are committed to Operation Santa Claus."

"We wouldn't be up on (hand) raising last year if the staff weren't rallying around the various initiatives we've set up."

In addition to beating last year's tally of money raised, a record number of women took part in the golf tournament this year.

"We have done a lot as a firm attracting female talent and getting more people to participate and engage. There is definitely a focus in the organisation on doing more for charity, especially for women and children," said Mickie Lin, a vice-president of the bank.

Clients and partners of the bank added corporate donations worth HK\$250,000 per hole. Some provided sponsored raffle prizes

Including air tickets and casino trips. Extra money was also raised from muligun tickets – to help golfers keep their scores artificial-ly.

Huen Wong, vice-chairman of the golf club and a co-sponsor of the event, said charity should start at home.

"We take it upon ourselves – it is our duty to partner with charitable organisations in Hong Kong and to lend a helping hand to those who may be less privileged than some of our members."

Operation Santa Claus is one of the leading charitable organisations helping in Hong Kong and mainland China and it is an absolutely meaningful cause."

The American bank's other golf-themed events have proved a hit.

Staff took off a fortnight ago in the firm's 11th mini-golf challenge in the Kowloon Commerce Centre. Later, the bank's employees at its Central office fired off a few bulls in a game of hole-in-one.

For the first time, Operation Santa's name has been plastered across the Victoria Harbour skyline, taking awareness of the charity to literally new heights via a digital advertisement on top of the Bank of America Tower.

The Operation Santa animations can be seen around the business district and across Victoria Harbour at night.

Operation Santa Claus is an annual festive fundraising drive run by the South China Morning Post and RTIHK. The charity supports 20 beneficiaries in Hong Kong and the mainland.

COURTS

Ships' headings are 'key' to Lamma case

Lawyer says trial of ferry captains hinges on determining what they could see before collision

Thomas Chan
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The crash of a manslaughter trial of two coxswains involved in a ferry collision on National Day in 2012 is in the court's assessment of the two vessels' heading, a defence lawyer said yesterday.

Barister James Turner QC, for the captain of Hongkong Electric's Lamma IV, said: "If reasonably reliable heading value could be derived from available data, it would be more preferable to use that than radar-tracker course-over-ground data to assess side-sight visibility."

Lamma IV skipper Chow Chi-wai, 56, and Sea Smooth captain Lai Sai-ming, 56, have each

pleaded not guilty to 39 counts of manslaughter and two counts of endangering the safety of others at sea.

The pair allegedly breached that duty of care by failing to keep a proper lookout, or to take any effective measures to avoid the collision.

The alleged breach of duty represented gross negligence that was said to be a substantial cause of the deaths.

The trial continues on Monday before Deputy High Court Judge Mr Justice Brian Keith.

39

This is how many manslaughter charges each of the two ferry skippers face

Being grilled by Turner over the data he used in his report, the marine expert said: "This is an extremely simple collision case."

Earlier, the court heard that at about 20:18 on October 1, 2012, the heading of the Sea Smooth would have been showing to the Lamma IV. At about 20:19, the

complaints about services and charges at private hospitals last year. One patient who checked out 50 minutes late had been charged the full fee for one more day of hospital care. One parent said her son had been prescribed Tamiflu for flu when he had only fever. The boy was taken to a public hospital, where a doctor told the parent Tamiflu should be prescribed only to patients with the flu.

The Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood would be most affected, with 6.8 per cent of the 16 seats the party holds in seven constituency areas to be re-demarcated. The King's Park area, in which party member Lam Kin-man was elected in a by-election last year, will be divided into three different areas, which would force him to pick one of those areas.

PAPER TALK

Sunday, Ming Pao Daily

Parties to be affected by District Council election remapping

An analysis of the new demarcation of constituencies for next year's District Council elections found that 109 out of 412 directly elected seats would have to be revised, affecting five major political parties that take up most council seats.

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C2 Monday, December 22, 2014

South China Morning Post

CITY

CITY BEAT
TAMMY TAM

Awards go to show HK's still got it

As city and convention centre rated No 1 in Asia, perhaps it's time to reflect on what we do best

So what next for Hong Kong now that the decision was made that the 2017 chief executive election is of course still an issue, though it seems unlikely the government's restrictive proposal will be passed in the Legislative Council, Beijing has shown no sign of compromise and neither have the protesters, who say they will continue their fight for democracy.

It seems the political mood is little improved post-Occupy. But politics isn't everything. One bright spot last week was news that the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai was named the best in Asia for a 12th straight year by CEE Asia magazine.

It was followed by the AsiaWorld-Expo at the airport and the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre. It also rated Hong Kong the best city for business events in the region, ahead of Singapore and Bangkok.

Monica Lee-Muller, the convention centre's managing director, must be thrilled. She said that over the past three years, 980 out of 1,000 clients surveyed by the convention centre said "yes" in response to the question "Will you use the centre again?" That's a 98 per cent satisfaction rate.

It's also a strong vote of confidence for Lee-Muller and the 700 staff at the centre.

In February, when Beijing decided to move the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation finance ministers' meeting scheduled for October from Hong Kong to Beijing because of the looming Occupy protests, it was seen as a blow to the city. And it meant the convention centre had lost its event of the year.

Beijing's official explanation was that the decision was nothing to do with Occupy and instead was made because the meeting had to be pushed back to November. The organisers said it would be easier to manage the logistics if the event was held in Beijing.

In Hong Kong, the government brushed aside any political implications, with Financial Secretary John Tsang Chan-wah stressing that Beijing "understands that Hong Kong enjoys freedom of speech".

Whatever the reason, the city is still leading the way for business events in Asia. And the ratings come at a time when many are questioning the competitiveness of the city.

Political brawling, months of protests and deep social divisions all contribute to this idea that the city is being hobbled when it comes to competing with its neighbours, such as Singapore, Seoul and the big cities of mainland China.

These cities are doing well and the fear is that they're catching up with Hong Kong – and fast. There is also concern that Beijing will take a much tougher approach towards Hong Kong in the post-Occupy period.

As part of China, there is no reason for Hong Kong's values and freedoms to be eroded. And it is up to Hongkongers to reflect on what they already have in the wake of the Occupy protests.

The Convention and Exhibition Centre has received international recognition – but it's just one example of the city's world-class endeavours. And it's also a good opportunity to look beyond the political wrangling and shouting of slogans – and not just take all of the many positive aspects of this city for granted.

tammytam@scmp.com

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Doctors Joseph Chan (left) and Walton Li, with some of the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital medical staff who helped raise thousands of dollars for charity. Photos: K. Y. Cheng

MEDICAL STAFF HAPPY TO BE ROPED INTO CHARITY EVENT



Doctors Joseph Chan and Walton Li show their skipping skills.

Hospital comes up with novel way to raise funds and give out healthy message

Kathy Gao
kathygao@scmp.com

Staff at the Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital had to jump to raise charity funds – and they thoroughly enjoyed it.

They took part in a jump rope challenge to benefit Operation Santa Claus, a charity campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTIHK.

"The idea is borrowed from the ice bucket challenge. But as a health institution, we wanted to do something fun but at the same time healthy and raise people's awareness of giving. So we came up with the jump rope challenge," said Dr Joseph Chan, deputy superintendent of the hospital.

But the challenge, which kicked off a month ago and ended last week, was only one part of the fundraising activities.

Floors normally humming with serious meetings and conferences were filled with laughter as hospital staff took to their ropes and watched "super che" doctors make pancakes while other food was made and enjoyed in different departments throughout the hospital.

To add to the festive fundraising, people were asked to contribute HK\$100 to help defray the cost of medical equipment and other medical personnel going through their own struggles.

"It's very easy to write a cheque and donate it to Operation Santa Claus but obviously that's not the idea. We want to support the charity programme but at the same time bring our staff together and have some fun," Chan said. It is the sixth year the hospital has been involved in the fundraiser and Chan said that it has become an annual event that his colleagues look forward to ahead of the festive season.

Chan noted the solid charity efforts of Operation Santa Claus, especially those supporting health-related schemes.

Operation Santa Claus 2014 beneficiaries include Morning Tears, which shelters the children of couples on mainland China, and Pathfinders, an NGO that helps mothers and children originally from the mainland but who are now living in Hong Kong.

After a month of skipping and cooking, the hospital raised a total of HK\$460,000.

"Christmas is a time of love and hope but also a time of giving," said Dr Walton Li, Wal-tai, superintendent of the hospital. "As a health institution, we want to contribute to the community."

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

● Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com/donate

● Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC (account number 902-6299-001 for SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus)

● You can donate with a cheque payable to "SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus" and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dalat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories.

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Funeral services will be held at the Universal Funeral Parlor, Hang Hom on Monday, 22nd December 2014 and followed by cremation services at Cape Collet at 2.30pm.

Buses will depart from Far East Mansion, Middle Road, TST at 1.15pm.

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CRIME

Man arrested after 'furious' late-night chase

Lai Ying-kit
yingkitlai@scmp.com

A driver ploughed his car into two other vehicles before a police SUV rammed him off the road as he attempted to shake off police dogs squad officers in an early-busy chase in Tsuen Wan yesterday.

A man has been arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking and possession of firearms after a chase in Tsuen Wan yesterday.

Police say the car, a black Honda Jazz was spotted by officers from the Tsuen Wan District special duties squad on Lo Tak Court shortly after midnight after they received a tip-off.

The squad is part of a special police team dealing with drug-trafficking offences.

When officers tried to intercept the car, the driver sped off in an attempt to flee the scene.

The detectives then gave chase for a distance. In the process, the Honda crashed into two private cars parked on the roadside. The car was only stopped in the end when an SUV driven by police officers pushed it against a set of railings by the side of the road.

A video of the incident taken

by a passer-by and posted on the internet yesterday shows the driver continuing his attempts to flee when plainclothes police officers approach the stopped car.

The driver is seen refusing to get out despite the demands of the officer, and continuing to press the accelerator despite the fact the car is immobilised.

"Stop! Stop!" one plainclothes officer shouts at the man. Another officer is seen banging the roof of the car with his hand.

One of the officers then puts his hand on his holster and shouting to the driver: "Get out or I will drive my gun."

But the driver continues to ignore the police warnings. The police officers then smash the car's passenger side window with a baton and lean into the car to restrain the driver.

Police say they found 50 grams of suspected high-grade cocaine in the man's bag. The drugs have an estimated street value of HK\$2,000.

Two male police officers received minor injuries to the arm and shoulder during the incident. Police said the man arrested was 27 years old.

They are now investigating whether he had any further connection to drug trafficking and whether he had any connections to triad groups.

The maximum penalty for drug trafficking is life imprisonment and a fine of HK\$5 million. The maximum penalty for firearms possession is two years in prison.

Some 1,646 drug offences were recorded in the year to October, a fall of 14 per cent on the same period last year.

A screen grab from the video shows police confronting the driver of the Honda Jazz. Photo: SCMP Pictures

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The trial continues on Monday before Deputy High Court Judge Mr Justice Brian Keith.

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WE'LL BE BACK AFTER



BOXING DAY!

Non-publication dates:

Thursday, 25 December and Friday, 26 December 2014

The South China Morning Post

C2 Tuesday, December 23, 2014

CITY

LETTER OF THE LAW
SIMON YOUNGHere's the verdict:
top criminal law
decisions this year

Five cases stand out – and none of them involves constitutional points

As we round out the year, I'd like to reflect on what in my view are the five most important criminal law decisions from our higher courts this year. At No 1 is HKSAR v. Krieger, a case of alleged bribery of Macao's Ao Man-fong, in which the defendants were acquitted in the Court of Appeal and the prosecution was denied leave to appeal further. This case held that it is not a criminal offence to form plans in Hong Kong to bribe an overseas official. It exposed another loophole in our bribery laws, taking us further away from compliance with our international obligations.

It illustrates how a defendant, without legal representation, can be severely disadvantaged. The defendant was convicted of serious sexual offences and sentenced to eight years' jail. In the jury trial, the admissibility of a confession statement was not tested even though police abuse was alleged, the defendant's closing speech was "cut short", while the senior prosecuting counsel made a closing speech which was not entered in the trial was found to be unfair and the appeal was allowed.

At No 2 is the Court of Final Appeal's decision in HKSAR v. Pung I-fung-fai, which narrowed the scope of the "substantial" laundering offence. In deciding whether a defendant had grounds to believe property he dealt with represented the proceeds of an indictable offence, the test is now whether anyone looking at the grounds objectively would not conclude that the defendant's knowledge, beliefs, perceptions and evaluations. The court acquitted the defendant and said that the new approach had "a strong element of moral blame".

Topping the list is the case of HKSAR v. Han Ming-long, not for what the case said about the law, but for what it recently retired about to see options in their careers and lives. When it comes to helping underprivileged young people, the Fung Group believes a hands-on approach to mentoring and inspiring teenagers is a recipe for success. This is where its employees come into the picture.

Under a job-shadowing scheme run by the International sourcing firm's charitable arm, staff members go on the front line to act as mentors to underprivileged children, opening their horizons and encouraging them to see options in their careers and life development.

It is remarkable to see that there are still underrepresented defendants being tried on serious charges and that none of these five cases involved constitutional points.

We might ponder over Christmas turkey whether constitutional rights litigation in Hong Kong criminal cases is now dead.

Professor Simon Young Ngai-man is associate dean (research), Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong.



New-retired judge Frank Stock called for urgent reforms

It is remarkable... there are still underrepresented defendants being tried on serious charges

At No 4 is HKSAR v. Singh Gurpreet, a recent decision of the Court of Appeal, in which a man charged with theft and fraud was tried in absentia in the District Court and convicted. In allowing the defendant's appeal, the court reminded us of a basic common law principle that trials in absentia are "rare and exceptional... particularly if the defendant is unrepresented". It was not enough that the unrepresented defendant had "deliberately breached their bail conditions and had absconded".

At No 5 is HKSAR v. Tso Kin-shing, another decision of the Court of Appeal, which

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Runners were as they take part in the recent Brooks 15K Challenge at Sheung Shui. Photos: Dickson Lee

MENTOR SCHEME JUST THE JOB
FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS

Hands-on approach by Fung Group employees aims to help socially marginalised children see opportunities in their careers and lives

Denny Lee
denny.lee@scmp.com

When it comes to helping underprivileged young people, the Fung Group believes a hands-on approach to mentoring and inspiring teenagers is a recipe for success. This is where its employees come into the picture.

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erion Santa, which supports 20 beneficiaries in Hong Kong and on the mainland. In Hall, general manager of Toys "R" Us Asia, said the running event, combined with philanthropy, was "something that brings us all together to line up behind a common goal".

"Youth development is very much in our theme and it's one of the themes for Operation Santa Claus," Wong said, referring to the annual festive fundraising drive held by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

This is the fourth year staff members have taken part in Operation Santa, which supports 20 beneficiaries in Hong Kong and on the mainland. In Hall, general manager of Toys "R" Us Asia, said the running event, combined with philanthropy, was "something that brings us all together to line up behind a common goal".

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C2 Monday, December 29, 2014

CITY

POLITICS

Villagers warned of vote-rigging in rural ballot

Worry over outdated electors' list that could allow ineligible residents to breach laws

Peter So
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Village residents who cast ballots in the rural representative elections after moving out of their registered address could face vote-rigging-related charges, the graft-buster has warned.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption has stepped up publicity to remind voters to clarify their eligibility before next month's elections.

The government should be more proactive in reviewing the list

CHUNG KWONG-KAI, CANDIDATE

However, a candidate has complained that the government has not done enough to update the list of electors and remove the names of people who have moved out.

The shift of publicity strategy – which was previously focused on bribery or vote-buying offences – came after scores of people were convicted of registering false addresses to vote in a constituency that did not belong to the 2011 district council elections.

"Anyone who votes in the election knowing that the person is not entitled to do so could breach the election law," said Lily Chung Lai-tin, programme coordinator (elections) of the KAC's community relations department.

Under electoral law, voters can only cast a ballot in the constituency they have registered as a "principal residential address". Chung said voters can contact district offices in the New Territories for clarification, while ICAC – which is also responsible for enforcing laws against illegal conduct in elections – has spent more than HK\$500,000 in publicity explaining the process.

However, retired civil servant Chung Kwong-kai – who will compete against businessman Chan Hing-ting for the resident representative seat in Lung Mei village, Tai Po – has complained that dozens of residents who have already moved out are still on the list of electors.

"The government [Registration and Electoral Office] should be more proactive in reviewing the list, otherwise it exposes the elections to vote-rigging," he said, adding that it would be impossible for candidates to distinguish whether voters were still living in the constituency.

Since the "dual head" system was introduced for villages in 2005, indigenous villagers, or people whose ancestors settled in the New Territories before 1895, are eligible to elect indigenous inhabitant representatives regardless of where they live. People who have been living in the villages for three years immediately before the voter registrations are eligible to elect resident representatives.

Ballots will be held in 700 villages on the first three Sundays of next month, where 1,891 candidates are vying for 1,494 posts. Chung said the anti-graft agency had received 10 complaints and looked into five cases for the upcoming elections as of mid-December.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



AIA Group chief operations officer Simon Preston (centre) joined in the run. Photo: May Tai



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Insurance staff stay on track at Happy Valley Racecourse to reach goal of HK\$150,000 – and company will double the total for campaign

Shirley Zhao
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It was probably not the best weather for running on this mid-December day. The temperature had dropped 5 degrees from the warm and sunny 20 degrees Celsius two days earlier and the occasional drizzle didn't help make the day more enjoyable.

But rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 56 employees of insurer AIA Group. They braved the chilly wind as they stood on the running track at the Happy Valley Racecourse. Indeed, with many in sleeveless shirts and shorts, running was their best hope at keeping themselves from shivering. And it was all for a good cause.

With a target of finishing 250 laps, which adds up to a total of 350 kilometres, they hoped to raise at least HK\$150,000 for annual fundraising campaign Operation Santa Claus, co-organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

No matter how much the group raised, the figure will double as AIA will chip in the same amount.

"This is a way of getting us together before Christmas to do

something which would keep us fit," said Paul Hughes, AIA's group head of underwriting and claims. "To do it for a good cause is always better than not."

This is the first year AIA has joined the campaign. The team, including Hughes, eventually achieved 315 laps (441 kilometres) after two hours of running, which is an average of almost six laps for each person.

Last year, the company organised its first charity run, spearheaded by running enthusiast Hughes, with 32 participants finishing a total of 137 laps (192 kilometres) and raising HK\$130,000 for the Children's Cancer Foundation.

Simon Preston, AIA's group chief operations officer and a frequent runner who also joined the charity run, said that Operation Santa Claus was a "clear choice" for the company this year because they wanted to find a local charity that focuses on helping a variety of local communities.

"It resonates well with us, the way it helps local communities, and children specifically," said Preston.

After a marathon of fundraising, the money raised will be allocated to 20 local charities.

Preston said the company was happy with its money going to any of the charities.

"We are all very privileged people. We all have jobs," said Preston. "But there are many people out there who don't have so much money or hope, perhaps. And if we can do a little thing to make a little difference in their lives, that's what we are all about. Our tagline is a real life company, and this is real life. The real life we all always love."



Staff finished the day with a major contribution to the campaign.

CITY BEAT TAMMY TAM

ATV woes could turn into a big drama for the government

If staff aren't paid soon the station can forget about its licence, no matter what officials do

Christmas must have been difficult this year for the more than 700 Asia Television staff who haven't been paid for two months.

And with income tax bills looming, the broadcaster still hasn't given any indication of when staff will get their wages for last year and this. But this saga is not confined to the station. It could easily turn into a new political storm for the government.

For November alone, the total amount of outstanding pay is about HK\$1.5 million. Staff from the news department wrote in an open letter last Sunday that the situation was "untenable", especially as it comes at a time when other companies are handing out year-end bonuses and pay rises.

Meanwhile, ATV faces an uncertain future – and possibly liquidation – as it tries to find a new buyer and ensure its free-to-air licence is renewed. The licence expires in November.

Apart from its dedicated staff, that licence is perhaps the station's most valuable asset. But as they wait for their pay cheques, staff morale is flagging. The news team have threatened to stop work if they are not paid

by Wednesday – December 31 – and that could result in the station's licence being revoked. Under licensing conditions, ATV must provide a news service.

The government is treating it as a labour dispute. The Labour Department last week met staff, offering assistance and warning the station's investors that they could be prosecuted if the wages were not paid.

But some say the department is a toothless tiger – and its repeated warnings have fallen on deaf ears. ATV executive director Ip Ka-po last week commented that major investor Wong Ching had "almost accomplished their historic mission" – perhaps indicating that there would not be any further pay cheques.

Today, staff will meet two new managers from Deutsche China who were appointed by the High Court to manage ATV after another shareholder, Taiwanese ranch tycoon Tsai Eng-meng, won a long legal tussle with Wong Ching's relative, majority shareholder Wang Ben-kon. The judge ruled that Wong Ching had interfered with the running of ATV and had jeopardised its future – and that he had been

acting behind the back of Wong Ben-kon.

The two accountants said their priority was to find a white knight rather than to wind up the station, but admitted it was "not easy". Having racked up almost HK\$1 billion in debts, and with less than a year left of its licence, finding a buyer is going to be tough. And should the accountants be chasing a licence fee, or the broadcast of that brings us back to the government. The regulator, the Communications Authority, voted unanimously not to renew the licence because of poor management, but Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying last week said that decision had yet to reach his office – and promised the government would handle the matter in accordance with procedures.

The government is supposed to notify ATV about its licence 12 months in advance. For whatever reason – perhaps the political implications or perhaps the fact there are 700 jobs on the line – that decision is still pending. The government tries to save ATV. Meanwhile, staff are doing their best to keep the station on air, yet its wealthy investors are refusing to pay them. This could be the final straw for ATV. These workers deserve their pay, now.

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South China Morning Post

C2 Tuesday, December 30, 2014

CITY

People with diabetes run risk of depression

Research team calls for early screening to help depressed patients better manage diabetes

Elizabeth Cheung
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People with diabetes are twice as likely to also suffer from depression – and that can affect how well they manage the disease – according to a study by the Chinese University.

The university's Institute of Diabetes and Obesity surveyed 516 people with diabetes, aged between 25 and 75, in 2010 and 2011. Sample 49 was then further assessed by psychiatrists, of whom 23 per cent were found to have clinical depression.

While the rate of depression among the general population is 8 per cent, the research team found that for people with diabetes it increases to 16 per cent.

Dr Rose Ting Zhao, senior honorary clinical assistant professor at the institute, said that experiencing depression could affect how the patient copes with diabetes. "Affected by their mood, they might have a weaker medication compliance or their diet might be less stable," she said.

The study also used data from previous research, conducted by the Hong Kong Diabetes Registry between 1997 and 2008, which showed that for people with diabetes and depression, the risk of cardiovascular diseases doubled and the risk of a stroke trebled.

In the competitive world of legal conflict, it might seem odd that staff at a legal firm recently did battle – and were quite happy to lose.

However, the battle was a Christmas quiz night and money lost for wrong answers went to the Operation Santa Claus campaign.

And despite the charitable reasons behind the event, staff from global legal firm Clifford Chance found the questions weren't too easy.

Quintmaster Peter Charlton, a managing partner of the firm, said: "I thought it's a bit tough. They were not legal questions." The tricky questions, set by the firm's trainees, asked the veteran lawyers a range of brain-teasers, from who was the oldest billionaire in town; what was the most expensive property in town; to the one that Charlton found particularly puzzling – what is the speed of light.

Maybe not too surprisingly, not many lawyers could get the answers. The only question that everyone got right was that St John's Cathedral was the only building in the firm can work on and general pro bono service where lawyers use their skills to help people.

Rebecca Roth-Blester, the firm's head of corporate social responsibility in Asia Pacific, said she hoped to extend the contest to all the five floors of the firm's office in Jardine House next year to allow more staff to participate.

unauthorised BlackBerry use, lurking and being too quiet.

"We took pity on trainees and were brutal on partners," Charlton said.

"Inspector Ricky" and "Sergeant Sue", two colleagues dressed in police uniforms who patrolled the room throughout the quiz, were on the lookout for offenders worthy of fines.

This year, the firm launched a door decoration event where staff would donate HK\$100 to embellish their office doors.

The quiz and the contest raised HK\$9,000 all together in addition to the HK\$150,000 that Clifford Chance is giving to Operation Santa Claus this year.

Operation Santa Claus is an annual fundraising campaign organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

The international firm supports several global charities and Operation Santa Claus is one of the local projects the Hong Kong office supports, Charlton said.

Contributions to charities are made throughout the year, he said.

"We don't really reserve Christmas as a pro bono time. We do that all year round, a mixture of community projects that anybody in the firm can work on and general pro bono service where lawyers use their skills to help people."

As well as paying for wrong answers, fines were imposed on those who were not behaving themselves.

Punishable offences, for which fines ran from HK\$50 to HK\$500, were given out, included

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



(From left) Moustie Ferrer, Peter Charlton and Rebecca Roth-Blester, helped their firm raise money for charity. Photo: K. Y. Cheung

FINE IDEA SEES LAWYERS PAY UP FOR CHARITY

Despite the season, law firm staff find there's no easy answers at quiz night and they're happy to give wrong answers and raise HK\$9,000

Joyce Ng
joyce.ng@scmp.com

In the competitive world of legal conflict, it might seem odd that staff at a legal firm recently did battle – and were quite happy to lose.

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South China Morning Post

COURTS

Airport workers spotted injuries, Erwiana trial hears

Check-in staff and immigration officer testify that they noticed brown spots and flaky skin

Chris Lau
chris.lau@scmp.com

Check-in staff at Chek Lap Kok airport spotted signs of injuries on allegedly tortured Indonesian domestic worker Erwiana Sulistyaminingsih as she was leaving the city in January, but stopped short of reporting the case, a court heard yesterday.

China Airlines ground officer Lee Lai-wai, who processed Erwiana's flight to Jakarta, said she noticed the worker's bloodshot eyes and "dark brown spots" on her swollen face.

The areas around the helper's eye bags, Lee added, were also swollen.

"I have a deep impression because her face was rather swollen at that time," she told the District Court, testifying against Erwiana's former employer, Law Wan-sung.

Senior immigration officer Man Chi-wai gave a similar account before Judge Amanda Woodcock. Man said he noticed that the worker had flaky skin on her hands and thought Erwiana had a skin disease.

Law, 44, has pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of assault and criminal intimidation involving Erwiana and two other Indonesian domestic helpers, Tuth Lee-tai Ningnigh and Nurhasanah.

She also denied 10 other counts of failing to grant holidays and pay wages to Erwiana, but pleaded guilty to not buying insurance for her before her departure. The alleged torture of Erwiana began around June last year, and

"It didn't occur to me at the time," Lee replied.

A third prosecution witness, taxi driver Wong Chi-keung, told the court that the helper looked of "sorrow and fear" as he drove her and her boss to the airport.

Law's neighbour, customs officer Chan Hon-keung, said Erwiana once knocked on his door at 2.30am asking for food. He slammed the door on her because he thought it was a "joke". The trial continues today.

Law sent her back to Indonesia eight months later, the court heard earlier. She accompanied Erwiana to the airport on the night of January 8.

Yesterday, Lee testified that Erwiana was limping that night. Lee said she asked Erwiana if the airline's check-in counter if she needed special help to get to the boarding gate.

Law cut in and declined the offer on the worker's behalf. Lee recalled saying: "Law said she would handle it."

Defence counsel Graham Woodcock, Man said he noticed that the worker had flaky skin on her hands and thought Erwiana had a skin disease.

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C2 Tuesday, January 6, 2015

CITY

LETTER OF THE LAW
SIMON T.M. NGPeel Street and
the principles of
modern policingEthical guidelines for police forces inspired by
19th-century reformer more relevant than ever

Strolling down Peel Street in Central, you don't just find old shops and traces of colonial memories. You may also be inspired.

The street, one of the city's oldest, was built in the early 1840s and named after Robert Peel, who served twice as British prime minister.

Peel was a reformer. He introduced the Metropolitan Police Act, which the British parliament passed in 1829, marking the beginning of modern, civic policing.

Under the new law, the reformed police force became a full-time, salaried and uniformed constabulary, employed based on merit and carrying batons instead of invasive weapons to keep the public peace. It was accountable to the home secretary through salaried police commissioners.

The police contrasted sharply with the army, in which purchases of commissions by aristocrats and landowners were common, and the local parish watchmen, who were part-time and voluntary.

Later, a set of principles of ethical policing, or policing by consent, emerged. Although widely referred to as the Peelian principles for decades, it was clear that Peel did not author them. Rather, they were created by academics and practitioners during democratic state-building in the 20th century.

The Peelian principles are not constitutional principles, laws or any kind of enforceable rules. They are guidelines widely taught in police colleges and used in educating the public about the role of policing and

how it is to be conducted. The core idea is that policing is an alternative to military repression and severe legal punishment. It is to prevent crimes, maintain civil peace and preserve life based on public approval and cooperation. It is important for the police to provide absolute impartial service to the law.

The use of physical force is only the last resort when persuasion, advice and warning are insufficient to gain public cooperation in maintaining order. And when force is used, it has to be minimal and proportional to the disorder.

Good policing also dispenses of any seeming usurpation of the judiciary's powers to arrest individuals or the state. Authoritatively playing the judge and punishing the guilty are not part of the policing functions.

The police should not be seen as tools of social control. They are but members of the public who are paid full-time to carry out duties incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare.

There is every legitimate reason for the Hong Kong public to expect law enforcement agencies, under the principle of "one country, two systems", to police based on ethical principles to enhance, rather than diminish, liberty and democratic life.

In this regard, the Peelian principles remain highly relevant today.

Simon Ng is assistant professor and senior programme director of law at the University of Hong Kong School of Professional and Continuing Education.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



A group of happy youngsters attending a bank charity event give the victory sign with executive director Helen Kan. Photo: China CITIC Bank International

BANKING ON BRIGHT FUTURE BY
GIVING KIDS CHANCE TO LEARN

Line-up at the charity event. Photo: China CITIC Bank International

China CITIC support for our campaign shows community spirit that has seen underprivileged children get the opportunity to excel in studies

Don Weiland
donweiland@scmp.com

China CITIC Bank International is no stranger to charity. Starting in 2008, the bank partnered with St James' Settlement to create the CITIC Bank International Knowledge Angel Project, which provides free tutorial classes for underprivileged families.

The programme receives matching grants from the Social Welfare Department's Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged, and by 2013 had provided classes to more than 700 students.

So it's only natural that China CITIC Bank has contributed to Operation Santa Claus for the past three years.

The bank is "committed to ploughing back resources to meaningful causes... to demonstrate its care and concern for Hong Kong's underprivileged," CEO director Zhe Lu said.

"We have had great pleasure in contributing to the community spirit of Operation Santa. It is true that small changes can lead to something big," referring to the theme of the 2014 campaign, "Small Change, Big Change".

Launched in 1988, Operation



Santa Claus will raise money for 20 beneficiaries in six areas this year, including youth, the elderly and people with mental and physical disabilities. The campaign, which has raised more than HK\$13 million in donations



Amount in HK dollars donated by China CITIC Bank International to Knowledge Angel

so far, is organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK. The bank's Angel Project has flourished since 2011. The programme expanded into a Knowledge Angel Academy, which supported the costs of learning for 600 local and ethnic minority students from underprivileged families over a three-year period.

And the results have been impressive, with more than half of the students achieving higher scores in English, Chinese and mathematics.

This was achieved over seven years during which the bank has donated about HK\$30 million to the programme.

More recently, the Academy has initiated a Senior Management Interview Workshop, a media programme for 80 primary students who achieved extraordinary academic results.

Led by a team of media professionals, participating students had a chance to acquire some news reporting techniques and even got to interview Helen Kan, the bank's executive director.

Among the beneficiaries for 2014 that caught the bank's eye was the Rainbow Project, which provides vital support to children from low-income families with autism spectrum disorder.

"By helping the underprivileged to attain upward mobility, we are giving them the gift of hope to improve lives," the bank's Lu added.

TRANSPORT

Study says container port outdated

Timmy Sung
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To remain a competitive global logistics hub in the long term, Hong Kong needs to relocate the container terminals from Kwai Tsing to another part of the city, according to a think tank report released yesterday.

The study, jointly published by the think tank S2 Advocates, Chinese University and consultancy firm BMT Asia Pacific, said the terminals opened more than 40 years ago, were outdated because they were designed for direct cargo to and from the city.

"But over 65 per cent of cargo at the terminals now is transshipment, resulting in increased inter-terminal movement," the report said.

An academic said Lung Kwu Tan, near Tuen Mun, and Lantau Island were both possible locations for a new port.

The report came just over a month after the government announced it would not build a 10th container terminal in southwest Tsim Yi. A Transport Bureau spokesman said at the time that the project "is not viable financially or economically" even though it was technically feasible.

The bureau added that adopting extra measures ought to be enough for the existing terminals to handle future growth.

But in a conference on the sustainable development of the logistics industry, Andy Tung, chief executive officer of one of the world's largest international container transportation companies Orient Overseas Container Line, said the efficiency of the Kwai Tsing port had already reached a bottleneck.

Shipping companies now use bigger vessels which carry more containers to maximise efficiency, he said, and containers are staying longer in the port.

"After we have unloaded, for example, 3,000 containers... if they stay for three days, or even five, before they are loaded to another ship, the port's capacity is lowered," Tung said.

If the terminals are packed with containers, it delays the shipping schedule, he added.

Tung said in the short and medium term, the government should reallocate nearby land used for car parking to store containers.

Longer term, the report said relocating is an option, but it said since the port's rapid growth period was over, it may not require as much land, "simply enough to meet the critical mass for Hong Kong as a key logistics hub".

Government figures showed Kwai Tsing was the fourth busiest port in the world handling over 22 million containers in 2013.

Professor Cheung Wai-man, the director of Chinese University's Asian Institute of Supply Chains and Logistics, said Hong Kong did not need to be No. 1, but a new port would need to maintain the current amount of cargo coming in and the frequency of ships going to other destinations.

He added that the new site would not compete with residential or commercial development and that vacating the port could free up land for these purposes.

The government said it has no plan to relocate the container terminal.

Over 65 per cent of cargo served at [Kwai Tsing terminals] now is transshipment

JOINT STUDY



Kwai Tsing container terminal.

South China Morning Post

C2 Friday, November 21, 2014

CITY

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS



Record attempt that sees the big picture

A world record attempt begins to take shape for Operation Santa Claus at the Kowloon Shangri-La where, from left, Operation Santa Claus Simon Maas, artist Fina Man and hotel general manager Ulf Bremer show off their Zentangle artworks. Zentangle art is an easy-to-learn art form inspired by meditation and doodling. Man is the first certified Zentangle teacher in

Asia. The public is invited to take part in the record attempt by paying HK\$50 per tile to sponsor one of the more than 3,000 tiles that will make up the 4.3 metre by 5.6 metre artwork, to be unveiled at the Tsim Sha Tsui hotel's main lobby on December 5. Each tile contains part of the design for the larger picture, but sponsors are encouraged to make their individual marks by

doodling on the tiles as well. All proceeds from the record attempt will go to support Operation Santa Claus, the annual festive fundraising drive organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK. The charity drive this year is supporting 20 charities for needy people in Hong Kong and on the mainland. Photo: Paul Wong



HK Jockey Club Amphitheatre, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

A fusion of classical, jazz, a cappella and pop with a star-studded lineup of world-renowned artists including violinists Chae-yun and Jing Wang, pianists Warren Lee and Michelle Kim, cellist Richard Bamping, clarinetists Andrew Simen and Seunghee Lee, trumpeter Joshua MacCluer, Also features celebrated cantopop star Kay Tse and the fabulous Yat-Po Singers with HKGNA Musical Angels Lee Hin and Lee Shing. This boundary-breaking concert will move you to be One in Heart and One in Music!

Ticket Prices \$450 | \$250 | \$100

Opening Gala Concert
Family Christmas Concert
Stars of Today & Tomorrow

Opening Gala Concert
Family Christmas Concert
Stars of Today & Tomorrow

GROUP SETS
DOMESTIC
HELPERS ON
RIGHT PATH

Established six years ago, PathFinders offers shelter and advice to help maids, mostly Indonesians, overcome a range of problems

Phila Siu
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About a year has passed, yet Carmen Lam still remembers clearly the desperation that Indonesian domestic helper Mary displayed when she sought help from PathFinders.

"She found out she was pregnant, but the boyfriend had abandoned her. Then she was homeless with the newborn baby. That was the time when she came to us to seek help," said Lam, senior programme manager at PathFinders.

The non-governmental organisation was founded in 2008 to raise awareness of migrant workers' rights and educate them on employment rights, family planning, pregnancy and health.

The organisation has two shelters for helpers who need a temporary place to stay. It has already helped more than 2,000 migrants since it was established six years ago.

Lam said that when Mary—not her real name—sought help from PathFinders, the helper was "so scared".

"She had no support from anyone because nobody knew about her pregnancy. The baby had rash. My provision of shelter for her and her baby," Lam said.

Mary stayed at PathFinders' shelter for a few months and eventually went back to Indonesia with her baby.

Last year, 42 per cent of the 589 helpers who sought help from the organisation were Indonesian. Most of the others were Filipinos.

Lam said not many Filipinos came to PathFinders because their countrymen had worked as helpers in Hong Kong for about three decades and had a better support network than the Indonesians, who had only worked in the city for just over a decade.

Lam said many helpers who came to PathFinders had little knowledge about their rights in Hong Kong. For example, few know they are entitled to 10 weeks of maternity leave.

"A lot of them do not know they are entitled to pre-natal checkup at public hospitals," she said. "If they are still domestic helpers they don't have to pay, just like any other locals."

HOW YOU CAN GIVE

- Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com/donate
- Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC (account number 502-4929-004 for SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus)
- You can donate with a cheque payable to "SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus" and mail it to Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dal Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories.
- Donations of HK\$300 or more are tax-deductible. If you would like a tax receipt, please send the completed donation form and original bank receipt to the address above.
- Please call 2608089 or e-mail osc@scmp.com with any inquiries, or visit us online at osc.scmp.com

The organisation has three stations to do outreach work in the community.

Every Sunday, they visit places where helpers gather, such as Victoria Park, to tell the maids that they can seek assistance from the organisation if they need help.

Helpers who reach out to PathFinders will then be taken care of by five case managers.

Now, with donations of HK\$407,730 from Operation Santa Claus—the annual fundraising event organised by the South China Morning Post and RTHK—the organisation plans to have more staff to help more people in need.

It also plans to organise more lessons to let the helpers know about their rights in the city.



Carmen Lam of PathFinders. Photo: Sam Tsang

SOCIETY

Call for more help to
stem child abuse cases

Jennifer Ngo
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A veteran campaigner against child abuse has urged the government to give more support for the next generation to cut a growing trend of child abuse cases by Hong Kongers' hectic lives.

Against Child Abuse director Jessica Ho Gu-chi said children were being affected as never before by social and family stress.

Speaking at the 35th anniversary of the NGO's founding, she said the group had received more than 1,400 child abuse inquiries over the past 12 months.

Of these, 400 were suspected abuse cases—30 more than the previous period—including 194 physical and 75 sexual.

"The numbers are just the tip of an iceberg... They don't tell you the full extent of the problem—especially the growing physical abuse cases," Ho said.

"Families today are more complicated, so the problem is also more complicated. A lot has changed in the past 20 years. Parents' pressure is much greater. Stress over children's education, living in an increasingly cramped and expensive city, and stress from work all contributed.

"Today, many parents don't see a bright future for their children," Ho said. "So the way out is to put more support and resources into our next generation and preventive measures like education and parental support—something I don't see the government doing at all."

Sunday Morning Post

BRIEFS

Ambulance driver in drunk driving arrest

An ambulance driver was arrested for drunk driving after his vehicle crashed into a minivan in Sandy Bay, Western, yesterday. Police received a report at 12.55pm yesterday about a traffic accident on Pok Fu Lam Road, outside of Queen Mary Hospital. The ambulance crashed into a minivan that slowed down ahead of it, police said. The ambulance driver, aged 27, failed a breathalyzer test. He was released on bail and must report to police in mid-December.

Two arrested with cocaine worth HK\$3.7m

Two foreign men, aged 32 and 45, were arrested for drug possession on Friday in Causeway Bay. The police found the men with HK\$3.7 million worth of cocaine, as well as packaging tools, in a building on Hyman Road. Last night both were in detention and still being questioned.

One dead, four injured in industrial accidents

Three separate industrial accidents killed one person and injured four. The worker who died was transporting three eight-metre-long water pipes at a construction site in Castle Peak Road, Tuen Mun, when they fell and hit him on the head. The four other workers were all taken to hospital.

Man hacks wife and son with knife

A man hacked his wife and son with a vegetable knife in To Kwa Wan, injuring the boy's neck. A witness saw the man hacking at the boy, who was covered in blood and on the floor. When a woman tried to push the man away, the boy ran and hid in a nearby shop along Ma Tau Chung Road. Police subdued the man and arrested him. The boy was conscious when he went to hospital.



The injured boy ran and hid in a nearby shop. Photo: RTHK

Chinese banyan voted city's favourite old tree

The Chinese banyan at Shui Mei Village Playground in Yuen Long was voted as the city's favourite "old and valuable tree" in Hong Kong in a tree contest. There are approximately 500 such trees in the city, and the government has been heavily criticised for neglecting them. At least 21 heritage trees have died or were removed in the past 10 years, and the pace has increased despite the launch of a government tree management office in 2008.

No arrests in death of man hit by truck

An 18-year-old man died after he was hit by a truck in Yuen Long. The man was walking along Kam Sheng Road towards Yuen Long when a light goods vehicle driven by a 27-year-old man allegedly knocked him down. He sustained a serious head injury and was certified dead at P&K Hospital. Investigations are under way. No arrests were made.



A vintage and classic car festival got into gear at the New Central Harbourfront yesterday, after a five-week delay due to the Occupy protests.

HONG KONG

TOWN PLANNING

3,000 OPPOSE ELEVATED DRIVEWAY

Owner's bid for vehicular access to Bowen Road property criticised as unsightly intrusion on trail popular with hikers and runners

Alice Woodhouse

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Activists, hikers and runners have collected more than 3,000 signatures to oppose an "eyesore" elevated driveway on Bowen Road that would link the owner's property to the public trail.

The owners of T Bowen Road are appealing against the Town Planning Board's rejection of their earlier bid to build a driveway and an eyesore.

The group is also against the felling of 113 trees to build the driveway and fears increased traffic will endanger people on foot using the well-known route. "When the Highway Department takes a look at a proposal and they say this is considered a bridge structure, you know it's going to be a massive construction and massive project that was not well illustrated in the application," said Melanie Moore, a member of ABBK.

She said Bowen Road was one of the few trails accessible to runners, families with strollers and the less mobile, as it is flat and easy to get to. "It's accessible from Mid-Levels, it's accessible from Wan Chai, so there's a huge number of people in a very congested area who can get to it relatively quickly," she said. A further 850 people have objected through ABBK to the owner's appeal. The Highway Department says that if the driveway is a bridge, it must be submitted for approval on design and environmental factors. Illustrations provided in the planning application show a raised roadway, supported by 13 pillars joining Bowen Road as it narrows to a pedestrian-only path.

Plans for the new private road give its proposed width six metres – a third wider than Bowen Road. Government departments also raised concerns about whether the driveway would affect the Bowen Road Aqueduct, which is a declared monument. The property is owned by the Fung family, of the paper trader Che Sun & Co, who have owned the land in question since the late 1970s.

The length of the bridge is given as 100 metres. Government departments also raised concerns about whether the driveway would affect the Bowen Road Aqueduct, which is a declared monument. The property is owned by the Fung family, of the paper trader Che Sun & Co, who have owned the land in question since the late 1970s.

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You know it's going to be a massive construction and massive project

MELANIE MOORE, ABBK

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Kids do their bit on Discovery Bay walk

Alec Cheung

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About 500 young children and their families brought Christmas to Discovery Bay early yesterday during the ninth annual Discovery Mind charity walk.

Under sunny skies, parents shepherded their children into Discovery Bay's Central Park for a clown show and a mini-caravan after the 4km hike to help raise funds for Operation Santa Claus. Michele Fernandes, play centre supervisor at the Discovery Mind school, said the concept of charity might be hard for younger children to grasp, but there was no harm in small steps.

"The concept of sharing and giving is what they understand," said Fernandes. "It's a perfect lesson for anyone in any age group to receive."

As the number one sponsor school of Operation Santa Claus last year, Discovery Mind raised HK\$20,000 with 600 walkers.

"The walks have been very successful for the past nine years," said Jane Wilson, the head of the school's international section. "Operation Santa Claus will benefit a lot of children who aren't as fortunate as our students," she said.

"It's also good to put something into practice, for the children to actually help someone. Wilson said students' families were a major source of donations each year. "In the end, without their support, the walks would have never been this successful."

Cynthia Chow, the director of all Discovery Mind schools in Lantau, said the project started in 2005.

"We wanted to be part of the community," Chow said. "When we started, we were a small school with students from 15 months to six years old."

"Now that we have expanded from Discovery Bay to Tung Chung, we wish that the walk could extend further into Hong Kong in the future."

Hannah Hebbel, whose daughter attends Discovery Mind kindergarten, took part in the walk for a second year, but also why she did not want to use her full name.

They are typical of the desperate families being helped by the NGO Project Space, manager Cheung So-han said.



Children from Discovery Mind kindergarten and their parents take the Operation Santa Claus stroll yesterday. Photo: Jonathan Wong

Finding relief from cramped spaces

Jennifer Ngo

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Suitcases are piled on top of the fridge and clothes hang from every available nook in the small, stuffy room that Tsui and her two children have called home for almost three years.

"It really gets to me, living in a cramped place. I argue and fight with my children and I have nowhere to hide and cry," said the mother, 44, gesturing to the chairs, boxes, books and crates that take up most of her flat.

"It's so undignified to cry in front of the children... sometimes I hide in the bathroom and sob. They can still hear me, though."

It costs the family HK\$3,000 per month to rent the bare, 40-sq-ft windowless room – one of six carved out of a tenement flat in Sham Shui Po.

It has a tiny bathroom and a stove perched on a small shelf that acts as the kitchen. The old bunk bed is broken. Pans filled with Chinese buns for the children's breakfast lie on the floor.

Tsui and her two children moved into the tiny space to escape family violence, which is also why she did not want to use her full name.

They are typical of the desperate families being helped by the NGO Project Space, manager Cheung So-han said.



South China Morning Post

It's undignified to cry in front of the children... sometimes I hide in the bathroom

PROJECT SPACE CLINT TSUI

A small NGO with just three staff, Project Space relies on volunteers to provide home assistance services to those living in subdivided flats, cubicles, roof-top huts and public housing estates.

Project Space started in 2013, and has helped 20 families so far, Cheung said they hope to help another 50 families, with funding obtained through Operation Santa Claus, the annual fundraising campaign by the South China Morning Post and RTHK.

"Many of these individuals living in exceedingly cramped spaces often develop emotional issues. There is nowhere to go, no personal space and the wait for public housing – which is their only hope – is a long and winding road," Cheung said.

Tsui would probably have to wait for "another while" before she can get public housing, said Cheung. In the meantime, she will have to find some way to survive in the city's costly, substandard property market.

For most, the service involves simply organising and lifting heavy objects – especially for elderly – or debugging the often dirty flats. But helpers with Project Space also help install extra shelves, fix broken furniture, redesign spaces – anything to make living in cramped homes more bearable.

Each family is allocated around HK\$1,000 for home repairs, but Cheung said the renovation workers would often throw in free services or quote cheaper prices. "They try to make that HK\$1,000 stretch as far as possible."

Hongkongers have shown interest in the event. Classic cars are becoming quite popular. What with the money and lifestyle we're starting to see in Asia, people are starting to see them as an alternative to wine," said Neil McCann, a 45-year-old investment banker whose Lamborghini Countach was on display.

Hong Kong's own car club is in its 35th year. But the missing ingredient, according to Blach – whose husband owns a 1963 Austin-Healey – is an event that can also keep wives and children entertained.

Some 60 non-automotive attractions, such as a local salon offering vintage hairstyles and a sack-race competition for kids, catered to car fanatics' families.

"Vintage is huge in places like London and the US," said Dina Salomoni, of Paul Gerrard salon, which did the hair styling. She sported thick eyeliner and a rockabilly hairstyle. "Here it's starting to take off but there's still some resistance because there's this idea that things that are shiny and new are better."

Londoner Isabel McKenzie, 25, led a swing dancing class. She said that while newness still reigned in the city, "for those of us who like vintage things and who live and breathe these cars there are still places we can go."

Feelings of shame as well as fear of being identified and stigmatised throughout the conviction process are factors that put victims of speaking out.

Hong Kong has been singled out by the United Nations as being particularly averse to supporting female victims of violence.

Mistrust of police cited as reports of rape fall

Victims worry about having to tell their story and being blamed, centre says

Sarah Karas

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A growing mistrust of Hong Kong police has been cited as the reason behind a dramatic drop in the number of reported rapes during the first half of this year.

According to police statistics, only 22 cases of rape were reported between January and June, down from 59 during the first six months of last year. In 2012, 60 cases of rape were reported over the same period.

The Association Concerning Sexual Violence against Women attributes the drop to a growing lack of confidence in the city's police force.

"Rape is very much under-reported in Hong Kong because it's hard for women to come forward – they fear they will be blamed and they worry about having to explain their story to a police officer," said Linda Wong Sau-yung, the executive director of the association, which runs mainly, the city's only rape crisis centre.

"Hong Kong is supposed to be this safe city, and yet we keep getting all these cases – do victims trust the police at all any more?"

Sau would probably have to wait for "another while" before she can get public housing, said Cheung. In the meantime, she will have to find some way to survive in the city's costly, substandard property market.

For most, the service involves simply organising and lifting heavy objects – especially for elderly – or debugging the often dirty flats. But helpers with Project Space also help install extra shelves, fix broken furniture, redesign spaces – anything to make living in cramped homes more bearable.

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HK today

Public health

Social Issues

Religion

www.ycp.scmp.com youngpost 5

20.11.14 news

Smashed windows and arrests at Legco

As masked protesters cracked glass doors at the Legislative Council, protest organisers say they do not condone the violent acts

A group of masked people, many of whom appeared to be teenagers, used metal barriers and other objects including broken bricks to try to crack open the glass doors outside the Legco complex yesterday.

Student groups and pan-democratic politicians distanced themselves from the violent clashes which took place at around 1am on Wednesday.

Three police officers were hurt and four men have been arrested so far.

Scholarism convener Joshua Wong Chi-fung said he did not understand the rationale behind storming the Legco complex. He said in a civil disobedience campaign, participants have to shoulder their legal responsibilities and ensure the safety of other protesters. "I am not sure I would have been able to stop them if I was at the scene. I hope protesters will discuss things with us before they take action in the future," he says.

When asked if he thinks last night's violence will jeopardise the Occupy Central movement, Wong said no, and added that the government is to blame for the chaos. He also called for protesters to try to keep up the non-violent pledge of the movement.

Federation of Students secretary-general Alex Chow Yong-kang said yesterday morning that



Masked protesters smash a window with a fence at the Legco complex. Photo: Reuters

storming Legco was pointless. He denied that the Occupy protests had spun out of control, but admitted that there was "room for improvement" when it came to coordination among protesters.

The Democratic Party met with the press yesterday morning, to make it clear that they are critical of the protesters' violent behaviour. "The violence last night did not represent the Umbrella Movement, the movement has been recognised internationally because it is peaceful and non-violent," said party leader Emily Lau Wai-hing. It was believed the protesters attacked Legco with the intention of paralysing meetings there.

Staff writers

Tumour gone after 12-hour op

United States Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE - An 11-year-old Mexican boy who had been suffering from a massive tumour has had the growth removed after a long surgery in New Mexico, a church said Tuesday.

Kristean Alcocer of the First Baptist Church of Rio Rancho said Jose Antonio Ramirez Serrano had surgery on Monday at the University of New Mexico Children's Hospital. The tumour was removed from his neck, shoulder and torso area.

The surgery lasted a more than 12 hours and involved 25 medical professionals, Alcocer said.

"The road to recovery will be long, and many challenges still lie ahead for this young boy," said Alcocer, who is housing Jose in New Mexico while he receives treatment.

Jose was diagnosed with venous lymphangioma on his shoulder; the tumour has been growing since birth. His family has no money for medical care, so the church has raised money for his surgery for the past two years.

After stories and photos of Jose went viral, the church reported a jump in donations and US officials helped him get treatment in New Mexico.



Jose still needs more surgery to remove excess skin. Photo: AP

responsibilities (n) 責任	synagogue (n) 猶太教堂	rabbis (n) 猶太教牧士
demolish (v) 拆除	tumour (n) 腫瘤	diagnosed (v) 被診斷

Kindergartners and their families walk to raise funds for Operation Santa Claus



Discovery Mind Kindergarten students were among 500 people taking part in a charity walk on Sunday in Discovery Bay. Photo: Jonathan Wong



South China Morning Post

www.ycp.scmp.com youngpost 5



11.12.14 news

Compensated dating may link to murder

After a body was found in a travel bag at a rubbish collection centre, police investigate the possible reasons behind the murder

Police are looking into whether a murdered teenager was involved in compensated dating. The girl's body was found in a nylon bag at a rubbish collection centre in Mong Kok on Tuesday morning.

The girl was identified on Tuesday night as 15-year-old Tsing Yi resident Kwok Wai-ming, who was known as "Little B" online according to Chinese-language daily *The Sun*. Police have arrested a 34-year-old clerical worker, who sources say arranged for Kwok to pose for photos at his flat in Yau Ma Tei on Monday.

Police believe the man knocked Kwok unconscious and then put her into a suitcase before taking her to the Harbour Hotel on Canton Road, near where her body was found. The man checked into the hotel on Monday afternoon and stayed until Tuesday morning, leaving shortly before Kwok's body was discovered.

SCMP sources say the girl may have been dead by the time the man opened the bag in his hotel room. Superintendent Lam Shu-wing confirmed that Kwok had recently had sex. Her body was found naked from the waist down, and initial examination also showed



Police officers arrest a man (centre with hood) suspected of the murder. Photo: Nora Tam

injuries from plastic strips and adhesive tape which had been used to tie her head, neck and limbs.

A friend of the victim told *The Sun* that Kwok had left home two years ago due to arguments with her parents, and that Kwok earned money with her "youth" and as an amateur cosplay model.

Private photo shoots can lead to compensated dating, according to Caritas Youth and Community Service, and this can put girls in dangerous situations.

Staff reporter

First class, but no class

South Korea
Associated Press

SEOUL - A Korean Air executive, who is also the daughter of the company's chairman, lost her job after getting way too demanding on a recent flight. Cho Hyun-ah was flying in first class when the flight attendant handed out bags of nuts. Korean Air policy is to first ask the passengers if they want nuts (in case there are any allergies) and then serve the nuts on a plate.

Cho was so upset by being offered the nuts in a bag that she ordered the head of the cabin crew to leave the plane. That meant they had to turn around and go back to the airport in New York, which made the flight late for its arrival in Incheon, Seoul's airport. Technically it was the captain's decision to remove the crew member, but the government is investigating if Cho violated aviation safety law. She could face legal action if the probe shows that she interrupted the flight or endangered safety by using threats, her status or violence.



Holiday KIS for the needy

Students at Korean International School (KIS) enjoyed Santa Fun Day and contributed thousands of dollars to Operation Santa Claus (OSC).

A longtime supporter of OSC, the annual fundraiser organised by the *South China Morning Post* and RTHK, the school has pledged HK\$18,000 in donations this year.

The secondary students and teachers designed a series of fundraising activities for primary students on December 5.

Students could donate HK\$30 to have a pancake breakfast, HK\$30 to take a photo with Santa, and HK\$30 to enjoy games stalls in the afternoon.

"We want to let kids know they are fortunate to

be able to celebrate Christmas and get presents," says Carmen Kung, a teacher at the primary section. "There are a lot of people who don't get to celebrate Christmas like they do. I want them to learn that they are doing it to help other people."



Korean International School students raise funds for OSC. Photo: K. Y. Cheng



How you can give

Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com/donate
Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC (account number 502-676299-001 for SCMP Charities - Operation Santa Claus)
Make a cheque payable to SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories

Initial (adj)

最初的

Intelligence (n)

情報

Inadequate (adj)

不足的

aviation (n)

航空

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2 youngpost Tuesday, December 23, 2014

news

Time for changes in the education policy

Learning is at the core of the city's future, and lawmaker Ip Kin-yuen wants Leung to take action, writes **Young Wang**

Legislative Councillor Ip Kin-yuen requested changes to the education policy yesterday, with the chief executive due to deliver his policy address next month.

The education-sector lawmaker urged the government to add special educational needs coordinators in mainstream schools. "This is step one to promoting integration of resources. It'll benefit support for special needs students," said Ip.

He also hopes that Leung Chun-ying fulfils his promise of 15 years of free schooling in his 2015 Policy Address, adding that the proposal has widespread public support.

Ip's other requests include providing financial aid for self-funded associate degree and undergraduate students, and increasing the graduate-teacher ratio.

He also proposed that any curriculum reforms, for example, changes to liberal studies or Chinese history, should be based on the principle that

The government only spends 3.6 per cent of the GDP on education. Ip wants to increase this to 4.5 per cent

education cannot serve politics. The budget for education is another of Ip's concerns. He said that government

spending on education is below society's expectations.

At the moment, the government only spends 3.6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) on education. Ip wants to increase this to 4.5 per cent, highlighting that the average percentage of the GDP invested in education in developed countries is 5.3 per cent.

Ip will submit his proposals to Leung and Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheung Yuet-ngor by the end of this month, local media reported.



Ip Kin-yuen wants more money for education. Photo: May Tse

It's all about you!

In case you were worried you hadn't heard yet: yes, the Junior Reporter Awards are happening! The JRAs celebrate those of you who write and take photos for us, contribute to our pages, and help us make YP the fantastic publication it is. To celebrate all that hard work, we've organised an incredible day of fun on January 24 at Hong Kong Disneyland.

We're currently busy selecting nominees for the awards - and you'll get to play a part in picking some winners, too. We'll reveal the nominees, how you can get involved, very soon, so keep an eye on YP, our Facebook page and yp.scmp.com for when that is, and how you can buy tickets to the party of the year!

Festive fun at Shun Tak

Shun Tak Catholic English College celebrates its 20th anniversary this year as a supporter of Operation Santa Claus (OSC), the annual fundraiser organised by the *South China Morning Post* and RTHK.

On December 12, students organised a series of fundraising activities, including a mini fun fair, the Senior Finals Singing Contest and Teachers' Uniform Day.

People were most looking forward to the mini fun fair. Stalls were set up by clubs, classes, and Parent-Teacher Association representatives during lunchtime. This year, besides food stalls, there were games and photo booths.

After the fun fair, students watched the singing contest

organised by the music club. The entrance fee will be donated to OSC. Kathy Ngai On-chi, a Form Five student, says it is important for the school's students to be aware of the needs of those who are less fortunate.

"OSC is an opportunity for us to help the privileged and the needy," she says.

Sherielyn Choi, a native English teacher at the school, says OSC benefits the students in many ways. "They become well-rounded individuals. First, in accordance with our vision, 'to serve as Christ', students can learn that their hard work will, in the end, serve those in need as all profits gained from their food and game stalls will go to charity," she says.

"They also gain a lot of skills such as time management skills, cooperation skills, and even a real experience of planning and operating a small business. They become multi-faceted individuals through this one activity,"

Wong Yat-hei



Students were most looking forward to the mini fun fair. Photo: Paul Yeung

How you can give

Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com/donate
Donate at an ATM or any branch of HSBC (account number 502-676299-001 for SCMP Charities - Operation Santa Claus)
Make a cheque payable to SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories
Call 2680 8159 or email osc@scmp.com for inquiries, or visit osc.scmp.com

These four sure know how to tell a good story



The junior category winners of Hong Kong's Top Story 2014, organised by the *South China Morning Post* and RTHK, show off their awards at the prize presentation last Thursday. (From left) Third prize winner Rachel Ho, creative prize winner Kimberly Ng, second prize winner Catherine Wang and first prize winner Jessica Chan all wrote stories with the theme "Reborn".

6 Sunday, December 14, 2014

HONG KONG

CHARITY



Participants in yesterday's hash run in support of Operation Santa Claus gather at Quarry Bay Park. The effort helped raise HK\$75,000 for the needy. Photo: Jonathan Wong

Santa gives reindeer a break with hash run

200 members of hash club follow trails for a good cause – and a beer

Denny Lee
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With his punch and appetite for minor pies, Santa Claus may be an unlikely candidate for vigorous exercise.

But that didn't stop some of the city's most enthusiastic runners dressed in Santa, his wife or his little helpers in the annual festive hash for Operation Santa Claus.

Some 200 members of the city's 13 Hash House Harriers clubs dressed as Santa, his wife or his little helpers in the annual festive hash for Operation Santa Claus.

Led by the Wan Chai club, this year's event raised some HK\$75,000 for Operation Santa, the annual festive fundraising drive run by the South China Morning Post and RTHK. That included HK\$25,000 raised by a "12



South China Morning Post

You can walk, you can run, but some people... will stay behind and drink beer

HASHER CLIVE FRANKS

Hashes of Christmas "group who ran 11 trails in 11 days before painting Sunday's run, and received support from Bekk, an international driving company.

Hashing is based on the old English game of paper chase, or hare and hounds. One runner, the "hare", leads out first to mark a trail to be followed by the pack of "hounds". Typically, the hare serves to work up a thirst for the hounds, for whom the fun is as much in socialising over a beer as in running.

Three trails of varying difficulties were set to suit runners of all abilities. Experienced athletes chased a brisk 4km or a harder 5km trail from Quarry Bay Park up to Brecon Hill and back, with the toughest heading to a triangular station beyond. Other runners headed along the promenade to Shau Kei Wan for dumplings.

Course organisers laid the trail to the hills with arrows and

flowers. In a bid to outwit the fastest in the pack, some trails led to dead ends.

"You might be the fastest guy, but you might not finish first," said Mark Ho, who helped set the route.

The thing about hashing is no matter how fast you are, the way it works is the fast guys do all the hard work to find the right trail, and the slow ones keep up."

Hope said the course was designed to be "too tough on the knees" but to "have a run, then a beer afterwards."

Regular hasher Clive Franks, 60, a retired civil servant said he enjoyed the "camaraderie" and being able to raise money.

"You can walk, you can run, but some people don't do anything and will stay behind and drink beer," he said.

Since the first Operation Santa Claus, a retired civil servant said he enjoyed the "camaraderie" and being able to raise money.

Course organisers laid the trail to the hills with arrows and

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- You can donate with a cheque payable to "SCMP Charities Ltd - Operation Santa Claus" and mail it to: Operation Santa Claus, Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street, Tai Po Industrial Estate, Tai Po, New Territories.
- Donations of HK\$100 or more are tax-deductible. If you would like a tax receipt, please send the completed donation form and original bank receipt to the address above.
- Please call 26608509 or e-mail osc@scmp.com with any inquiries, or visit us online at osc.scmp.com

Sunday Morning Post

PROSTITUTION

MARRIED WITH CHILD AS ON THE HK STREETS

Mainland sex workers in city and Macau tend to come from rural areas, seek travel, work long hours and often face exploitation, study shows

Lana Lam
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She's 32 years old, married, has children and wants to see the world.

That's the typical profile of a mainland woman who chooses to work as a prostitute, according to a new report based on a study of more than 300 migrant sex workers in Hong Kong, Macau and Shenzhen. It also included a small number of women working in linear (LH) in Shandong (LH) province.

The year-long study was a collaborative effort of four groups that provide support for sex workers including 27 Teng in Hong Kong, Chi Tang in Macau and two similar groups in Shenzhen and linear.

The report was released just days before the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers on Wednesday and follows a series of sex-related murders in Hong Kong.

While the insights from the report are limited, it is one of the few studies in recent years to give a comprehensive insight into the working conditions for mainland migrant sex workers.

In Hong Kong, most women arrested for vice-related offences are from the mainland; 96 per cent of those arrested for sex work between 2010 and last year were from there, police figures show. While working as a prostitute is illegal in the city, sex workers can fall foul of the law if they operate in groups or solicit clients in public. Mainland prostitutes on visitor visas have been known to violate immigration laws.

The report, based on questionnaires completed by 344 women, highlights key issues faced by mainland sex workers such as being intimidated, exploited or abused. Researchers called for more sexual health services and better legal support.

"Sex workers should be protected and granted the same rights as those in other industries," said Dr Eleanor Cheung Pui-kei, a co-author of the report. "It's a job, and these are labour issues."

The women interviewed were aged from 17 to 71. Some 41 per cent were married, 33 per cent single, and the rest divorced. About two-thirds had children.

The women were most likely to be from rural areas with more

than half (57 per cent) holding an agricultural hukou, a household registration document that separates rural and urban dwellers. It contrasts with a 2001 report by 27 Teng, which found that most sex workers were from cities.

"There is the economic motivation to become a sex worker, but also other things like opening their horizons and travelling the world," Cheung said.

Most moved for sex work after being told about it by a friend in their home village though some women became sex workers so they could follow their husbands when they moved for work.

In Hong Kong and Macau, the profit margins were not as lucrative compared with few years ago for three key reasons: mainlanders can now stay as visitors for only seven days in Hong Kong, in Macau, the relative strength of the yuan; and the influx of more sex workers, which had driven prices down.

Sex workers should be protected and granted the same rights as [others]

DR ELEANOR CHEUNG PUI-KEI

A recent crackdown on vice in Dongguan (東莞), a more industrial destination for Hong Kong men seeking cheap sex, had seen many sex workers re-locating to Hong Kong, Macau and also Shenzhen.

Transport connections were also a factor. One-third of women working in Shenzhen were from Hunan (湖南), which has a direct train route.

Most of the women surveyed worked as "street sex workers" with one woman brothels the second most common setting. Others included hairdressing salons, gamehouses, massage parlours and foot massage spas.

Sex workers in Hong Kong worked the longest hours, an average of 16 a day, seven days a week. Those in Macau worked for 11 hours every day.

The main risks were assaults, clients refusing to wear condoms or to pay, robberies, being asked to work "protection fees".

Station appreciation



Hongkongers sneak a peak at the city's newest railway station as the MTR Corporation opens the doors of the University of Hong Kong station. Trains will begin running to the station and neighbouring Kennedy Town on December 28, though the opening of a station in Sai Yuen has been delayed until next year due to technical difficulties. Trains from Kennedy town will reach the current westernmost station, Sheung Wan, in five to seven minutes. Photo: SCMP Pictures

South China Morning Post

BRIEFS

Fourteen cars seized in street-race crackdown

Police seized 14 cars in an operation targeting illegal motor racing in the southern New Territories during the Christmas holidays. The vehicles were suspected to have been modified illegally. A man, 29, was arrested on suspicion of speeding, dangerous driving and drink-driving. He has since been released on bail.

'Illegal gambling den' raided in Sham Shui Po

Police yesterday raided a suspected illegal gambling den in a Sham Shui Po flat. Five people were arrested including a woman, 56, suspected of running an illegal gambling operation and four others suspected of gambling illegally. Officers seized about HK\$1,100 in cash, an automatic mahjong table and two mahjong sets.

City marks Year of the Family anniversary

The city's campaign marking the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family ended with a musical show promoting the importance of filial piety and family values. The young performers took to the stage at Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Wan Chai for an event organised by the government's Family Council, government departments and related organisations.

MARK SIX

Half a ticket won the HK\$3,403,290 first prize in the Christmas Day draw. The numbers were 12, 15, 24, 43, 46 and 47, and the lucky star, 38. The jackpot for tonight's draw is an estimated HK\$16 million.

A woman grabbing lobsters with her hands became a hit on Facebook.

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not able to respond quickly to the change of sentiments in the Occupy zones. There's also room for improved communications with protesters," Chow said.

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