

MAIN

Prime 3,4,6
World 8-15
Editorial 16
Commentary
..... 16,17
Forum 18,19

HOME

Home H1-H7
Tech & Science.....
..... H8

ASIA

Asia A1
East Asia A2,A3
S-E Asia A4,A5
Malaysia A7
Weather A8

SPORTS/ MONEY

Sports S1-S4
Money S6-S14

LIFE!

What's On L2
The Buzz L3
24/7 L4,L5
Comics L6
Cinema ... L11,L12
Cable guide ... L12
TV guide L13



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HOME

HE TORCHED WOMAN COLLEAGUE

SHE turned round when she heard a colleague calling her name. But to her horror, he poured a bottle of highly flammable methanol on her head, then threw a piece of lit paper at her. She burst into flames.

Madam Stella Neo Ace Kee, 41, a clerk in Interior Fabrics in Tanglin, screamed in pain. But Ng Kwok Soon, 50, just poured a second bottle of the spirit on her body. Ng was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday.

HOME: H1

OFF TO THE CC FOR A SWIM?

IT'S a place where you can have a chic continental coffee, a gym workout or play some riffs at the recording studio — as many heartland dwellers well know when they drop into their local community club. And soon, they might also be able to do some swimming — at the Paya Lebar CC at least.

The CC, next door to the public swimming complex, has applied to "annex" its neighbour's pools for club users' benefit. A spokesman said many keep wanting to do a few laps in the pools.

HOME: H5

COMMENTARY

DOOM WAS JUST A MIRAGE

SEVERAL policy lessons emerge from the global slowdown, each one overturning recent conventional wisdom. The Clinton promise — that if a country stuck to US-style capitalism, it would be assured of sustained prosperity — seems an empty boast now.

Part of the US boom of the late 1990s appears as much a mirage as the collapsed boom of East Asia. In each, irrational market exuberance fed excessive investment, which led to over-capacity.

PAGE 17

FORUM

ALLOW MAID SHARING, PLEASE

IT MAY be time for the Ministry of Manpower to review the case for a share-a-maid scheme, writes Ms Bridget Lew, who heads a migrants' pastoral-care commission here. Families who need a domestic maid but cannot afford the salary and levy can then share her services — legally.

This also means that maids who have done good work need not be sent home when their bosses face hard times.

PAGE 19

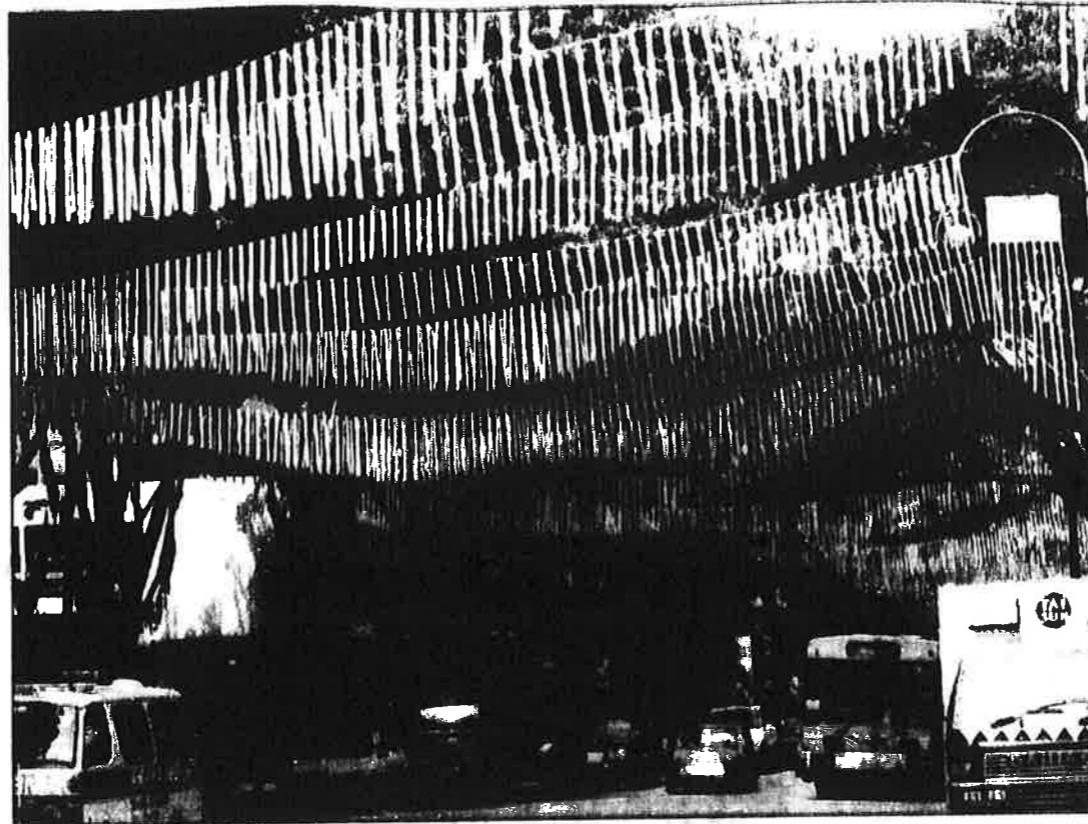
LIFE!

REMOTE-CONTROL THE MIND

WITH the school holidays beginning on Saturday, parents may find it tough trying to decide how much TV — or what sort of programmes — to allow their kids to watch.

Experts say be firm, but not too firm. And watch along with them. Also, after a documentary on, say, marine life, take them somewhere relevant.

LIFE! L4



TREVOR TAN

Even during the day, the tubes above Orchard Road dazzle with a spectrum of colours.

HOME

Orchard Road turns rainbow strip

COUNTLESS reflective tubes hanging in rows above Orchard Road sparked to life for an hour yesterday, in a sneak preview of the annual Christmas light-up.

French lighting master Louis Clair surpassed himself this year. His Frozen Aurora light-up has a rainbow effect, resembling light streaks across wintry polar skies.

Ceylang Serai and Little India were also lit up, for Hari Raya and Deepavali.

HOME: H3

HOME

Pay cuts likely in NWC measures

NO WAGE hike or year-end bonus. And pay cuts for workers in companies facing serious financial trouble. The National Wages Council (NWC) may recommend these measures to help save jobs in the worsening downturn.

Trimming bonuses and other variable payments may not be enough for companies to ride out the economic crisis, Manpower Minister Lee Boon Yang said yesterday. But pay cuts will help the growing number of loss-making companies to cut down on staff retrenchments.

HOME: H3

SPORTS

China to breed Tigers

CHINA was duly impressed by Tiger Woods when he made his first visit there at the weekend. And that has spurred the China Golf Association (CGA) to try and nurture some home-grown golfing talent — by bringing in foreign coaches.

China's top golfer Zhang Lianwei, a CGA member, said it was considering coaches from America, Britain and Australia — with two or three due in by next year.

SPORTS: S9

MONEY

CAPITALAND CANS LISTING

WHAT should have been Singapore's first foray into a real-estate investment trust has fallen through — after Capitaland said yesterday it was cancelling the listing of its \$740-million SingMall Property Trust.

Blaming poor market conditions, it said it would set up a private fund instead to take ownership of SingMall's portfolio of Tampines Mall, Junction 8 and Funan The IT Mall.

MONEY: S13

WORLD

NEW NUKE VERIFICATION STEPS

RUSSIA offers the United States new verification measures that go "far beyond" its test ban treaty obligations if Washington reverses its refusal to ratify a permanent ban on all nuclear tests.

The offer was made on Sunday by an aide of President Vladimir Putin at a conference discussing the implementation of the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The US, with the world's largest nuclear arsenal, has refused to ratify the CTBT and boycotted the three-day conference.

PAGE 10

ASIA

CHINA'S ROSY PICTURE OF TIBET

CHINA has injected massive funds, manpower and raw materials into Tibet for its development since the 1980s, according to its latest White Paper. But experts question whether rural Tibetans have benefited from these modernisation projects.

The paper — Tibet's March Towards Modernisation — painted a glossy picture of the region's economic and social transformation since 1951, when it came under communist rule. It said Tibet has been enjoying an average gross domestic product growth of 12.4 per cent annually in recent years.

EAST ASIA: A3

CONTRACTORS WHO DIDN'T DELIVER

SEVERAL bumiputera contractors given contracts to build 2,000 computer laboratories in Malaysia's state schools nationwide have failed to deliver on time.

So their contracts have been withdrawn by the Education Ministry, which also warned them that they were now blacklisted by the government.

MALAYSIA: A8

SPORTS

SHADOW OVER CEYLANG

FOOTBALL fans are agreed that Ceylang United's 0-8 rout by Home United in the Singapore Cup final was a blunder of colossal proportions. But even now, no one is really clear as to why the fiasco happened.

Did the club err in delaying discussion of a reward scheme for the players after they won the S-League title? Were the players frustrated? One thing seems certain, though. Money, or the lack of it, was a big factor.

SPORTS: S1

Getting the light show on the road

Orchard Road was transformed into a shimmering strip for over an hour yesterday in the annual sneak preview of the Christmas light-up. Not to be outdone, bulbs strung over the streets of Geylang Serai and Little India were also aglitter to welcome Hari Raya and Deepavali.

WITH 80,000 reflective paper tubes hanging in serried rows, French lighting-master Louis Clair brought Christmas magic to Singapore again last night.

Just as his 35,000 blue and silver bulbs and silver stars helped set the Yuletide mood last year, Mr Clair, of French company Light Cibles, hopes Singapore's glitzy downtown shopping strip will be alive with festive cheer again this time.

He tested the sparkle of his creation during the hour-long preview last night.

Themed "Frozen Aurora", the light-up, running from Nov 17 to Jan 5 next year, has a subtle rainbow effect replicating the colourful light streaks across wintry skies at the Poles.

Clean lines of the hand-made reflective tubes are strung on 28,000 m of twisted fishing lines in Tanglin, Scotts and Orchard

roads. Projectors shoot beams of light which, once they hit the tubes, are split into rainbow spectrums.

But Mr Clair's brief for this project was nothing to cheer about.

All that glitters

Where and when to see the lights:

- ◆ Christmas in Orchard Road: Nov 17-Jan 5.
- ◆ Hari Raya in Geylang Serai: Now until Dec 23.
- ◆ Deepavali in Little India: Now until Nov 25.

He was banned from stringing bulbs, fairy lights — anything with electricity passing through it — across roads.

The Singapore Tourism Board decided not to risk stringing electrical wires over roads after an overnight storm

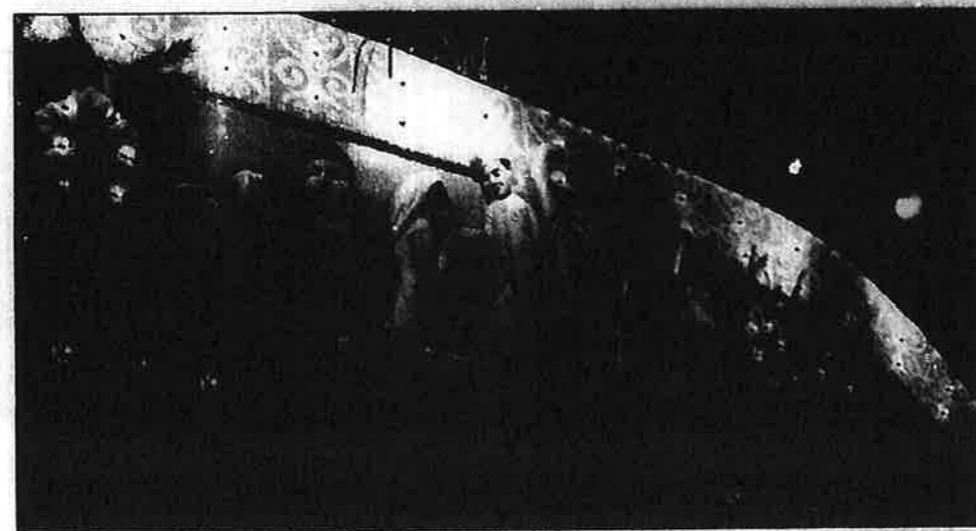
caused a tree branch to crash along Scotts Road last year, bringing down some wires, light-bulbs and paper stars. No one was hurt in the incident, but no chances are being taken this year.

Still, Mr Clair's design went down well with several shoppers. Insurance agent Kwan Chee Kin, 33, said: "It's something new, and it brings on the Christmas atmosphere."

The subtle effect, however,



JOHN COSGROVE
Resembling light streaks across wintry skies, the silver-coated paper tubes add a rainbow sparkle to Singapore's popular shopping strip.



TREVOR TAN
Hari Raya decorations light up the Malay Village with a colourful ethnic theme.

was lost on some. Student Lili Mesenas, 16, when asked if she liked the lights, said: "They are already on? I prefer last year's light-up; it was beautiful. This is plain."

Orchard Road was not the only brightly-lit area. In Geylang Serai, neon lights and glittering bunga manggar, the traditional Malay floral ar-

rangement, were also aglow.

The organiser of the light-up, Majlis Pusat, said it spent the same amount on the event as last year, despite the poorer economic outlook now.

And Little India, which launched its light-up on Oct 27 for Deepavali — to be celebrated tomorrow — continued to be dazzling.

Indian expatriate Hanumantha Rao N. Kosuer, 27, and a friend, who were in Orchard Road, were thrilled by what they saw in both Little India and the Orchard Road area. Said Mr Hanumantha: "We don't have this in India. It's good!"



TERENCE TAN
Dazzling visitors, Little India awaits Deepavali.

COMPLETED S'PORE PROJECTS

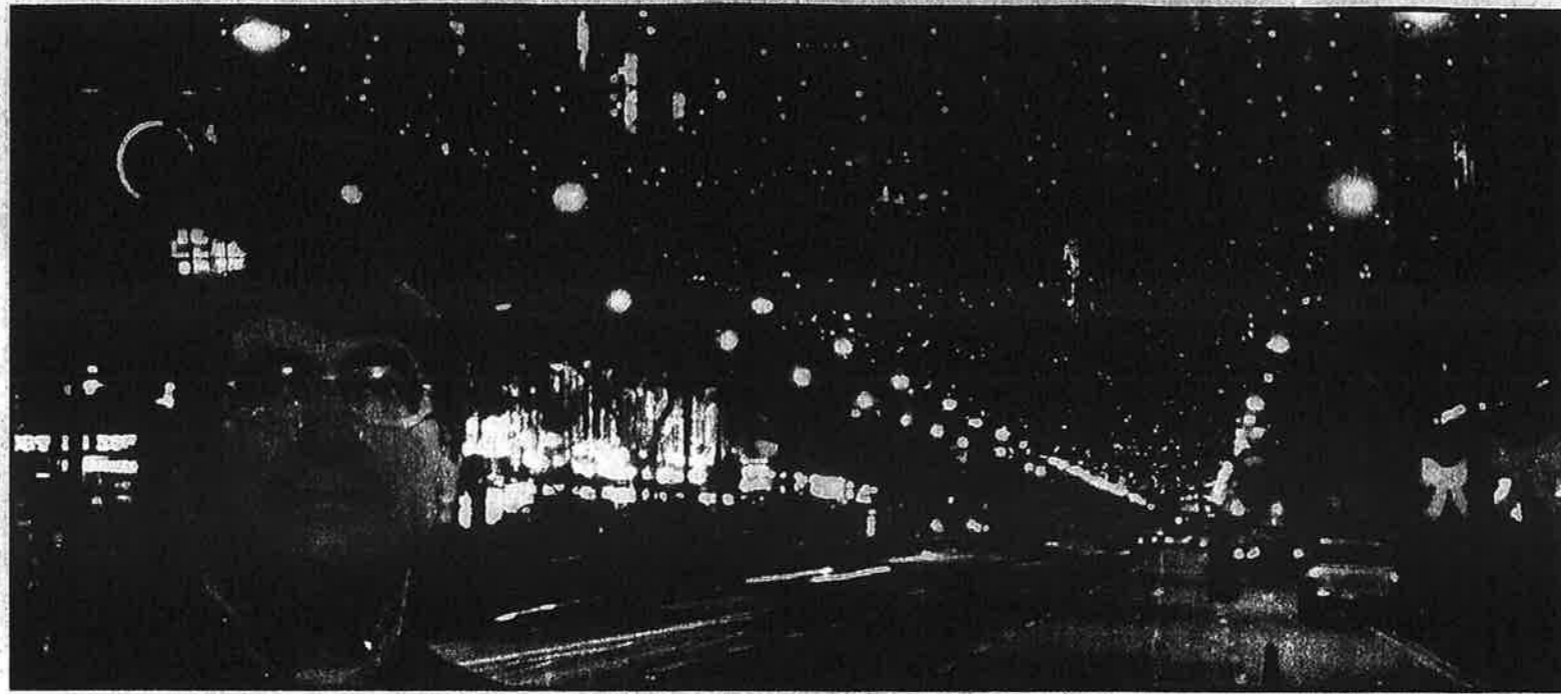
Chijmes
Goldbell Tower
Istana Park
Sentosa Bridge
Anderson Bridge
Cavanagh Bridge
Coleman Bridge
Marina Bay bridges
National Day 1997

S'PORE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Fullerton Hotel
Jurong Bird Park's night lights
Street lamps of Chinatown
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Changi Chapel and Museum
Shuanglin Temple

SOME OVERSEAS PROJECTS

La Grande Arche de la Defence in Paris
The Canadian Parliament in Quebec



I dreamt for a vault of stars...a diamond dress..., says Mr Clair, who felt the Orchard Road Christmas light-up was the product of a dream.

ALPHONSO CHAN/PROJECT EYEBALL

Lionhead Acquisition, LLC
(Formed in Delaware, USA)

and

Solectron Investment Company, LLC
(Formed in Delaware, USA)

wholly-owned subsidiaries of

SOLECTRON CORPORATION
(Incorporated in Delaware, USA)

VOLUNTARY CONDITIONAL CASH OFFERS

to acquire
all the Shares and all the outstanding Bonds issued by

NATSTEEL ELECTRONICS LTD
(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

Voluntary conditional cash offers (the "Offers") by Lionhead Acquisition, LLC (the "Share Offeror") and Solectron Investment Company, LLC (the "Bond Offeror") (collectively, the "Offerors") to acquire all the issued and fully paid-up ordinary shares of S\$0.10 each in the capital of NatSteel Electronics Ltd ("NEL") (the "Shares") and all the outstanding 1.5 per cent. unsecured convertible bonds due 2004 issued by NEL (the "Bonds"), respectively, other than those already owned, controlled or agreed to be acquired by the Share Offeror and the Bond Offeror

All capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the offer document dated 28 November 2000 ("Offer Document").

Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. ("Merrill Lynch") wishes to announce, for and on behalf of the Offerors, that as at 5.00 p.m. on 15 December 2000:

As all the conditions of the Share Offer as set out in Section 2.2 of the Offer Document have been fulfilled or waived as at the date of this announcement, the Share Offer and Bond Offer have become and are hereby declared to be unconditional in all respects.

Notice is hereby given that the Share Offer and the Bond Offer will remain open for acceptance until 3.30 p.m. on 5 January 2001 Singapore time being a date falling not less than 14 days after 22 December 2000, which is the date on which the Offer would otherwise have expired.

The Share Offeror has received, pursuant to the Share Offer, valid acceptances in respect of 268,709,317 Shares, representing approximately 50.3 per cent. of the maximum potential issued share capital of NEL, or approximately 60.7 per cent. of the issued and fully paid-up share capital of NEL. Included in the valid acceptances received are 191,040,380 Shares received from NatSteel Limited ("NSL"), Temasek Capital (Private) Limited ("Temasek Capital") and Messrs. Chester Lin Chien, Cliff Chu Hiu Tung and Chay Yee Meng (collectively, the "Key Executives") pursuant to irrevocable undertakings given to Solectron Corporation ("Solectron") to accept the Share Offer in respect of all their respective shareholdings in NEL. For these purposes, "maximum potential share capital of NEL" means the aggregate number of Shares which would be in issue had (i) all the Share Options granted under NEL's share option schemes been validly exercised, (ii) all the outstanding Bonds been validly converted, (iii) all the outstanding zero coupon convertible bonds issued by NEL ("Zero Coupon Bonds") been validly converted, and (iv) all other options, warrants and convertible securities granted or issued by NEL (if any) been validly exercised or converted.

The Bond Offeror has received, pursuant to the Bond Offer, valid acceptances in respect of Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of US\$6,750,000, representing approximately 2.7 per cent. of the outstanding amount of Bonds.

As at the date of the announcement of the Offers on 31 October 2000, the Offerors and parties acting in concert with them did not own any Shares or Bonds. As at that date, Solectron, which is a party acting in concert with the Offerors, received irrevocable undertakings to accept the Share Offer from NSL, Temasek Capital and the Key Executives in respect of a total of 191,040,380 shares representing 43.1 per cent. of the then existing issued and paid-up share capital of NEL. In addition, Temasek Capital, which is the holder of all the outstanding Zero Coupon Bonds, gave an irrevocable undertaking to convert such bonds into Shares, and to accept the Share Offer in respect of all Shares allotted and issued upon the full conversion of the bonds, after the Share Offer has been declared unconditional.

As at the date of the announcement of the Offers on 31 October 2000 to 5.00 p.m. on the date of this announcement, apart from the valid acceptances received under the Offers, neither of the Offerors nor any of the parties acting in concert with them owned any Shares or Bonds.

Taking inspiration from the stars

With a 25-year career in lighting, the designer behind the Christmas light-up on Orchard Rd this year is a man switched on to the possibilities

By DEBORAH NG

WHEN he was a boy, Mr Louis Clair was something of a misfit, shunning toy guns and trains for lights, fittings, spots and mirrors.

This fascination with lights carried onto his adult life, and today, he is synonymous with world-class lighting design.

Founder of lighting design consultancy Light Cibles in Paris, he is the man behind the Orchard Road Christmas light-up this year.

He also lit up the parliament in Quebec, La Grande Arche de la Defence in the French capital, and Chijmes, the Istana Park and the upcoming six-star Fullerton hotel in Singapore just to name a few.

He has stamped his name in Europe and parts of Asia, in a compelling diversity of places and events — from bridges to train stations, festivals to museums, historical monuments to parks.

But, despite his illustrious 25-year career, Mr Clair is not one to rest on his laurels.

"In this business, there is

I will take."

But it has not always been easy for this lighting aficionado.

He had to overcome cynicism at his lighting-design consultancy services in the earlier days, tackle people who decided not to pay up and haggle with contractors.

And times have changed. "Twenty years ago, people would spend money on furniture, carpeting...only very rich people would spend on lights."

The situation is much better now.

For the past 10 years, Mr Clair has "switched on" an average of at least one project a month.

He is also charging between 12 to 18 per cent of total lighting costs now, as compared with just 6 to 9

per cent a decade ago.

Lessons were learnt the tough way when more than 20 private sector customers failed to pay up — prompting Mr Clair to focus 80 per cent of his business on public sector projects.

"My relationship with rich people has been very bad...they treat you like a servant or a hooker...having to be at their beck and call..." he comments wryly.

"This doesn't exist with government offices, though public tenders can be much more difficult than private tenders," he says.

Public tenders can take up to three years, from being pre-selected, carrying out a study, submitting the tender for the project, to installation and adjustment.

In addition, negotiations between the organisation and the lighting designer to find what the lighting entrepreneur calls "the third way" — a compromise solution — can take a long time.

While acknowledging that there are good and bad contractors everywhere, there is one annoying trait he finds peculiar to Singapore contractors — a tendency to "short-change".

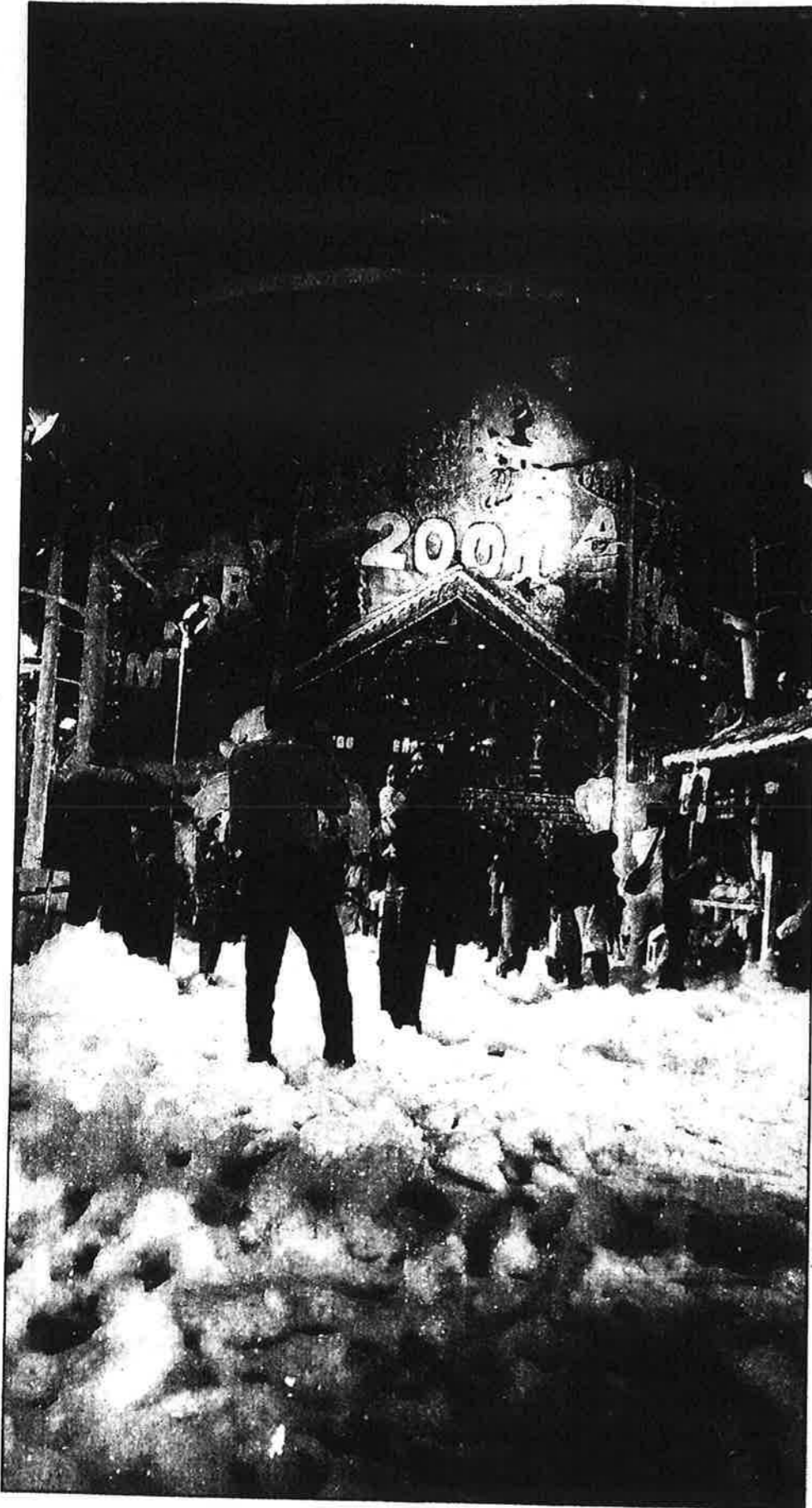
"You ask for 12 days of work, they give you eight," he cites as one example of this attitude.

"I've now learnt to ask for more, in anticipation," he quips.

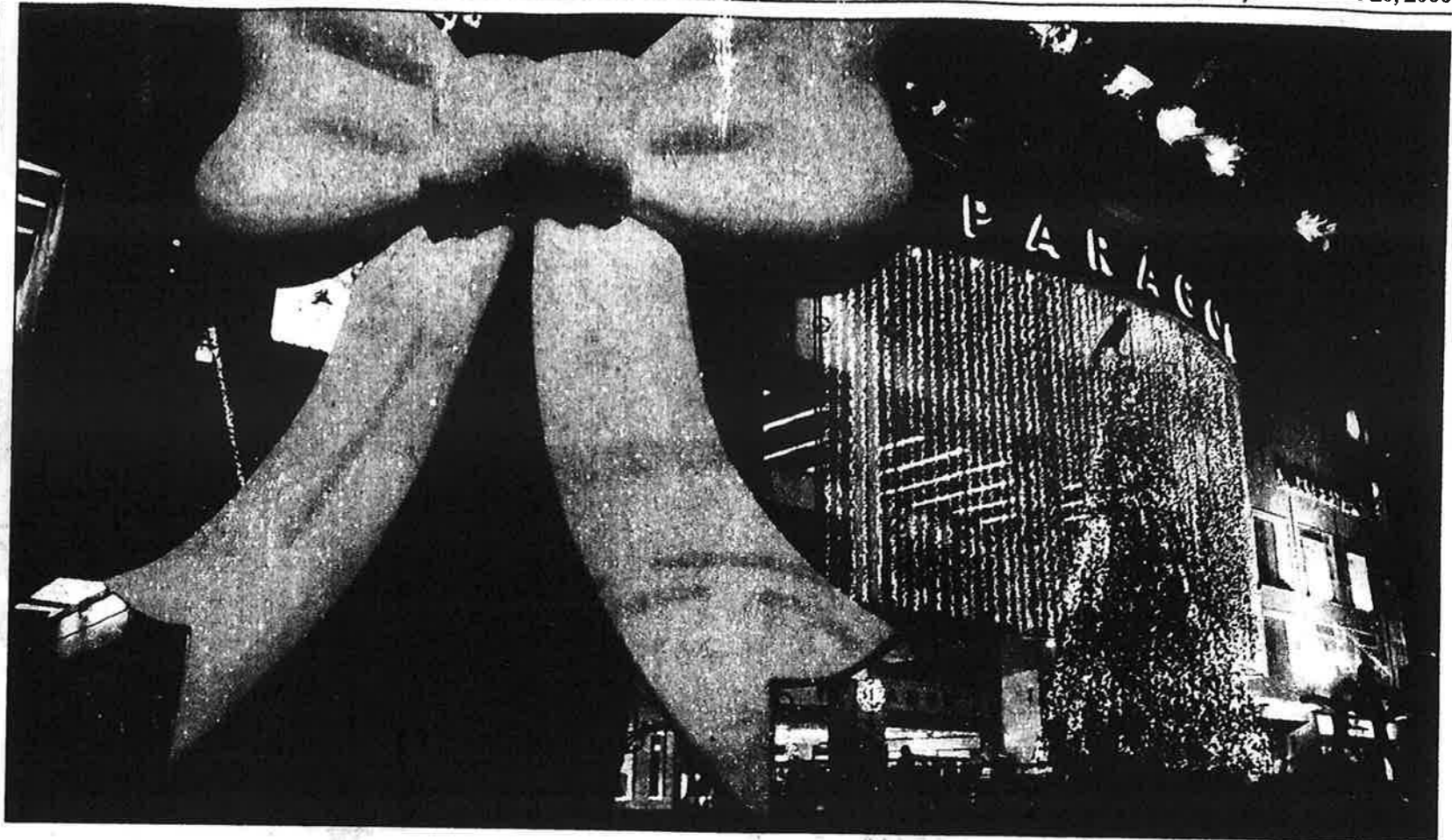
THE RICH SCARE HIM

My relationship with rich people has been very bad... they treat you like a servant or hooker...having to be at their beck and call...

— Mr Clair, who focuses 80 per cent of his business on public sector projects, despite them being more difficult than private tenders generally



Snow gets in your eyes in the wintry landscape conjured up in front of Tanglin Mall, which has attracted more than a few shutterbugs.



The bigger, the better seems to be the thinking behind many of the decorations on the Orchard Road shopping belt this year. A giant bow attached to a tree greets shoppers heading to The Paragon, which has put up a huge Christmas tree at its entrance.

JOHN COSGROVE

OH STARRY NIGHT



Screaming for your attention is the huge pink angel adorning Scotts Shopping Centre.

PICTURES: ALBERT SIM

It may be 28 degrees here but Orchard Road shoppers will be walking under a glittering winter sky this Christmas

By JACK HEE

GAZE into a galaxy of stars while walking in a winter wonderland. That is the promise this Christmas season from the Orchard Road shopping belt.

Since last Friday, the area has come alive at night with a canopy of blue and silver lights — 35,000 to be exact.

And just like stars in a winter sky, the crisscross strings of lights twinkle and flash.

This year's theme — Icy

Galaxy — is the brainchild of French lighting designer Louis Clair, who also masterminded the light show at the National Day Event at City Hall three years ago.

It is the first time in the 17-year history of the Christmas light-up that the Singapore Tourism Board has engaged an international designer to take charge.

Adding to the wintry illusion is the 4-m-tall snowman that stands guard outside Orchard MRT station.

And completing the theme is a 7-m-tall archway

spanning the junction of Orchard and Scotts roads, which looks like a giant iceberg.

Six tonnes of metal, polyfoam, plywood, paper and plastic went into its construction, but passersby seemed to like it, going by the looks of awe and wonder.

The light-up covers the Orchard, Scotts and Tanglin Road areas.

The display is complemented by the Christmas decorations and festive lights put up by the many shopping centres and hotels in the area, in their bid to win the coveted Best Decorated Building title.

Tanglin Mall and Raffles City Shopping Centre won the award last year.

Squawk with the birds at bedtime

Visitors can add night bird-watching to list of activities at Jurong BirdPark when it extends its opening hours

By **KRIST BOO**

NIGHT bird-watching will be an added attraction of the Jurong BirdPark next year.

The park is planning to set up night lights to make this possible, and starting around July next year, it will close at 10 pm instead of 6 pm as it does now.

"It'll be a promenade-style of lighting. The experience will be like taking a walk at night," the park's executive director, Dr Wong Hon Mun, told The Straits Times.

International lighting designer Louis Clair is the man who will help visitors to the park admire the birds in their full pyjama-time glory.

Mr Clair, who designed this year's Orchard Road Christmas light-up, is work-

ing out a plan with the park, said Dr Wong.

The bedtime extension is part of a plan to encourage more Singaporeans and children to come to the park, which will turn 30 on Jan 3.

It launched a four-month celebration yesterday with a new breakfast show featuring uncommon birds such as the pelican, kookaburra and mandarin duck.

Also in the works is a new non-stop show schedule and a petting area with birds, where young visitors can pet and feed tamed fowls such as chicks and budgies.

For the first time, it will also hold a Christmas carnival of street acts on the first three weekends of December.

It is also planning a \$1-

million media campaign, said the chief executive officer of the BirdPark's parent company, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, and the Zoo, Mr Bernard Harrison.

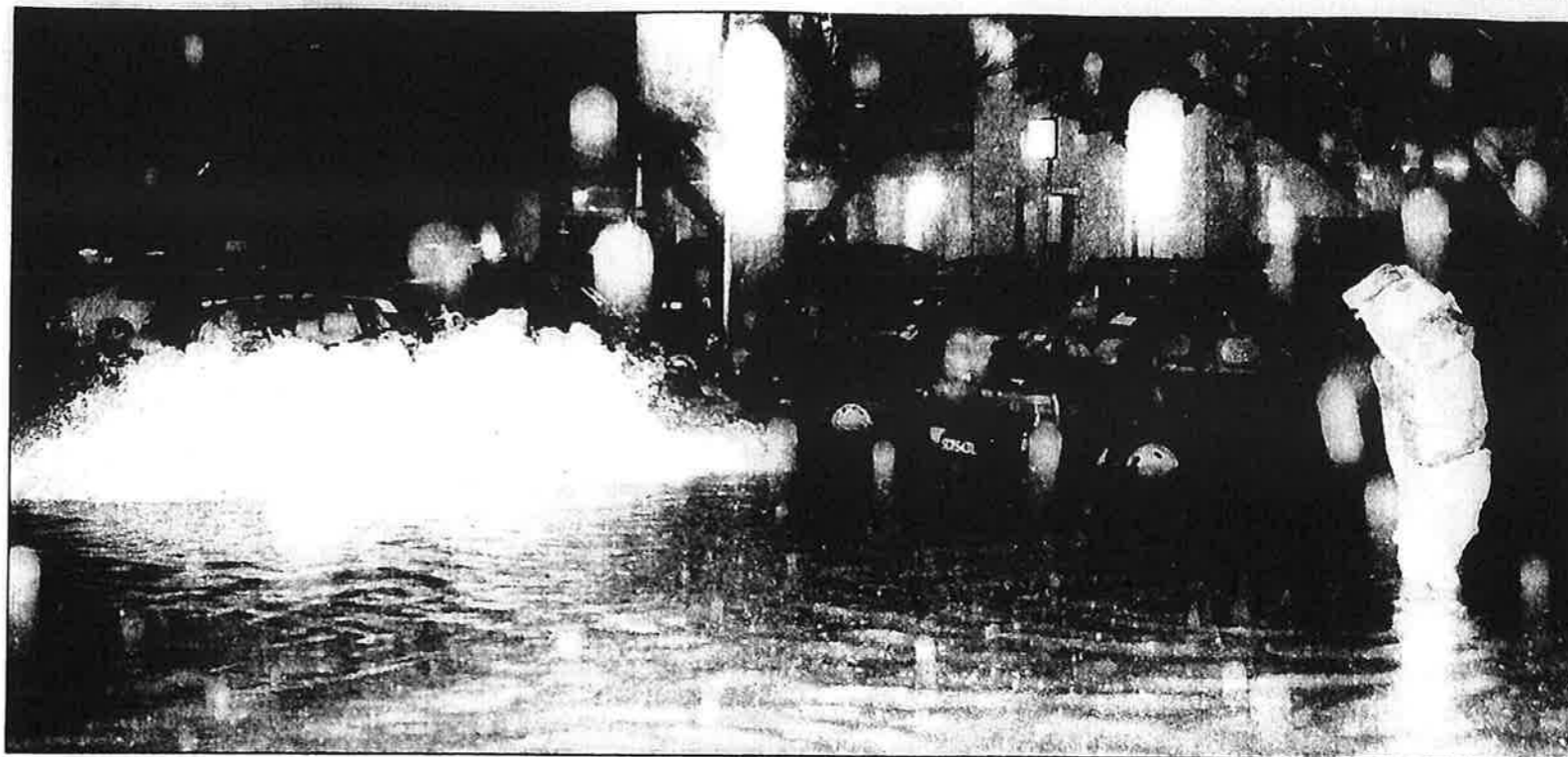
He said: "If I go up to a Singaporean and ask how he sees the BirdPark, he will say, 'It's one of the best in the world, but I haven't been there for a long time. It's too high-brow.'"

The BirdPark hopes to double its local visitorship from three in 10 last year to six in 10 eventually. It hosted 900,000 visitors last year.

It also hopes to reap more than last year's \$10 million from its food and beverage business.

"We've revamped the menu. We're going for the local business," Mr Harrison added.

"One of the kiosks will be remodelled to serve wholesome Muslim food, and the Lodge will serve buffets. You can expect food charges to be lower."



LIANHE ZAOBAO



TREVORTAN

It doesn't rain, it pours

Flash floods forced traffic to a single-file crawl at Delta Road, near Prince Philip Avenue, last night. As the rain continued to pour down at about 8.30 pm, drivers carefully navigated through bumper-high floodwaters. This gold-coloured Jaguar was left stranded in the roadside deluge. Similar scenes were seen along parts of Alexandra Road, forcing some commuters to stand on top of seats at bus shelters. The downpour lasted less than an hour and the floods affecting some parts of the city subsided less than 30 minutes later.

A cool \$263m saved with cost-cutting ideas

COST-CUTTING ideas from Singapore's public servants saved the Government \$263 million in the last financial year.

This marks a 65-per-cent increase from the \$160 million saved during the previous year, said Dr Tan Chin

"I'm happy to say that we now anticipate and welcome change."

Some evidence of the Civil Service embracing innovation was obvious at Tuesday's newly-renamed Excel convention ceremony held at the N

Tanjong Katong Girls' Secondary schools.

Mr Lim presented the awards towards the end of the four-hour-long event to 644 Work Improvement Teams from 14 ministries and three public bod-

minutes. This saves the Sector works \$11,620 annually.

In his address, Mr Lim said that the Government is willing to inject more funds to support ideas that will improve and extend the

CHANGES

'In the past, public officers had many hurdles to jump before a good idea could be implemented. I'm happy to see that we

Innovate and move faster, QCs urged

QUALITY circles must move from problem-solving to innovation and value-creation for their organisations in the knowledge-based economy.

The current time taken for quality circles (QC) to

change, he told a four-day exposition of quality circles at the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The remarks followed Mr Lim's revelation that QCs here have helped their companies save at least

Highlighting some award-winning QCs, Mr Lim, who is also chairman of the Productivity and Standards Board, cited a group from Citibank which saved \$4.3 million by streamlining its work processes and the Singapore

Health care cannot be purely profit-driven

I REFER to the Friday Interview with the chairman of the National Healthcare Group, Mr Michael Lim ("Treat patients as human beings, not problems"; ST, Nov 17). I am concerned by his response when he was asked if there were any constraints on what he could do within his health-care cluster. His reply: "If I am running a totally private hospital, one of the first things I will do is draw up a profit and loss by each specialty. Then, I will ask myself, why are we continuing with this specialty?"

"There is no point giving a service I could not make money out of... Immediately, I would cut out specialties like geriatrics. But you cannot do that in a public institution... The Government must bear the social cost."

I believe he spoke from his heart. He is an accountant, trained to be

profit-oriented. But public health care is not merely an economic activity. It concerns human lives. The leaders at the helm of the system must also have a sense of compassion.

Why is geriatrics, the care of the elderly, a money-losing specialty? If the hospital is making a loss, can I infer that the one who "gains" is the elderly patient?

I am also interested in knowing which are the profitable specialties. Is cardiology one of them? Where do the profits come from? From the multiple

expensive tests or repeat complex procedures the heart patient has to undergo? Not all specialties offer such good opportunities for the hospital to generate income.

Of course, it is ideal if the patient can be "treated like human beings, with dignity" and be made to pay for it. But is it so terribly important for every specialty to make money?

If the answer is "yes", can there be a more creative alternative other than the easy but short-sighted way out of axing the unprofitable but important

specialty? Perhaps the Ministry of Health will not allow the complete elimination of "loss-making" specialties from public hospitals. But, given the cavalier attitude of top management, these specialties will probably receive only lip service and minimal resources.

The public health-care system has now been divided into two clusters — National Health Group and Singapore Health Services. The rationale was "to encourage more collaboration and foster integration of medical services".

Will competition for development of specialties and deployment of doctors by the two clusters in our "small market" create more problems?

How much control does the ministry exercise over these two autonomous clusters to ensure that their top management will make sensible decisions that are not purely profit-driven?

TAN LAY WOON

PERHAPS THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL NOT ALLOW THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF 'LOSS-MAKING' SPECIALTIES FROM PUBLIC HOSPITALS. BUT, GIVEN THE CAVALIER ATTITUDE OF TOP MANAGEMENT, THESE SPECIALTIES WILL PROBABLY ONLY RECEIVE LIP SERVICE AND MINIMAL RESOURCES.



Basic self-defence skills, possibly introduced in primary school, can help prevent spousal abuse.

Self-defence skills may protect wives from abuse

EVERY time I read a report on wife-bashing, the first question that comes to my mind is: "Would the husband have dared to assault his wife if he knew that she was equipped with self-defence skills to protect herself and, if need be, injure him?"

The Sunday Times report on Nov 19 ("Beaten but not broken") on the suffering of battered wives will not be the last because there will always be men who do not pick on someone their own size for a boxing session.

I believe we should seriously consider introducing basic self-defence skills for our women — as early as in primary school, if possible.

Prevention is better than hospitalisation. Also, getting a Personal Protection Order is no guarantee that the husband will not strike again.

Moreover, there are many physically-abused wives who do not make police reports because of the fear of retribution and

personal humiliation. Society, generally, is fixated on the idea that when the husband turns into a Mike Tyson or Steven

SOCIETY, GENERALLY, IS FIXATED ON THE IDEA THAT WHEN THE HUSBAND TURNS INTO A MIKE TYSON OR STEVEN SEAGAL WANNABE, THE WIFE HAS GOT TO BE AT FAULT, SOMEHOW.

Seagal wannabe, the wife has got to be at fault, somehow.

She nagged too loudly, cleaned too little or spent too much.

But no matter what her faults are, surely she does not deserve a black eye, a bruised rib or a cut lip?

MOHAMAD ROSLE AHMAD

Light-up was magical but...

AFTER reading the article, "Roof of stars to herald Christmas" (ST, Nov 17), I headed for Orchard Road to see it for myself.

I must admit that I stood spellbound as I looked in the direction of the junction of Orchard and Scotts roads from Peranakan Place. What Mr Louis Clair has done is nothing short of magical.

Then a funny thing happened — my mind's eye was suddenly transported back in time almost 20 years, to the Sierra Nevada of central California where, as a university student, I camped under the stars for the first time.

The stars were so bright and so numerous and they appeared to be just beyond the reach of my outstretched fingers. Never before in my life had I seen something as enchanting, nor have I since.

I then thought of an evening a few weeks ago when I saw a huge double rainbow as I walked along Bukit Timah Road towards a bus stop. The people enraptured by the sight looked at each other and smiled, delighting in their great fortune.

A third scene came to mind — a taxi ride a few months ago on Dunearn Road not long after moonrise, with a brilliant

full moon hovering over the car's bonnet, against a cloudless sky.

I mentioned to the driver how beautiful the moon was and the driver told me that earlier he had parked his taxi to stand and bask in the moonlight.

Reminiscing upon these three experiences made me realise that no matter how

NO MATTER HOW INCREDIBLE HUMAN CREATIVITY CAN BE, IT PALES IN COMPARISON TO EVEN THE HUMBLEST OF NATURE'S OFFERINGS.

incredible human creativity can be, it pales in comparison to even the humblest of Nature's offerings.

No matter how busy or hectic our lives may be, there is always an opportunity to be mesmerised by the exquisiteness of the natural world.

It took a light show of sublime beauty for me to realise this, and for that I thank Mr Clair and the Singapore Tourism Board.

SHAWN LUM

Prejudice against fathers in the family?

MUCH has been said about promoting family values.

I am a divorced father of a three-year-old girl whose care and control are my responsibility, and whose childcare expenses are largely my own.

Yet, when I asked whether tax breaks like deducting the maid levy and government subsidies

for nursery, kindergarten and the like also accrue to a father, I was told none of these do.

Was I misinformed? If not, please advise me as to why there is a prejudice against fathers in a family unit.

Especially when it can be proved that it is the father who is looking after the child.

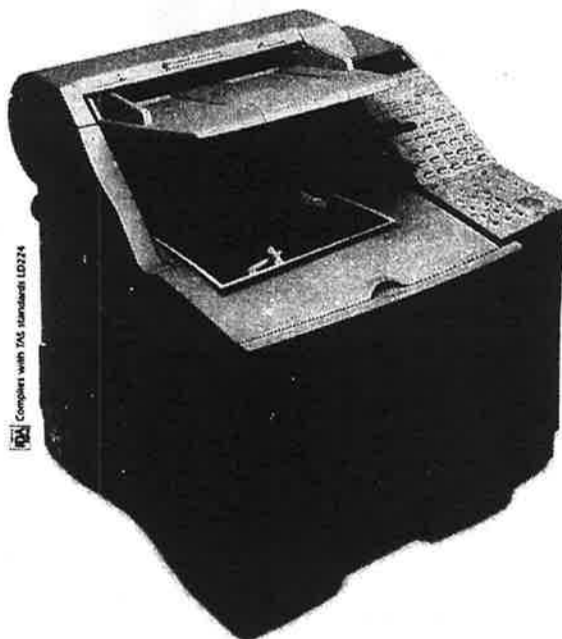
BOON CHIN AUN

Lunch Guide

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Life!

ELISABETH GWEE

CITY HALL burst to life on Saturday night when it was transformed from a grey canvas into a magical montage of colours for A Nation Connects, held at the Padang.

The concert, which was attended by guest-of-honour, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Dr Tony Tan, was held to round off National Day celebrations this year.

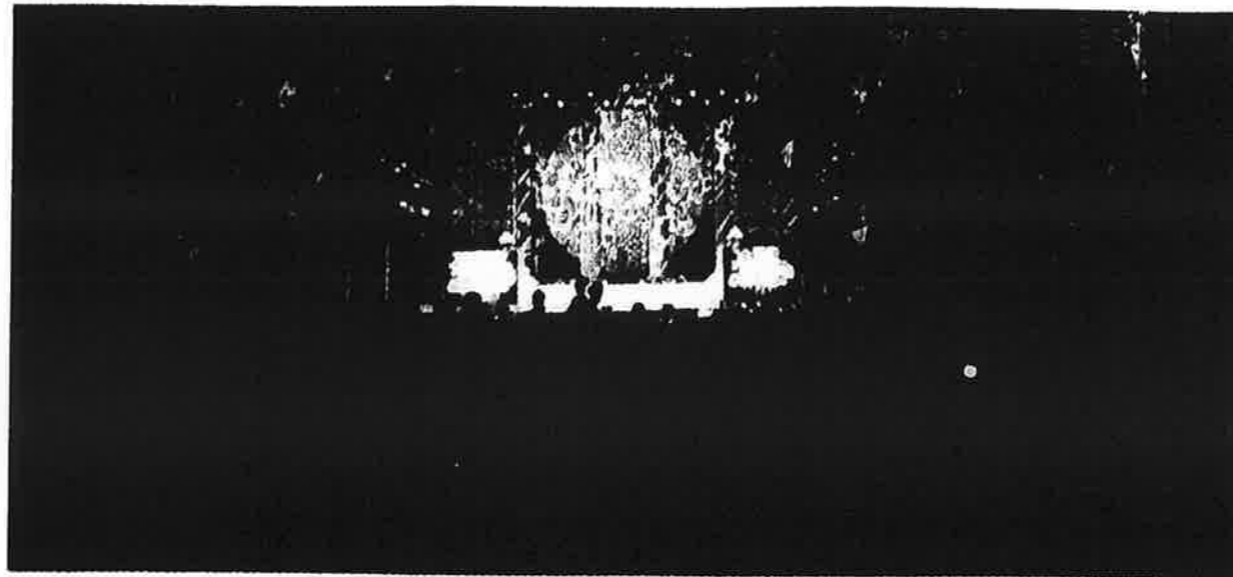
While both local and international stars like Zoe Tay, Gurmit Singh, American jazz vocal group The Manhattan Transfer and British pop group Code Red graced the occasion,

the most impressive "performance" of the night came from Mr Louis Clair, a lighting consultant from France.

Through a light show, he helped turn City Hall into a series of surprising backdrops, ranging from a children's crayon drawing to a downtown Manhattan scene.

Apart from the performances at the Padang, the 14,000-strong crowd who turned up for the show were also treated to live performances by Emil Chau and Peabo Bryson, beamed over via satellite from Taiwan and Los Angeles, respectively.

The one-hour-and-50-



Grey hall, green Padang, and what a transformation ... City Hall becomes a multi-coloured canvas.

minute-long show ended with a rap item by TCS actors Mark Richmond, Ix Shen, Gurmit Singh, Edmund Chen and Andrew Seow, all dressed in military-style costumes which looked like cast-offs from Michael Jackson's HIStory tour.

Sadly, the large number of people from the audience who walked out 30 minutes before the show ended missed one of the few highlights of the evening during the finale, a breathtaking military precision drill performed by the Military Police.

The organisers of the event might have wished for the nation to connect,

but the ones who were most touched by the whole event were the Code Red and Damage fans who turned up in full force.

The group of over 40 teenage girls began screaming "Code Red" and singing Damage songs well over an hour before the concert began.

Needless to say, the two British pop groups received the loudest applause out of all the performers. About six policemen had to suppress the over-excited teens during the performances to remind them that chairs were meant for sitting on, not standing.

The colourful connection



Foreign act, local flavour ... US group Manhattan Transfer opening the show. Starry, starry night ... TCS stars (from left) Ix Shen, Zoe Tay and Mark Richmond.



From fans with love ... teens showing support for British band Code Red.

HOME

SM ON HIS FUTURE

'At 74, one doesn't talk about ambitions. I have either done what I could have done, or I'm hardly likely to do it now. What I've done, I'm not ashamed of.'

British-style democracy 'didn't help ex-colonies'

SM: Good govt, peace, growth key to better lives

BRITAIN'S Westminster system based on the democratic vote has not settled anything in some 50 former colonies, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said in a wide-ranging BBC television interview aired yesterday.

"I've seen the British write up and deliver 45, maybe more than 50, Constitutions based on Westminster principles. How many have succeeded?" he asked, defending his position against a series of somewhat aggressive questions in a 20-minute segment.

Of the Commonwealth nations which did succeed, he said: "I know of only a few in the Caribbean, like Barbados. India had it suspended. Sri Lanka is in a terrible mess with civil war. Bangladesh is not doing famously. Pakistan is on the verge, there's civil strife every now and again, with fighting in Karachi between different Muslim factions. And they vote regularly."

These examples were "arguments why the vote did not settle anything", he said in the Hard Talk programme, recorded in Hongkong while he was there earlier this week.

Instead, what improved lives was good government, which was what the people wanted, along with a peaceful life, growth and good homes

have been stuffing the ballot papers, not even our meanest enemies."

Asked what was the most unpleasant thing he had done in his 31 years as Prime Minister, he said: "I did so many of the unpleasant things, I can't recall what's the most unpleasant ... The most unpleasant was of course to take on the communists. Because if I had lost, they'd have pulled my fingernails out."

As for whether he had any regrets about curbing democracy in Singapore, he said: "Curbing democracy? There was precious little democracy until we pushed the British into it."

He also defended Singapore's tough stand on drug trafficking, noting that those who had been executed included Nigerians travelling with other African men, Dutch women with African men and Dutch men with Chinese women.

On Hongkong's future, he said there were bound to be clashes of economic interests with the surrounding Chinese cities.

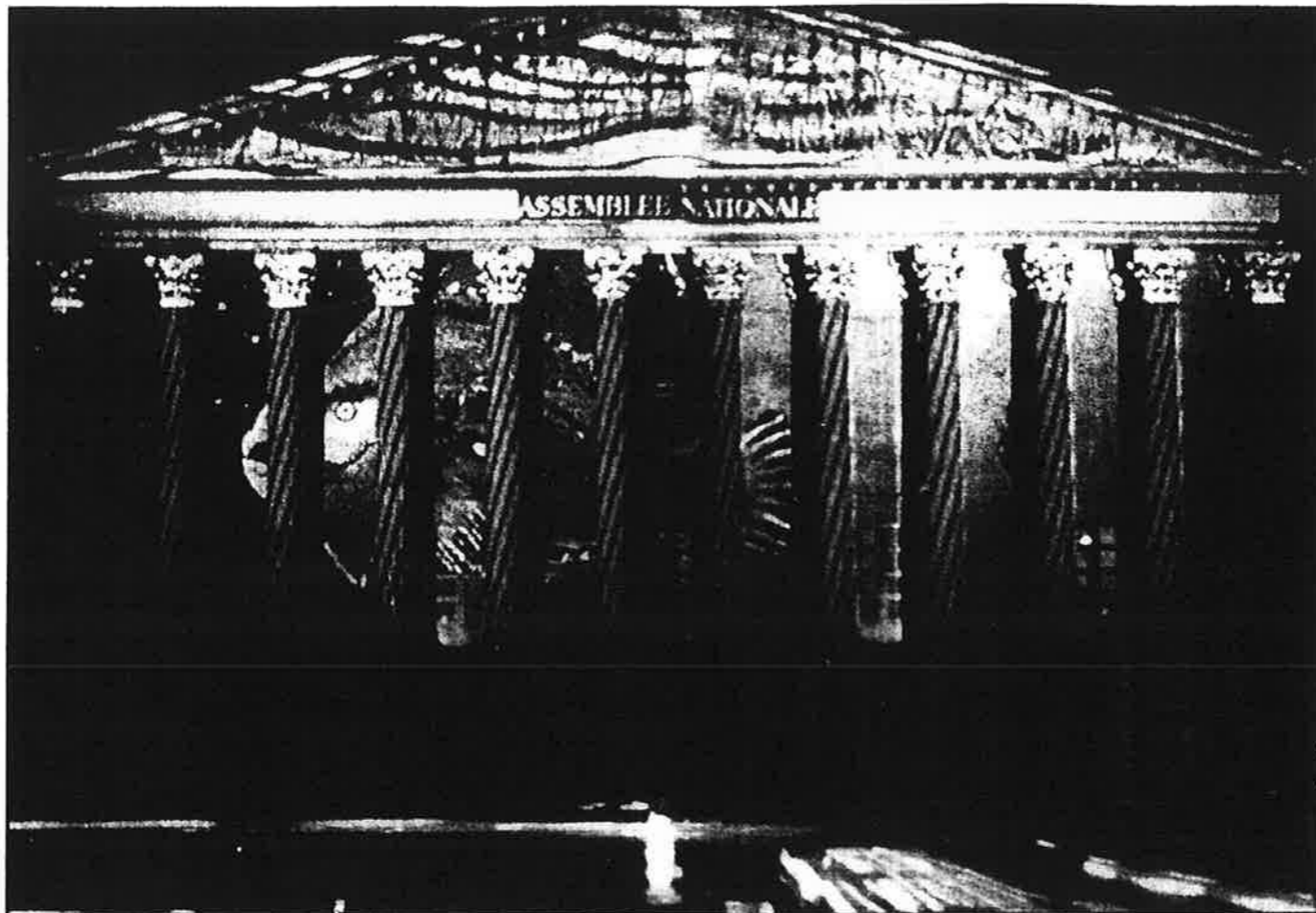
"There are any number of mayors in the Pearl River Delta wanting to be a second Hongkong," he said.

That China had not entered Hongkong and done whatever it wanted, he noted, showed it

My Singapore Our Future

Aug 23 party to celebrate N-Day

City Hall light show, celebrities galore among highlights



A touch of France at the Padang party: City Hall may look something like this on Aug 23 when it will be transformed into a canvas of lights and sound. This picture was taken at France's National Assembly during the bicentennial celebrations of the French Revolution.

THE National Day celebrations will not end with the parade on Aug 9. A big party for 14,000 guests will be held on Aug 23 at the Padang, where local and international stars will perform.

The majestic City Hall will also be used as a backdrop for a spectacular lights display complete with moving images.

Giving details of the party, called the National Day Event, the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board said yesterday that a French consultant, Mr Louis Clair, had been appointed to stage the light show. Drawings done by children here and familiar sights of Singapore will be projected onto the building.

The same projection technology was used in the blockbuster movie Batman and Robin.

Mr Clair was also behind the lighting plan for the Civic District, as well as the special lighting of the Siong Lim Temple in Toa Payoh.

Promising that the party, with the theme A Nation Connects, will be a night to remember, organising chairman Yeo Khee Leng said: "Visitors who are in Singapore at this most special of times are also invited to join in and share our pride as one nation."

"The show will close the celebrations of Singapore's nationhood in a grand style."

Some of the local celebrities who will perform at the show include Zoe Tay, Ann Kok, Ix Shen and Christopher Lee.

Zoe will sing with other stars overseas through a satellite link-up. There will also be dances and magic shows incorporated in the performance.

To maintain an element of surprise, the names of other performers from the region and beyond who will be coming here will be released later.

Free tickets for the show will be distributed later this month together with admission passes for the National Day Parade and the Party at the Padang, which is also on Aug 9.

Details of ticket distribution for these events are expected to be released on Monday.

The show, which will cost more than \$1 million, will be from 8.30 pm to 10 pm. It will also be telecast live over television, and Internet surfers can follow the proceedings.

All spectators will be given goodie bags containing snacks, a drink and a torch light.

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HOME

Temple to get mysterious warm glow

French consultant designing lighting for 100-year-old Siong Lim Temple

By Rav Dhaliwal

THE historic Siong Lim Temple in Toa Payoh will be a sight to behold at night when French lighting expert Louis Clair is done with it.

"The concept is that people will see light and not know where it is coming from," he said yesterday.

He has designed special lighting for the century-old Buddhist temple, a gazetted national monument undergoing extensive restoration.

The mysterious glow he wants to create will come from 600 fibre optic lights which will be hidden in the building's beams and used in addition to other lighting.

The lighting outside the temple will be kept subtle deliberately. "The warm golden light must come from the inside. The soul of the temple is inside," he said.

The lighting alone is expected to cost about \$250,000.

Mr Clair has worked on several projects here including the effort to light up buildings and bridges in the Civic District, including the Istana Park and Chijmes.

He has also been engaged to do the lighting for the three-storey China Square Food Centre in the Chinatown area and for Hotel New Otani, but he was unable to provide details as the design work was still being done.

He was among three con-



The historic Siong Lim Temple will get a subtle, warm glow at night after the special lightings, designed by French expert Louis Clair, are installed. — Picture by CHEW SENG KIM.

sultants invited by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, the Public Works Department and the Urban Redevelopment Authority to share their views on urban lighting and lighting up of Singapore at a seminar on

Wednesday.

Mr Clair said many cities elsewhere had "miserable budgets" for lighting projects, compared with Singapore's. He felt that Singapore had come of age in the creative area and needed to have the

confidence to strike out on its own. "You used to look for the best professionals and examples to learn from in the field of lighting. It is time for you to develop your own projects, your own design, your own artists."

Mr Pang Toh Kang, PWD's chief electrical engineer (Specialist Services Division), said that this had already started happening, with lighting projects for Parliament House, Victoria Concert Hall and Theatre, the

Hidden in beams

Mr Clair's concept is for "people to see light and not know where it is coming from". The mysterious glow he wants to create will come from 600 fibre optic lights which will be hidden in the building's beams and used in addition to other lighting.

The lighting outside will be kept subtle. He said: "The warm golden light must come from the inside. The soul of the temple is inside."

National Museum and Fort Canning Park.

The other two consultants were Dr M. J. Pinto-Coelho from Portugal and Mr Rudi Stern from the US.

STPB chief executive Tan Chin Nam said the seminar was part of the effort to make Singapore a memorable destination for visitors.

"Good lighting is important to enhance Singapore's attractiveness as a tourist destination. It is crucial to giving Singapore a distinct night-time image, as the use of lights can create dramatic and visually spectacular experiences for our visitors."

Mr Anthony Chia, senior architect with URA, said that the URA hoped private developers would appreciate the effects of such lighting and do it for their projects too.

Airline now flies direct from here to Thai resort

THAI domestic carrier Bangkok Airways has started direct flights between Singapore and Koh Samui, a beach resort in southern Thailand popular with holiday-makers.

The inaugural flight arrived yesterday at Changi airport with a full load of 70 passengers on an ATR72-200 from Samui.

It will offer two flights weekly on Thursdays and Sundays for a start, but expects this to double to four flights a week by June, said the airline's president and chief executive, Mr Prasert Prasarttong-Osoth.

Before this, travellers headed for Samui had to make a connection in Thailand. Bangkok Airways has been operating flights to Samui from Bangkok, Phuket and Pattaya.

This is Bangkok Airways' first international flight since it stopped operating to Myanmar 1 1/2 years ago and to Phnom Penh in Cambodia, three years ago.

Mr Praserttong-Osoth said that Singapore was chosen because it is a major hub which serves many airlines.

So, passengers from such areas as Europe and Australia could transfer to a Bangkok Airways flight direct to Samui.

Direct flights are now possible because Samui airport now has customs clearance facilities.

Before this, passengers had to clear customs at nearby Surat Thani airport before the plane could go on to Samui.

Mr Praserttong-Osoth said the carrier hopes to acquire larger aircraft — possibly a B737 or an Airbus A320 — by the end of this year to cater for an expected increase in passenger growth.

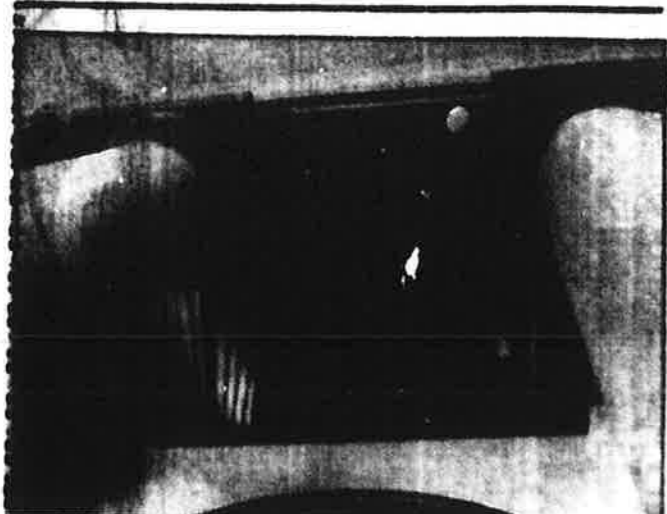
Samui airport's 2,100-m-long runway will be extended by another 200 m later this year to accommodate the larger aircraft.

The island resort receives about 700,000 visitors a year and the authorities will provide facilities to increase the number to a million a year.

Mr Rudi Fischer, the airline's vice-president for sales, said that the introduction of the new flight was designed to target more Singaporeans, many of whom take short holidays nearby.

Samui offered them another alternative, he added.

"We expect 80 per cent of the passenger load on our flights to comprise Singaporeans," he said.



Community

WINDOW TO THE CHINESE PRESS ■ LEA WEE

Temple's cultural centre

NEXT month, the Peck San Teng Temple in Bishan will be home to some 500 Luo Han (arhat) and 21 clay tiles etched with folklore and local wayang, reported Lianhe Zaobao yesterday.

The arhat and tiles cost the temple \$500,000 and were specially made in a factory in China. They are part of the temple's \$4.5-million plan to turn the temple into a cultural centre.

The new two-storey temple will be bigger, and its rooftop adorned with flower and dragon carvings.

Renovation is expected to be completed by the end of this year, and the temple will ask the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board to list it as a tourist attraction.

All that glitter on historical buildings

AS IN this newspaper, the story on the Civic District Lighting Plan received prominent play in Lianhe Zaobao on Saturday, with photographs of the light-up of the three historical buildings — the Supreme Court, City Hall and Singapore Cricket Club — in the two main papers here.

The Chinese daily devoted three pages to the Government's light-up plan and expanded on how the area around Singapore River can be transformed to an all-night lights extravaganza, providing yet another good strolling place for families and tourists.

It also ran another story on how the glittering centre can make Singaporeans proud, and an interview with the man behind the lighting master-plan, Frenchman Louis Clair.



The Peck San Teng Temple in Bishan will be home to some 500 Luo Han (arhat) and 21 clay tiles etched with folklore and local wayang.

Lions roar in anger at national competition

THE National Lion Dance Competition ended on an acrimonious note last Sunday. Members of the Guozhong Lion Dance Troupe refused to budge from their seats when they were announced as the runner-up.

Shin Min Daily News ran a front-page coverage of the dispute on Monday. It reported that Guozhong's coach, Zhou Shunzhong, kicked up a big fuss before the judges for not giving them the first prize.

Attempts by the judges to placate him fell on deaf ears. The infuriated coach also challenged the champion, Xinzhong Lion Dance Troupe, to a rematch.

On Tuesday, the paper reported that Guozhong was trying to take the matter to the National Pugilistic Federation.

The other two Chinese dailies here — Lianhe Zaobao and Lianhe Wanbao — covered the event in their sports pages.



Uproar in National Lion Dance Competition.

Beijing becoming expensive

IT COSTS more to live in Beijing or Shanghai than in Hongkong or Taipei, Shin Min Daily News reported on Monday.

While Japanese cities Tokyo and Osaka remain the most expensive cities in Asia, Beijing and Shanghai are slowly climbing up the charts, according to an annual survey conducted by a

Swiss company on 125 major cities in the world.

Beijing has shot from 23rd place last year to 11th this year, and Shanghai from 39th to 26th this year.

On the other hand, Hongkong and Taipei, which were joint fifth last year, have dropped to 12th and 14th respectively.

Battle of 666 and XO durians

NEWCOMER 666 looks poised to put up a good fight against hot favourites Sultan and XO durians.

666 was crowned Durian King recently by experts in Malaysia, according to Lianhe Wanbao in a Page

One report on Monday.

The durian contest is an annual event organised by the Penang state government. It allows durian-growers from all over Malaysia to show off their new produce.

Chinese Community Newsflash

Ho Sheo Be

Culture for expat children

CAMP RAINBOW BLOSSOMS, a camp to help children of Singaporeans working overseas discover Chinese language and culture, will be held in Singapore for the third consecutive year.

The two-week non-residential camp, targeted at those aged between eight and 15, will be held at the premises of Endless Institution and Chinese High School from July 24-Aug 4.

At the camp, organised by the two schools with the Singapore International Foundation, the children will learn various traditional arts, including calligraphy and clay-modelling, and also visit places of interest, such as the Haw Par Villa.

Teachers from RI and Chinese High will lead the various activities. However, details of the daily schedules have yet to be confirmed.

Fees are \$400 per child, inclusive of lunch, tea breaks and admission charges to the places of interest.

For registration and queries, call 735-5955 or fax 735-5234.

Exchange on Death Of A Hero

HERE is a chance for those who had watched Death Of A Hero last weekend to exchange their views on the Mandarin play.

Practice Theatre Ensemble (PTE), which staged the play in conjunction with the ongoing Festival Of Asian Performing Arts, will be discussing the drama tomorrow.

Dramatist and PTE artistic director Kuo Pao Kun, sociologist Kwok Kian-woon, an observer of the play, theatre critic Qian Sy Ben, who rewrote the play, and its director, Ang Gey Pin, will be the speakers.

The dialogue will be held at The Serbanatoin Classroom 1 at 2.30 pm. Admission is free. For details, call 337-2529.

Talk on Teochew music

CALLING all Teochew opera fans.

A talk on its music will be conducted at the National Museum Lecture Theatre tomorrow.

Mr Tan Kai Whatt, a professional musician with the Sin Yong Hua Heng Teochew Opera Troupe, a commercial group which performs regularly, will talk about the various types of Teochew opera music and how to use them to create the appropriate atmosphere for a performance.

The talk will be held in Mandarin from 8.30-4.30 pm. Admission is free.

Why longjing tea is special

WHAT is so special about the famous longjing tea leaves from Hangzhou in China's coastal Zhejiang province?

What are the best brewing methods for maximum appreciation? Ask Mr Tan Ho Bing, chairman of the Singapore Hui Ann Association's Tea Club, who will offer some tips at a talk on Sunday.

Those who attend will also be able to sample the tea, which may seem bland at first but which offers an unique, lingering after-taste.

The talk will be held at Singapore Hui Ann Association at 7, Lorong 29, Geylang on Sunday at 3 pm. Admission is free.

More about kidney problems

THE Singapore Char Yong (Dabu) Association is holding a talk in Mandarin on kidney problems on Sunday at 10 am. Medical check-ups, which include measuring the blood pressure and weight, will also be conducted at its premises at 28, Lorong 22, Geylang Road.

Fees are \$3. For details, call 742-0286 or 841-3991.

If you are holding an event that is of interest to the Chinese community, write to Chinese Community News, South Times House, 390 Kim Seng Road, Singapore 0933, or fax 736-6931, at least a week before the event. Remember to include your name and contact number.

Love songs minus the mawkishness

What's Hot In Chinese Pop

Hu Wenyao

THIS week's focus is on Bobby Chen because his new album, Hate Love Songs, is simply wonderful. Compared with the pop music in the market, which often makes a fuss over nothing, Chen's works have a wider creative scope and they show a genuine concern for the world.

HATE LOVE SONGS (ROCK) Bobby Chen

BASICALLY, Chen's attitude towards music is this: He wants to be different with his own musical style. Beginning from Leave Sorrow To Myself to the previous Kite, he has not compromised and continues to do things his way.

It is the same with this latest release, which does not appeal to the masses but makes great listening. One finds that Chen's emotional experience and breadth of vision have broadened. What he wants to express is no longer limited to the love between men and women, or the mawkish treatment the theme usually gets.

For example, in Farmer, he describes how a quiet old man in a village devotes his whole life to his children's smiles and the farm in his heart. He lives for other people and has never spared a thought for himself.

The song, Aunt, portrays a strong Chinese woman. Destiny has taken away her relatives one after another, but it cannot take away the smile on her face.



Bobby Chen's works show a genuine concern for the world.

The music arrangement for these two sad, but beautiful songs makes use of a simple guitar and bass. Chen's distinctive dense and sympathetic voice expresses the sentiments in the songs with flawless artistry, making them classic pieces in this album.

SMILING IN TEARS (R&B) Charlie Young

IT IS not a sin to be good looking, but people have the idea that few beautiful pop idols can really sing. Young has been marketed as a pop idol from the beginning of her career, so people naturally think that her singing is unworthy of even a mention.

But she is not as bad as one might have imagined — at least she is not too deaf; neither is she out of breath. Her vocal range is limited, but her

record producer was clever to select medium-range songs which suit her musical style and help to cover up her inadequacy.

The title track, Smiling In Tears, is a good example. It has a catchy tune, and Young gives it an innocence of the girl-next-door which appeals easily to the listener.

This debut Mandarin album has an amiable and easy approach, and her fans are sure to like it.

UNIVERSAL SENTIMENTS (Pop/Rock) Leon Lai

THIS is a highly-commercialised album which does not deviate from Lai's usual musical style. It has an all-round approach which comprises slow, mid- and fast-tempo tracks. Lai's performance is average — he has some merits but he continues to make the same mistakes.

In the fast numbers, he has problems: His voice is not strong enough and he swallows his words. His singing is drowned out by the fast rhythm of the music and this affects the quality of the songs, however well-written they are.

It is the mid-tempo tracks — such as Love You Most In My Life, Please Stay With Me and Warmth In The World — that Lai handles with ease. Here he exercises better control over his vocals and emotions.

Lai is actually quite talented, but he has this habit of keeping his voice in his throat when he sings. That is his greatest inadequacy. He also lacks a strong personal musical style and fails to create ripples in the listener's heart.

Translated by KOH SIEW TIN. Hu Wenyao, who created this column for Lifen, is a journalist with Shin Min Daily News.

每周唱片评介

不作无病呻吟的恨情歌

这一期要重点介绍陈百强，因为他的《恨情歌》实在是好听，和市面上无病呻吟的流行曲一比，他的创作空间广阔，尤其多了一份对人生的关怀，作品更有诚意。

歌手：陈百强 专辑：《恨情歌》 出品：滚石

陈百强音乐的态度，基本上有那种不愿意“和别人一样的”情调。他非常坚持自己的风格，从《把酒问青天》开始，到《风筝》，他始终不愿意妥协，仍然走他自己爱走的路线。

这张《恨情歌》也一样，绝对不会容易流行，但却耐听。听定之后，你会发现陈百强的创作，感情与身体已经溶为一体了，要表达的不再局限在男女爱情的无病呻吟。

陈百强，一个低调的男人，把一生奉献给儿女的笑容和心中的一亩田——直到老，他都为别人而活，从来没有想过自己。《妹妹》刻画了一个坚强的中国妇女，命运带走了她一个又一个的男人，却带不走她不屈服的笑容。

这两首歌，要算动人，作曲只用了一些简单的吉他和贝斯，陈百强那清澈灵动的歌声，把歌曲的情感表现得丝丝入扣，而这正是陈百强音乐的魅力。

歌手：陈百强 专辑：《恨情歌》 出品：滚石

陈百强不是神话，但很多人总以为，许多天后唱的歌都是陈百强写的，真正会唱歌的少之又少，陈百强从出道，走的就是一条陈百强，不是别人的陈百强。

为，她的艺术水平不是一流。其实，听歌唱歌，感觉没有想象中那么，至少不会五音不全，也不会唱得上气不接下气，陈百强的音乐不算很硬，其实很柔软，但有陈百强那清澈灵动的歌声，把歌曲的情感表现得丝丝入扣，而这正是陈百强音乐的魅力。

主打歌《把酒问青天》就是陈百强的强项，歌曲旋律容易上口，有一种邻家女孩的纯真感觉，陈百强那清澈灵动的歌声，把歌曲的情感表现得丝丝入扣，而这正是陈百强音乐的魅力。

歌手：陈百强 专辑：《恨情歌》 出品：滚石

这是一张非常商业化的专辑，与陈百强以往的陈百强没有什么两样，以陈百强说，专辑的风格就全面，因为

胡文康

Advertisement for 'Give Your Home a Free Facelift' by IDMC. The ad features large stylized text and images of home renovation products like curtains and kitchen systems. It lists prizes: 1st Prize: \$5,000 IDMC Voucher, 2nd Prize: \$3,000 IDMC Voucher, 3rd Prize: \$2,000 IDMC Voucher. It also includes details about the IDMC Gift Voucher, terms and conditions, and a coupon for a free facelift.

Life at Large

Civic District lights up with life after dark



Picture perfect ... the splendid historic facades of (from left) Singapore Cricket Club, Supreme Court and City Hall are highlighted and complemented by coordinated lighting and the backdrop of modern high-rises.

A lighting plan was launched last night to stunning effect. Stephanie Yeo reports.

BY DAY, the Padang hums with the activity of genteel tennis matches at the Singapore Cricket Club, fierce rugby tackles and noisy soccer matches. Lawyers hurry out of the Supreme Court, while brides pose demurely next door at City Hall.

But under the blanket of night, the area is dark and nondescript, hardly the kind of place you would want to take a leisurely stroll for fear of tripping over cuddling couples.

Last night, though, the area sported a brighter, cosier atmosphere when the three historical buildings were lit to stunning effect for the launch of the Civic District Lighting Plan.

Suddenly, the drab grey columns of City Hall were transformed into monuments of classical architecture. The dome of Supreme Court, rather ordinary-looking during the day, stole the show with cold white lights projecting a powerful, majestic image.

Under the lighting plan,

the Civic District — which stretches from the Istana Park to the War Memorial to the Singapore River — will have a coordinated lighting scheme so that buildings, parks and street lights complement, rather than compete with, each other.

The idea is to give the district a distinct night identity akin to those found in cities like Paris, as well as attract more people to the area.

Guidelines spelt out in a guidebook for developers say, for instance, that modern buildings and symbolic structures like the War Memorial will have strong white light.

Historical and cultural buildings will have warmer tones to show off their architecture. Different roads will have different types of light fittings and lighter colours.

The Government's part in this plan should be completed by the turn of the century. Besides buildings, parks and walkways, two major road networks will be lit.

One is the Celebration Route — from the Istana via Bras Basah Road to City Hall, to be used during national celebrations — which will have decorative street lamps casting a warm white light.

The other, the Heritage Link, connects several cultural and institutional buildings and will be lit with gold-coloured light. Streets lamps for both routes will be up by October, while lighting for walkways will be completed within two years.

New buildings and infrastructure will be lit as and when they come up, like the Singapore Arts Centre, which will be ready in 2003.

The man behind the lighting masterplan is Frenchman Mr Louis Clair of Light Cibles, who masterminded the lighting for Anderson, Cavenagh, Raffles and Coleman bridges, which started to sparkle in the night last year.

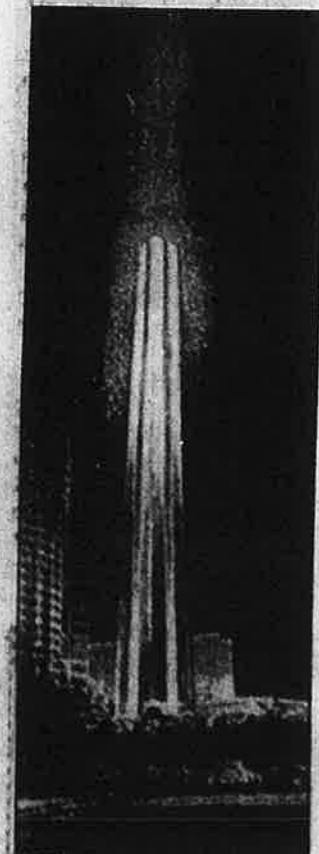
How long the public enjoy the light display each

night has not been decided yet, but the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) says that in the wee hours of the morning when there are few people around, it may switch on functional lights, which are bright enough for motorists and pedestrians to travel by.

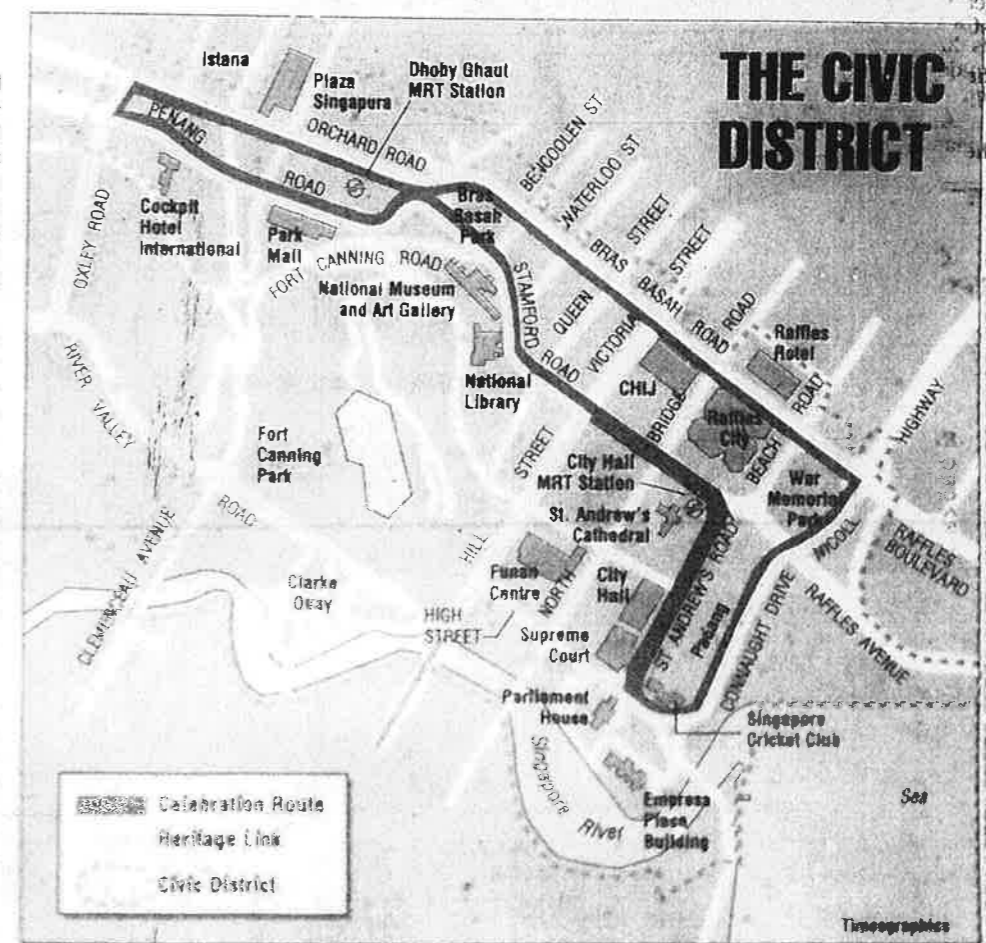
Of course, whether the plan will succeed also depends on whether the owners of private buildings are eager to join in.

But as Mr Anthony Chia, executive architect (project services division) with the URA, says: "They still have to light up their buildings anyway. The idea is to make them more aware of the things they can do and to do it sensibly."

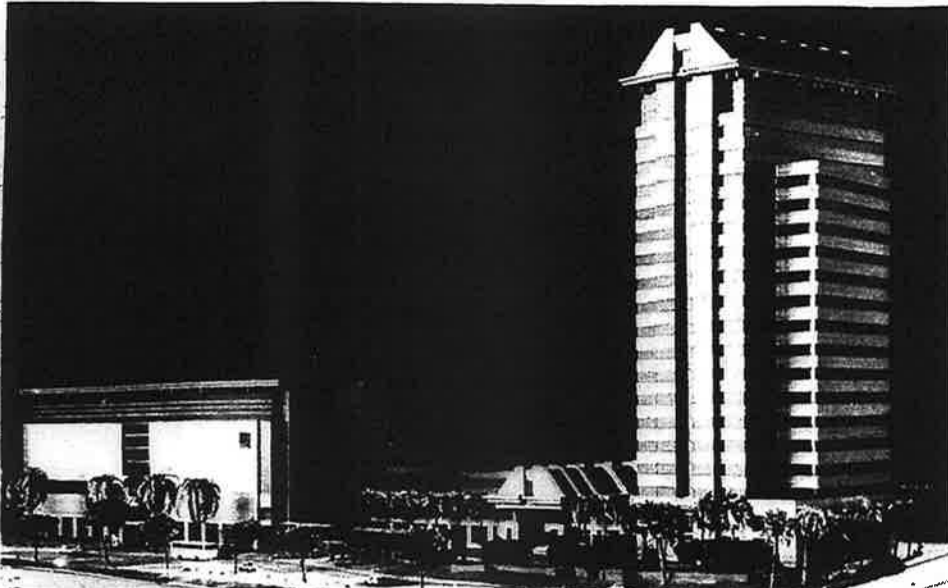
The Urban Redevelopment Authority has published a guidebook for the public and developers to help them light their projects. It costs \$15 and is available at the URA Customer Service Counter, 1st level, URA Building, Maxwell Road.



The War Memorial will be lit with stark white beams.



DALAM NEGERI



MAJU DI STESAN MRT: Beginilah gambaran pembangunan komersial yang dicadangkan di Stesen MRT Tiong Bahru.

Dua zon kediaman lengkap dirancang

Bukit Merah bak pusat peranginan, Bukit Timah kekal unggul

KAWASAN kediaman bermutu lengkap dengan Pusat Kelautan yang menyerupai sebuah pusat peranginan.
Tulah kawasan yang dilakar oleh pemerintah untuk kawasan Bukit Merah.
Bukit Timah pula akan dikekalkan menjadi kawasan kediaman yang unggul di Singapura, dengan rangkaian pengangkutan yang cemerlang.

Pelan tersebut diumumkan dalam satu sidang akhbar di bangunan URA semalam.
Bukit Merah adalah kawasan yang disempadani Alexandra Road di bahagian barat, Jervois Lane, Princes Charles Square dan Alexandra Canal di utara dan Kim Seng Road serta Outram Road di timur.
Antara rancangan untuk kawasan tersebut ialah meningkatkan kegiatan di sekitar dermaga, termasuk di Maritime Square, yang menampung kegiatan-kegiatan seperti riadah, ekonomi dan pameran.
Di samping itu, sekitaran stesen Pengangkutan Gerak Cepat (MRT) di situ akan dibangunkan untuk memenuhi keperluan perumahan serta dijadikan pusat kejiranan yang dapat berfungsi sebagai tempat membeli-belah dan pejabat.

Peluang beri reaksi kepada pelan induk 2 kawasan

PELAN induk pemerintah untuk pembangunan kawasan Bukit Merah dan Bukit Timah akan turut dipamerkan di Balai-balai rakyat dan majlis bandar untuk menggalakkan orang ramai memberi maklum balas mengenai isu-isu pembangunan.
Ini adalah kali pertama Pelan Induk yang disiapkan oleh Penguasa Pembangunan Semula Bandar (URA) 'disebarkan'.
Dalam sidang akhbar untuk mengemukakan DGP bagi Bukit Merah dan Bukit Timah semalam, Pengarah Perancangan Fizikal URA, Dr John Keung, berkata ia sejajar dengan usaha MND dan URA menjadikan sistem perancangannya lebih terbuka dan bersifat perundingan.

Masuk Tahun Baru mudah, masuk CBD kenalah bayar

TERLAJAK perahu boleh diundur, terajak cakap buruk padahnya, terajak masuk CBD, saman jawabnya — walaupun di luar waktu sibuk!
Mulai Isnin ini, Skim Meslesen Kawasan (ALS) dilaksanakan dari 7.30 pagi hingga 6.30 petang, dan tidak setakat 7.30 hingga 10.15 pagi dan 4.30 hingga 6.30 petang.
Maka, Kawasan Pusat Bandar (CBD) menjadi Zon Terbatas dari pagi sampai petang dan pemandu yang ingin memasukinya terpaksa membayar \$60 sebulan untuk permit sehari untuk atau \$40 sebulan untuk separuh hari.
Itulah antara beberapa perubahan dan skim yang diperkenalkan dalam 1994.
Bagi anda yang tidak baca Berita Harian atau jarang memutar punar televisyen, jangan terperanjat atau meletak bila putar Saluran 5...
Berita Melayu takde. BJ Kadir takde. Potret Keluarga takde, semua rancangan Melayu takde!
Bukan, bukan SBC dah tak terbitkan rancangan Melayu cuma ia pindahkan semua rancangan Melayu ke Saluran 12 mulai esok.
Mulai esok juga, SBC naikkan yuran lesen televisyen dan radio: televisyen warna \$110 setahun (sekarang \$100); lesen radio kenderaan \$27 (sekarang \$24); lesen televisyen hitam-putih \$40 (sekarang \$36).
Kalau anda kerja sendiri, jangan lupa lunaskan sumbangan Medisave kerana mulai hari ini, lesen perniagaan/kejuruan tidak diperbaharui jika Medisave tidak dibayar.
Kadar sumbangan Medisave bagi yang bekerja sendiri dinaikkan 1 peratus, menjadi 4 peratus daripada pendapatan tahunan.
Tahun 1994 juga menjanjikan sedikit kelegaan bagi keluarga miskin, dengan bermulanya Skim Kemajuan Keluarga Kecil.
Keluarga berpendapat kurang \$1,500 sebulan dan mempunyai tidak lebih daripada dua anak boleh bermohon memasuki skim itu dan menerima sehingga \$20,000 dalam bentuk biasiswa pendidikan untuk anak mereka serta geran perumahan tahunan sehingga \$16,000.
Untuk para pelajar, sekolah berautonomi diperkenalkan mulai tahun ini dengan enam buah sekolah menengah: Victoria, Anderson School, Bukit Panjang Government High, Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus (Toa Payoh), Dunman High dan River Valley High.
Sekolah itu diberi lebih banyak dana dari pemerintah dan lebih banyak kebebasan untuk memilih guru dan merancang program sendiri.
Perkara baru lain yang datang dengan tibanya 1994 termasuk:
■ Skim faedah perubatan baru — Skim Medisave-Subsidi Rawatan Pesakit Luar (MSO) — untuk kakitangan awam yang mula bekerja esok.
■ Istilah Inggeris bagi Askar Kerahan — reservist — ditukar jadi Operational Ready National Servicemen.
■ Perkhidmatan Televisyen Antarabangsa Singapura (SITV) dilancarkan.

Lagi 525 kedai HDB untuk dijual

PENYEWA bagi 525 lagi kedai Lembaga Perumahan dan Pembangunan (HDB) berpuluh-puluh kedai yang mereka sewa itu bulan depan.
Kedai-kedai itu akan ditawarkan untuk dibeli oleh mereka di bawah tahap ketujuh Rancangan Jualan Kedai Sewa.
Ia terletak dalam estet perumahan Bedok, Chai Chee Drive, Bukit Batok, Henderson Road, Redhill, Tanjong Pagar Plaza, Ubi Avenue 1, Sims Drive, Sims Place, Macpherson Lane, Hougang Avenue 1, Jurong West, Toa Payoh, Woodlands dan Yishun.
Menurut kenyataan HDB semalam, kedai-kedai itu terletak dalam pelbagai lokasi, termasuk pusat bandar dan pusat kejiranan.
Harga yang ditawarkan adalah berdasarkan nilai pasaran bagi kedai yang serupa, tetapi harga itu akan disesuaikan dengan baki tempoh sewaan, lokasi, saiz dan ciri-ciri lain sesebuah kedai.
HDB juga menawarkan potongan harga, berdasarkan tempoh seseorang penyewa telah menyewa kedai itu.
Penyewa kedai yang terliat akan diberitahu tentang tawaran itu awal bulan depan dan diberi tempoh sebulan untuk memutuskan sama ada hendak menerimanya atau tidak.

Kadar kelahiran dalam 1993 dijangka tinggi

SINGAPURA mungkin mencapai kadar kelahiran tertinggi tahun ini sejak 1991 jika tren kelahiran yang dicatatkan sekarang berterusan.
Menteri Kesihatan, Encik Yeo Chow Tong, memberitahu bahawa sekitar 41,200 bayi dilahirkan antara Januari dengan Oktober tahun ini.
Ini adalah 1.5 peratus lebih tinggi berbanding dengan tempoh yang sama tahun lalu.
Jika tren ini berterusan, sekitar 50,200 bayi dilahirkan tahun ini — bilangan lebih tinggi berbanding dengan 49,000 kelahiran dalam 1991.
Bercakap dalam satu wawancara dengan akhbar The Straits Times, Encik Yeo berkata ramai pasangan kini mempunyai tiga anak.
Kadar kelahiran bagi anak ketiga meningkat dari 17 peratus dalam 1985 kepada 23 peratus tahun lalu.
Namun, Encik Yeo berkata bilangan kelahiran akan meningkat jika kaum wanita mendirikan rumah tangga pada usia yang lebih muda.
Ini menghadkan masa

yang mereka ada untuk melahirkan anak, jelas Encik Yeo yang akan melepaskan jawatan Menteri Kesihatan kepada Brigedier-Jeneral (Kerahan) George Yeo.
Encik Yeo akan menjadi Menteri Perdagangan dan Perusahaan mulai Isnin ini, menggantikan Encik S. Dhanabalan yang akan meninggalkan kabinet.
Encik Yeo menambah, keluarga berpendapatan rendah tidak mendengar nasihat pemerintah supaya mempunyai keluarga kecil. Sebaliknya, mereka mempunyai antara empat hingga lima orang anak.
Menurutnya, setiap anak dalam sebuah keluarga berpendapatan rendah mendapat kurang wang.
"Ya bukanlah sekadar isu kewangan tetapi apa yang sesuatu pasangan itu inginkan bagi orang-orang yang disayangi," jelas beliau.
Ibu bapa yang mahu anak-anak mereka mempunyai masa depan cerah, tambah, perlu menyediakan kemudahan-kemudahan baik.

Encik Yeo turut bercakap mengenai tren wanita melahirkan anak di hospital swasta dan tidak di hospital yang disusun semula seperti Hospital Kandang Kerbau.
Sekitar 52 peratus kelahiran dalam 1990 dijalankan di hospital swasta. Ini adalah ganda lebih tinggi berbanding dengan 1985.
Tambahnya: "Oleh kerana pasangan mempunyai tiga anak, suami mampu memberi khidmat lebih baik kepada isteri mereka di hospital swasta."

HAJI 1994/1414H
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DAR ZAINI ARIF
Kursus ini sedang diadakan pada tiap-tiap hari Ahad jam 9.30 pagi di Madrasah Al Maarif, 14 Ipoh Lane, Tanjong Katong Road.
Kursus haji khas untuk wanita diadakan pada tiap-tiap hari Sabtu jam 2.30 petang di tempat yang sama.
Kursus dipimpin oleh Ustazah Haji Mohd. Taha Suhaimi.
Kursus dipimpin oleh Ustazah Hj. Aina Jaafar.
Semua dipersilakan hadir.
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4 jambatan bermandi cahaya sambut 1994

SUNGAI Singapura akan berkilauan terang benderang dengan cahaya lampu berwana warni dari empat jambatan bersejarah untuk menyambut kedatangan 1994 malam ini.
Jambatan tersebut — Anderson, Cavendish, Elgin dan Coleman — akan dinyalakan di bawah satu projek yang memadam belian \$1 juta.
Ia bermula dari 8 malam ini hingga 7 pagi esok.
Mula esok pula, semua jambatan itu akan terus bermandi cahaya dari 7 malam sehingga 12 tengah malam — setiap hari.
Menurut Lembaga Pengawal Pelancongan Singapura (STPB), projek itu adalah langkah pertama menonjolkan Sungai Singapura sebagai tempat perayaan bagi menyambut tahun baru dar.
sebahagian pelan Memindahkan Lagi Permata, untuk menjadikan Singapura tempat pelancongan.
Lampu-lampu itu direka khas oleh perundingcara Perancis, Encik Louis Clair.
Projek tersebut usaha bersama STPB dan Jawatankuasa Panduan Kawasan Sivik.

Gantirugi \$25,000 bagi wanita dituduh jalang

SEORANG wanita yang mengambur tuduhan saman ke atas pesyarikat kanan Universiti Nasional Singapura berjaya dalam kesnya dan diberi bayaran gantirugi \$25,000 beserta faedah.
Cik Lim Soon Wah, 28 tahun, pengarah hotel, mendakwa Dr Jayasooriah, dituduh mengambur tuduhan saman sebagai Jayasooriah, yang ketika itu menjadi perancang perniagaan perbadanan itu.
Salimanya dengar dan kepada pemilik-pemilik lain di situ, termasuk teman lelaki Cik Lim ketika itu.
Ia bermula ekoran satu insiden apabila seorang teman lelaki mengambur tuduhan saman pada hari berikutnya.
Mereka berhadapan dalam kereta lama hingga 10 minit.
Dr Jayasooriah, yang terkejut akibat tuduhan anjing,

JUALAN MURAH. Bayar Secara Tunai Atau Istalmen Bulanan Tanpa Cengkeram
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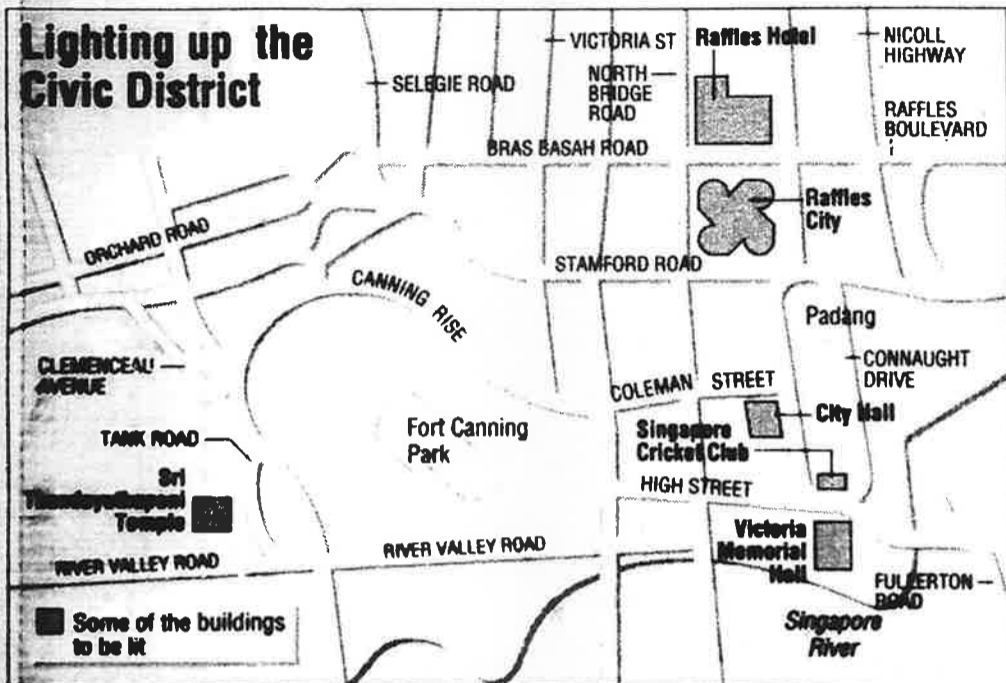
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\$6,000 keatas mendapat sebuah radio.
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NOTIS
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PUBLIC FINANCE BERHAD
(PDiperbadankan di Malaysia)
PENGUMUMAN
PEMANGKAN SAHAM ASING PUBLIC FINANCE
PELAKSANAAN SISTEM GILIRAN
Mengikut Peraka 26 (2) Tataurusan Pertubuhan Syarikat, Para Pengarah Syarikat boleh menolak untuk mendaftarkan sebarang pindahan saham-saham biasa sekiranya pindahan seumpama itu apabila didaftarkan akan pada pendapat mereka meningkatkan peredaran modal saham biasa terbitan yang dalam pemilikan beneficial atau penguasaan orang-orang asing, melebihi 30% modal saham biasa terbitan Syarikat.
Orang-orang asing, sebagaimana yang ditakrifkan dalam Peraka 26 (4) adalah bermaksud:
a) Semua individu yang bukan rakyat atau pemastautin tetap Malaysia;
b) Semua syarikat, di mana saja diperbadankan kurang daripada 50% modal saham biasa terbitannya, adalah dimiliki beneficial atau dikuasai oleh rakyat atau pemastautin tetap Malaysia.
Memandangkan pemilikan asing sejak 20 November 1992 telah mencapai 30% modal saham biasa terbitan Syarikat, Pendaftar Saham akan menolak permintaan bagi pindahan saham-saham daripada status terbitan ke status asing.
Syarikat dengan ini mengumumkan bahawa satu sistem giliran kini telah direka bagi pelabur-pelabur asing yang membeli saham-saham tempatan, untuk menyertai giliran bagi menunggu perimbangan bagi pendaftaran saham-saham yang dibeli di bawah status asing.
Pelabur asing yang ingin menempatkan saham dalam giliran dikehendaki menyerahkan simpanan siji saham masing-masing dan surat ikatan pindahan relatif dengan Pendaftaran Saham PFA Registration Services Sdn Bhd (PFA) supaya selamat disimpan.
Surat ikatan pindahan relatif yang akan diserahkan dengan PFA mestilah disempurnakan oleh pemindah, bagai-manapun penerima pindahan tidak dikehendaki menyempurnakan surat ikatan pindahan untuk menampung sebarang pengeluaran berikutnya daripada giliran.
DENGAN PERINTAH LEMBAGA PENGARAH
QUAH POH KEAT
Setausaha
Kuala Lumpur
Berlankh: 30 Disember 1993

Lighting-up plan commissioned for Civic District

French company to make \$250,000 study



By Rav Dhaliwal

COMMERCIAL buildings in the civic district will also be lit up as part of the project to bring life to the city.

Under a \$250,000 study for a lighting masterplan for the Civic District, building owners will receive guidelines on illuminating their buildings.

This follows Wednesday's announcement by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board which said that, under the same project, four bridges — Anderson, Cavenagh, Elgin and Coleman — along the Singapore River will be lit up nightly from New Year's Eve.

The lighting plan for the district covers Government buildings, streets and parks.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) has commissioned a French consultant, Light Cibles, to do the study, which will be completed in about a year.

Details of how the private sector will be involved in the plan have not been worked out, said an URA spokesman.

"The light-up will give the whole district a sense of grandeur and character. It is also one of the projects to promote the area as Singapore's premier district," the spokesman added.

The district is bounded by the Singapore River, Clemenceau Avenue, Orchard Road, Bras Basah Road and the Esplanade.

The URA contract is the third in connection with the lighting-up of the Civic District.

Light Cibles, which has done projects in cities such as Paris, Lyons and London, handled the first two.

One was a \$300,000 project paid for by listed company Hocht Properties to design il-

lumination for the four bridges.

Last year, Light Cibles carried out a study on lighting up two "test zones" in the civic district — Empress Place and the Istana area.

Mock-ups of the illuminations were tried out on certain buildings during the study and it is learnt that the STPB officials were satisfied with what they saw.

In a workshop held by the STPB early this year, developers and owners of commercial buildings in the district said they needed to know more about lighting up the

with the next for brightness.

"To make it worse, the lights may not be coordinated and they scream like a cacophony instead of singing in harmony.

"This is not the case in Singapore, which is lit up like a modern city. But the URA wants to have a lighting plan that enhances the attractiveness of the civic district.

"Take the Central Fire Station in Hill Street. That is a fantastic building to light up."

Other buildings on his list of 70 include City Hall, Par-

'Lighting up a city is a bit like writing a symphony. Everything must be in harmony. Sometimes, a city can have too much lighting... To make it worse, the lights may not be coordinated and they scream like a cacophony instead of singing in harmony.'

— Mr Louis Clair of Light Cibles, the French company commissioned to do a study for a lighting master plan for the district.

buildings. They noted that there were no guidelines so far.

The study commissioned by the URA is meant to satisfy this need, giving broad guidelines on lighting up buildings.

Mr Louis Clair, a consultant with Light Cibles, said in a telephone interview from his Paris office that he had selected 70 buildings for his study.

"Lighting up a city is a bit like writing a symphony. Everything must be in harmony," he said. "Sometimes, a city can have too much lighting. Each new tower building that comes up vies

liament House, Victoria Memorial Hall, Singapore Cricket Club, the Sri Thandayathapani Hindu temple in Tank Road and Raffles City.

"The lamp-posts can be like jewellery. You can have high lamp-posts with a lot of light going to the building facades and trees. Or the lamp posts can be designed to just light up the road and the buildings and trees are specially lit up."

But all the light will be shades of yellow and white.

"White and yellow light on the buildings or greenery achieves the best effect," he said.

88 poly grads take 1st-class

By Rachel Tan

For 88 university graduates, a Singapore Polytechnic diploma has been a passport to top honours in university.

They took first class honours in engineering when they graduated from more than 20 local and foreign universities this year, including the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), University of Sheffield, Imperial College and the University of Manchester.

Twenty of the 28 first-class honours for engineering degrees awarded by NTU this year were Singapore Poly-

technic diploma holders. Another 104 former poly students also did well, graduating with second class (Upper) honours.

Nanyang and Temasek polytechnics are still too new to have produced graduates who have gone on to university.

Ngee Ann does not have comprehensive figures to provide a comparative picture.

A Singapore Polytechnic spokesman said that an increasing number of its graduates have gone on to further their studies, and their good results "reflect the institution's rising expectations".

While the polytechnic may

once have been seen as a place for junior college rejects with no hope of getting into university in the past, the situation has changed. After O-levels, many school leavers now choose to take the diploma course because it is practical.

Developmental engineer Mr Ng Choon Seong, 28, is one such example. He finished his diploma and worked for a few years before enrolling in NTU. He graduated last year with a first class honours in engineering.

He said: "With my 11 points at the O-levels I could have gone to the top colleges but I thought a diploma

Voice-box cancer operation helps patients speak again

By Brendan Pereira

TODAY, Mr P.Y. Wong can count from one to 60 in one breath.

For the 50-year-old larynx cancer patient, this is a big deal. A year ago, his voice had dropped to a coarse whisper and he had to pause between words.

The turnaround came after an operation at the National University Hospital (NUH), in which the cancerous part of the larynx or voice box was removed. And from the remaining tissue, a new voice box was constructed.

This is unlike the case of patients who suffer from a more advanced stage of cancer, when the entire voice box must be removed. In such cases, a prosthesis may have to be inserted before a patient can speak again.

Besides Mr Wong, a few other

patients have also undergone this procedure, which was developed by a surgeon from the Mayo Clinic in the United States. To date, the quality of their voice has improved and there has been no recurrence of the cancer.

Said Mr Wong: "For about five months, my voice had become very coarse. I thought it was a bad sore throat. After seeing a doctor, I was told it was cancer."

At the NUH, surgeons removed the cancerous areas such as the vocal cords and epiglottis, a piece of cartilage that closes over the windpipe, thus preventing food from getting into the lungs when the patient swallows.

After this, a microscopic examination of the remaining tissue was done to confirm they were free of cancer cells.

Then the remaining tissue in the affected area was constructed into a

new voice box.

The tissue, performs the

As the patient's speech, the lung and vibrates to produce a

During the operation, the stomach is cut through the throat to windpipe.

To speak, the patient inserts a small tube into the hole, through which air is blown.

Associate Professor of NUH's Department of Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat) said that the operation is a new cancer procedure.

He said that the voice box did not cost more. "It is surgery to reconstruct the growth. So the cost is not high."



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Clinton ordering action to stop spread of N-arms

WASHINGTON — US President Bill Clinton was ordering a more active policy to counter the spread of nuclear and chemical weapons held by "rogue states" or terrorist groups, Defence Secretary Les Aspin said on Tuesday.

"The old nuclear danger that we faced was thousands of warheads in the Soviet Union," he said.

"The new nuclear danger we face is perhaps a handful of nuclear devices in the hands of rogue states or even terrorist groups."

Because of the breakup of the former Soviet Union and the spread of technology and materials, he said the United States and its allies must deal with what he called "loose nukes" that might become available on a nuclear black market.

He said he would discuss the plan with US allies during meetings with Nato allies in Brussels later this week.

He told a National Academy of Sciences panel that more than 30 countries, many of them hostile to the West, had now or were developing nuclear, biological or chemical weapons and at least a dozen had ballistic missiles to deliver them.

He outlined a shift in US policy to continue to try to

non-nuclear penetrating bombs to deal with underground installations such as those used by Iraq in the Gulf war and by other countries to develop new weapons.

The US is also seeking better ways to locate mobile launchers like those Iraq used to fire Scud missiles.

Washington also wants to develop improved theatre missile defence systems to supersede the Patriot missile system used to shoot down Scuds in the Gulf war.

Mr Aspin said the Defence Department would work with the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies to improve its ability to locate weapons of mass destruction and the facilities where they were made.

Pentagon officials said they could not put a price tag on the redirected effort, but said it would run into hundreds of million of dollars easily. — Reuter, NYT.

US conducted 204 secret N-weapon tests during Cold War: Page 2

block the spread of these weapons.

But, he said, if that failed, it must also protect itself against their use, under a "defence counterproliferation initiative".

He said the Pentagon planned to beef up US ability to destroy these weapons if its troops were threatened and to improve intelligence about where the weapons were.

To carry out its new programme, the Defence Department plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to buy new vaccines to inoculate troops against germ warfare and develop new bombs to incinerate chemical and biological weapons stocks, among other steps.

In a stark warning to potential adversaries, the Pentagon also said it would produce more powerful munitions to blow up underground command posts used by Third World leaders who directed the use of the most deadly weapons.

Mr Aspin and other Pentagon officials said the US was working on improved

Delegates show both optimism and panic

Uruguay Round launches final push

GENEVA — After seven years of talking, negotiators from more than 100 nations in the Gatt Uruguay Round yesterday launched into a final week-long push to clinch a global deal that could pull the world economy firmly out of recession.

As delegates filed into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade headquarters on the north bank of Lake Geneva, there was both optimism that a deal may finally be in sight, as well as panic — and some bitterness — over the number of obstacles still to be overcome by a Dec 15 deadline.

The hurdles were underlined by the failure of the world's two biggest traders, the United States and the European Community, to settle all their own differences in days of frantic effort despite clear political will to cut a deal.

And Japan, the third major player on the trade scene, warned that although a treaty was within reach there was "a long way to go" before US-EC accords could be adapted into a final agreement by all 116 nations in the Uruguay Round.

Washington and Brussels came tantalisingly close to settling an almost non-stop 24-hour session from Monday to Thursday morning,

'We have made so much progress, there is so much at stake that it simply can't be possible to believe that a deal of this magnitude is not going to be reached.'

— EC Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan.

settling a long list of disputes, including apparently the vital issue of reducing farm subsidies.

Even France, the country that has long been seen as the biggest obstacle to a deal, expressed satisfaction with the US-EC talks.

But the trade giants remained deadlocked over European subsidies to aircraft manufacturers and to the film and music industry. Aircraft and entertainment are America's two biggest exports.

Officials from the two sides expressed optimism about settling their differences over the two sectors and, abandoning their separate effort in Brussels, agreed to move into full talks with all the Round partners in Geneva in the hope that their outstanding problems could be solved along the way.

US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said on Tuesday he was "disappointed but not discouraged what

soever" after his marathon talks in Brussels with the EC Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan.

Mr Kantor stressed that a Gatt deal could not be finalised without an end to the audio-visual dispute.

But he asserted that "there is absolutely and without a doubt enough time" to meet the Dec 15 deadline, while Sir Leon commented:

"We have made so much progress, there is so much at stake that it simply can't be possible to believe that a deal of this magnitude is not going to be reached."

Gatt Director-General Peter Sutherland also expressed "confidence" about prospects for a global deal after Mr Kantor briefed him on the Brussels talks.

"I still believe the course of concluding the round is on track," he said.

But Japan cautioned that US-EC

progress was not enough and warned that a stiff US position on anti-dumping rules and financial services, the latter of which is aimed at wringing concessions from Tokyo, could cause the global talks to break down.

"If the US persists in everything it has put on the table, yes, it can be a deal-breaker," said Mr Koro Bessho, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official, after a meeting of top Gatt negotiators on Tuesday evening in Geneva.

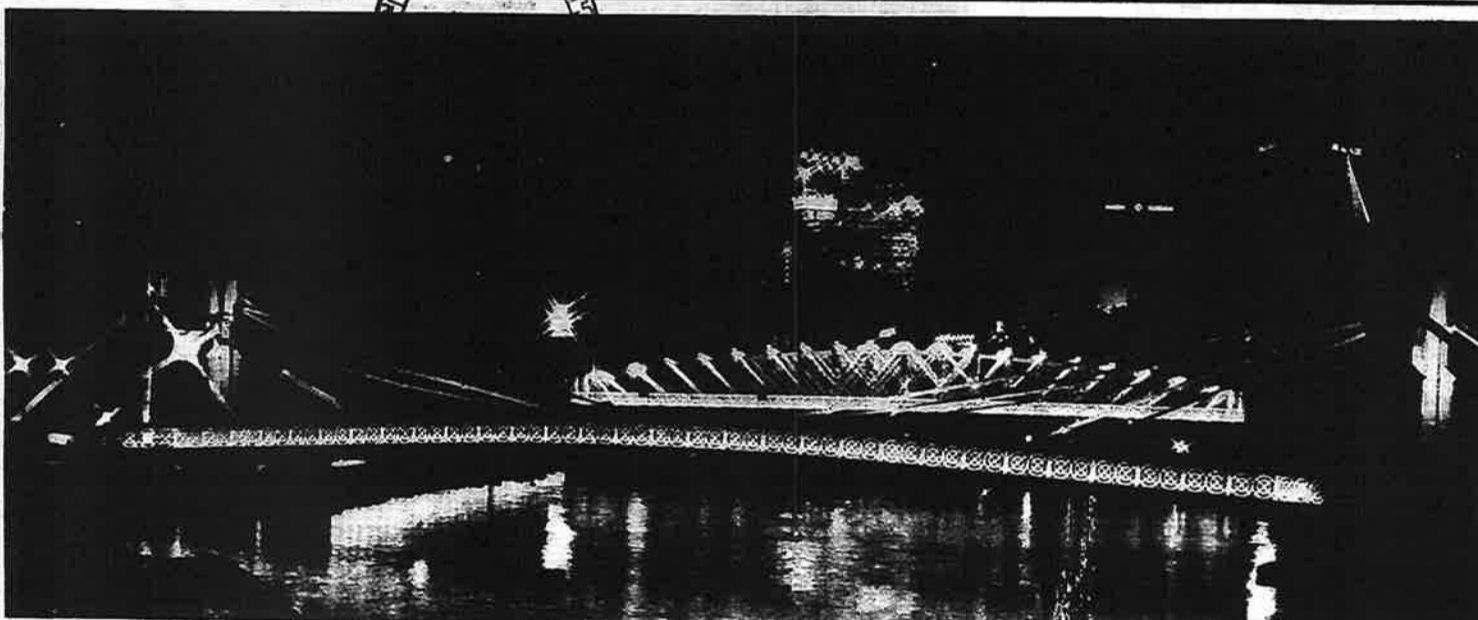
A Gatt deal is expected to pump more than US\$200 billion (\$317.2 billion) annually into the sluggish world economy.

The Dec 15 deadline has been set because after then President Clinton's authority to negotiate the agreement for the US runs out.

The US Congress would then have the right to amend any agreement, which would take months and risk unravelling the entire accord. — Reuter, AP, IHT, NYT.

Japan lashes out at US-EC brinkmanship

Japan, S. Korea, Taiwan yielding on rice issue: Page 8



Cavendish Bridge (foreground) and Anderson Bridge will be lit up along their structures and their underpasses from New Year's Eve. — Picture by GEORGE GASCON.

4 bridges along S'pore River to be lit

FOUR bridges along the Singapore River will be lit up at night from New Year's Eve as part of the effort to bring the Civic District to life.

The light-up will also launch the Singapore River and Civic District as a base for New Year celebrations in the tradition of New York's Times Square and Trafalgar

Square in London.

The \$1 million project by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board will see the Anderson, Cavendish, Elgin and Coleman bridges lit up artistically, both along their structures and their underpasses.

On New Year's Eve, the lights will be on from 8 pm to 7 am the following morning. After that, the bridges will be lit from 7 pm to midnight permanently.

Last night, the media and invited guests were shown a sneak preview of the light-up.

Mr Pek Hock Thiam, executive director of the STPB, which is spearheading the project, said he saw the river-side as a place where all Singaporeans and visitors know they can converge to welcome the New Year in a fun way.

"If this is to happen, it has to come from Singaporeans and visitors who are in Singapore for the New Year. It must evolve on its own."

"After all, no one organises anything to attract New Year revelers to Times Square or Trafalgar Square."

The STPB is working on the project with the Civic

District Steering Committee, particularly the Public Works Department.

The board is also linking the bridges along both sides of the river with a "bracelet" of light.

The lighting design was undertaken by French consultant Louis Clair of Light Cities, which has projects in cities such as Paris, Lyon and London.

The lights are energy-saving ones, and powering them will cost \$25 a day, or just over \$20,000 a year, in elec-

tricity consumption and another \$200 to \$4,000 a year in maintenance costs.

A total of 571 m of neon lights were used, and they accentuate the structural lines of the bridges, highlight the bridge railings and create reflections in the water.

On a clear evening, when the water is still, a mirror reflection of the bridges in the water can be achieved.

The guests were impressed by the light-up, but

said more could be done.

Said one: "There should be more activities in the area. Lighting the bridges is not enough to bring life to the area."

But the STPB's senior director (development), Mrs Pamela Lee, said the light-up is just one of the methods that will be used to add life to the Civic District.

She added that the STPB is planting the seeds, but it is up to Singaporeans to help them grow. And she is confident that they will.

She said: "Five years ago, there was no Boat Quay, no Clarke Quay, no boat rides. The river area is a very important historical place for us, it's something unique."

To get the ball rolling, the STPB has talked to businesses in the Civic District in an effort to get them to put up special New Year's Eve activities.

Mrs Lee said that restaurants, pubs, hotels and other establishments in Boat Quay, Clarke Quay, Marina Square and Raffles City have indicated that they will have promotions to cater to the New Year and ensure a solid body of party-goers.

Advertisement for BIGSTON Digital Colour TV. Features include Multi-System PAL/SECAM B/G/D/K, 3D Stations Digital Tuning, and Lead Display Channel. Price: S\$1,299.00.

Lucky draw prize that wasn't

A JUNIOR immigration officer thought he had won a lucky draw when he found that \$20,000 had been credited to his bank account.

When Gnan Sekharan Pragasam, 31, checked he found that he had not won anything, but decided to go ahead and spend the money anyway.

It turned out that the Immigration Department had credited his account in error.

Mr Pragasam had ordered the Government to pay junior immigration officers their arrears.

An extra \$75,990.20 was credited into Gnan's POSB bank savings account when he was entitled to only \$22,122.

No details of the selection process were revealed, but he was told that he had won.

A district court heard that he checked his account on Feb 17 last year and realised \$20,000 had been credited.

At first, he thought he had won a prize in a lucky draw conducted by State authorities where he had shopped.

He withdrew \$1,000 before finding out that he had not won anything. He realised

this year he had withdrawn all the money, and spent \$5,570 at lawyers and public.

A police report was made on Feb 2 this year Gnan was arrested at Woodlands checkpoint the next day.

Yesterday, District Judge Lee Wee Ping sentenced him to nine months' jail and ordered him to pay \$75,990.20 in compensation to the Accountant-General.

Gnan admitted misappropriating the sum between Feb 12 last year and Jan 18 this year. If he does not pay up, he will serve another six months' jail in default.

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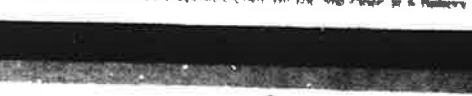
Table with 2 columns: CURRENCY (10,000 units) and RATES (12 month deposit). Rows include Deutchemerk (5.1250% p.a.), Sterling Pound (4.5625% p.a.), New Zealand Dollar (4.0000% p.a.), Australian Dollar (3.7500% p.a.), and US Dollar (2.8750% p.a.).

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HOME

Pre-paid medical services can work here, says expert

FAMILY doctors group together to offer a range of medical services for a fixed fee per patient.

They treat patients for common ailments, and tie up with specialists and hospitals to give them more sophisticated care when they need it.

There is a place for such a set-up in Singapore, said visiting health economics expert Brian Abel-Smith yesterday.

He is a health consultant with the World Health Organisation and with many countries. Prof Abel-Smith was responding to a question during a seminar on comparative health care systems in the developed world. He highlighted the different ways in which countries finance their health-care systems.

Dr W.R. Rasanayagam, a general practitioner, pointed out during question time that in Singapore, Medisave is used mainly to pay for hospitalisation and not for primary health care.

Perhaps a health maintenance organisation (HMO) that offers comprehensive medical treatment for a fixed fee could step in, he said.

In his reply, Prof Abel-Smith, who is here to present two public lectures as a Lee Kuan Yew Distinguished Visitor, said there is no reason why HMOs, common in the US, cannot work for the primary health-care sector here.

Elaborating later, he told The Straits Times there will be people who prefer the se-



Prof Abel-Smith: There will be people who prefer the security of such a service.

He said Britain had in 1991 started a plan to let GPs buy hospital services for their patients. This helped control medical costs as GPs would not refer patients to hospitals unnecessarily. GPs also made sure hospital specialists gave value-for-money care.

Several of the 300 doctors and health-care workers at the seminar held at the Health Ministry in College Road supported the proposal.

Dr Neo Eak Chan, a GP,

Singapore has a different value system and has evolved its own way of financing health care, he said. Here, financing is also based on solidarity, but within the family.

Prof Abel-Smith's first talk on Friday is on cost containment in health care.

His second next Wednesday is on value for money in health care. Both lectures will be held at the National University of Singapore and are open to the public.

said a pre-paid plan would be preferable to the current "fee-for-service" here as it makes sure doctors and patients keep within their budget.

It also forces those running the HMO to think of ways to stretch the health dollar, he said.

Health economist Phua Kai Houg agreed that HMOs could work in the primary health care sector, but said there are misconceptions about HMOs that need to be addressed first.

Among these is the fear that quality of medical care would fall because fixed fees are charged, he said.

In his 90-minute lecture earlier, Prof Abel-Smith traced the development of the European health care systems, noting that these nations believed in the principle of solidarity, or pooling money, to finance health care.

Thus cross-subsidies emerged, allowing the healthy or those who earned more to help subsidise the sick or poor.

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Mindef to move some offices into Depot Rd tower this week

THE first of Mindef's departments will move from Cable Car Towers where they are housed to their spanking new premises in Depot Road Camp this week.

They will occupy premises in the camp's two new tower blocks.

The offices include the National Service Personnel Centre, Mindef Notification Centre and SAF Personnel Services Centre.

A Mindef statement yesterday, said about 20 Mindef and Singapore Armed Forces departments will move there.

One of the blocks, the 22-storey high Tower B, was completed this month. Tower A is expected to be ready by the end of next year.

Mindef said the blocks were designed to have "intelligent-building" features on environmental planning, telecommunications, and building automation systems.

National Service Personnel Centre, previously known as the Reservist Personnel Centre will shift today. Its new address will be 11th storey, Tower B, Depot Road Camp, Depot Road, Singapore 0410, phone 2773245. The fax number is unchanged.

Mindef Notification Centre (MNC), the office NSmen have to notify for travels overseas, will shift to the 10th storey of Tower B on Saturday. MNC will continue to operate during the shift, albeit using telephone operators during a short period when its automated system will be down.

The MNC's telephone and fax numbers remain unchanged. NSmen who wish to notify Mindef personally should go to the new office.

SAF Personnel Services Centre, which oversees welfare schemes and benefits for SAF servicemen, will move on Dec 14 and 15.

Enquiries on the SAF Group Insurance Scheme and the repayment of financial-assistance loans can be made at the new address and on the 24-hour hotline - 278-4141 from Thursday, Dec 16.

Applications by National Servicemen key appointment holders for holiday chalets can be made at the same address and telephone number.

Trainee teachers try army life



At the Paya Lebar Airbase, Staff Sergeant Allan Goh shows National Institute of Education trainee teachers on the National Awareness programme why pilots have to re-learn how to breathe and speak while in flight. - Picture by TAN SUAN ANN.

WAKE-UP calls and physical training at 5 am were not what trainee teachers had in mind when they signed up for their teaching course at the National Institute of Education (NIE).

But since Monday, 95 of them have been staying at the Singapore Armed Forces' Nee Soon Camp to experience military life.

They are the second batch of trainee teachers attending the biannual National Awareness programme jointly organised by the NIE and the Ministry of Defence.

According to the organisers, the five-day residential course is meant to impart na-

tion-building values to the trainees so that they can, in turn, convey them to their students.

The participants, from the postgraduate diploma course, volunteered for the temporary stint in the army. It is being held during their year-end vacation.

Yesterday, 34 trainee teachers from one of three groups in the programme visited the Paya Lebar Airbase to understand how pilots are trained for air combat.

Their itinerary also includes a Navy sortie, a tour of the elite commando unit at Changi, a first-hand look at medical evacuations on a bat-

tlefield, a tour of defence industries and World War II battlefield sites.

Over the week, they will also be given talks on value systems, national policies and civil defence issues.

The NIE trainees have to manage their own activities and housekeeping in the barracks, and will be guided by army instructors.

While their routine is a much watered-down version of army life, it is no holiday camp.

In the course of learning leadership and management skills, they are also expected to eat with full-time National Servicemen, take orders and

wake up for morning physical training.

Most of the trainees are women. For Miss Tan Soon Lee, 24, the tours round the military bases were an eye-opener, and the lectures gave an important historical perspective on defence policies.

The group also includes several NSmen. Said one, Mr Prakash Nair, 26: "As National Servicemen, we just concentrated on our jobs and did not get to see the full picture like the rationale behind certain policies. After the talks and debates, it is a much clearer picture now."

Fixed fee for medical services gaining favour: Health economist

PAYING a fixed fee for medical services is a trend which is finding favour in more countries, said Professor Brian Abel-Smith.

But this is not a new phenomenon. As early as 1883, doctors in Europe accepted a flat fee for each person covered by a health plan.

In his lecture, the eminent World Health Organisation health economist said that in the 19th century, groups of people contracted with doctors who were put on a retainer.

If someone fell ill and

went to see the doctor, the cost of treatment and medicine would come out of the flat retainer.

Eventually, bigger groups formed and made similar capitation deals with doctors.

The advantages of these organisations were that the patient had the care he needed at a fixed premium while doctors were assured of an income.

However, doctors were unhappy with the scheme as they felt the payment was inadequate. Growing unhappiness eventually led to the fee-

for-service payment system.

But, Prof Abel-Smith said, with cost containment being a major issue in health care services around the world, capitation is becoming more popular.

Britain and the Netherlands are among the countries which have adopted a full flat-rate system. Other countries, such as Denmark, have a partial capitation system.

In the US, there are Health Management Organisations which provide or arrange for comprehensive health care for members.

Let there be light at the riverfront

EVERY time businessman Ong Beng Seng passed the dark bridges across the Singapore River, he thought about the same bright idea.

Let there be light, mused Mr Ong, the director of Hotel Properties Ltd (HPL). He not only mooted the idea, but also paid for the design study for the lighting-up project.

The study, by French consultant Louis Clair, cost \$100,000.

The result: the Anderson, Caven-

agh, Elgin and Coleman bridges along

the Singapore River will be lit up at night from New Year's Eve.

Yesterday, Mr Ong told The Straits Times: "I felt the bridges were very dark. Human beings are attracted to light. So I thought lighting them up would be a good idea."

"The bridges, especially Elgin Bridge, are historical. They are among the oldest parts of the road system."

Elgin Bridge, with a steel frame, was built in 1862. Coleman Bridge, which is now constructed from pre-

stressed concrete, was first built in 1840, while Cavenagh Bridge, the only suspension bridge in Singapore, was put up in 1868-70.

The Anderson Bridge, made of steel, was constructed in 1910.

Mr Ong said that originally, he thought of undertaking the light-up himself, but later decided to pass the project over to the STPB.

"Our waterfront is very good. We should light it up too. And buildings in the Civic District should be lit up too."

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DALAM NEGERI

Pelancaran awal skim urus rawatan

Boon Heng: Bakti NTUC kepada masyarakat

KOPERATIF insuran kesatuan sekerja (NTUC Income) dijangka melaksanakan skim pengurusan rawatan kesihatan yang diberi nama Managed Healthcare System (MHS) lebih awal daripada yang dijangkakan.

Walaupun tidak memberi butir-butir lanjut mengenai, Setiausaha Agung NTUC, Encik Lim Boon Heng, berkata skim itu pada mulanya dijadual dilaksanakan dalam enam bulan pertama tahun depan.

Tetapi memandangkan bahawa kakitangan perkhidmatan awam akan mempunyai skim baru faedah rawatan mulai 1 Januari depan, maka NTUC Income akan cuba melaksanakan MHS secepat mungkin.

Skim MHS itu bertujuan membantu anggota kesatuan sekerja menguruskan kos rawatan kesihatan mereka.

Berucap di majlis jamuan memperingati Hari NTUC Income yang ditubuhkan 23 tahun lalu, Encik Lim, yang juga Menteri Tanpa Portfolio, menggariskan tiga bidang ut-

ma yang harus diberikan perhatian oleh koperatif itu dalam menghadapi cabaran masa depan, iaitu:

■ Memainkan peranan penting dalam hal penjagaan kesihatan.

■ Meningkatkan nilai aset para pekerja.

■ Menyediakan keperluan para penduduk dalam usia tua.

Mengenai penjagaan kesihatan, Encik Lim berkata NTUC Income bersama-sama Koperatif Penjagaan Kesihatan NTUC sedang giat menghubungi kesatuan-kesatuan sekerja, kumpulan-kumpulan majikan perubatan bagi mendapatkan sokongan mereka terhadap MHS.

Berhubung dengan usaha meningkatkan aset para pekerja pula, Encik Lim berkata:

"NTUC Income boleh mengambil peluang mereka dan memasarkan rancangan-rancangan pelaburan yang sesuai bagi memenuhi keperluan para pekerja."

Sebagai contoh, beliau menyebut tentang Bon Pela-

buran yang mula diperkenalkan dalam 1975 dan kini membuahkan hasil yang menggalakkan.

Untuk memenuhi keperluan penduduk berusia tua pula, beliau berkata koperatif insuran itu harus mengusahakan rancangan-rancangan faedah persaraan yang lebih baik, termasuk menyediakan perlindungan penjagaan kesihatan.

Katanya, NTUC Income harus memperkemas kakitangan pengurusannya dan terus berusaha mendapatkan para pengurus yang berpengalaman, mahir dan benar-benar memahami kaedah moden dalam bidang pengurusan.

Encik Lim kemudian merakamkan penghargaan kepada NTUC Income atas kejayaan bukan saja dalam memajukan lagi perniagaannya tetapi yang lebih penting lagi memberi khidmat kepada para pekerja dan masyarakat amnya.

Jambatan S'pura hidup bernyala



BERMANDI CAHAYA: Jambatan Coleman adalah antara empat jambatan yang dihias begitu rupa sehingga membuat anda berasa seolah-olah berada di kota Paris.

INDAH dan penuh bercahaya, seolah-olah seperti sedang melewati jambatan di kota Paris dan London.

Begitulah yang dapat anda jangkakan apabila anda melalui empat jambatan besar Singapura — Anderson, Cavenagh, Elgin dan Coleman — tidak lama lagi.

Projek menghidupkan lampu pada empat jambatan itu kini hampir selesai. Keindahannya boleh dinikmati ramai mulai 1 Januari depan.

Demikian dinyatakan oleh Pengarah Kanan, Lembaga Penggalak Pelancongan Singapura (STPB), Cik Pamela Lee, dalam sidang akhbar semalam.

Projek itu bertujuan mencantikkan lagi jambatan dan memberi nafas baru kepada kehidupan malam Singapura.

"Kota Singapura yang sejuk dan romantis pada malam hari amat menyenangkan untuk dinikmati orang."

pu pada jambatan itu, ia lebih memperindah lagi ciri-ciri yang sedia ada," ujarnya.

Menurut Cik Lee, kerja tambahan seperti meletakkan lampu pada gerbang akan menimbulkan suasana benar-benar sedang memandu atas jambatan.

Setiap lampu diarahkan pada hala yang berbeza agar keindahannya terpelihara sepenuhnya.

la juga menggunakan ref-

leksi air sebagai menghidupkan lagi suasana malam pada jambatan itu.

"Jambatan Singapura masih kaya dengan nilai seninya. Jadi, mengapa tidak dipelihara warisan ini?"

"Setiap sudut kerja penambahan diberi perhatian yang teliti agar lampu itu tidak kelihatan hodoh pada siang dan malam hari," tambah Cik Lee.

Kerja memasang 367 lampu itu menelan belanja \$1

juta. Ia mula dihidupkan pada malam tahun baru nanti sepanjang malam. Pada hari biasa, ia dinyalakan dari 7 hingga 12 tengah malam.

Lampu itu direka khas oleh perundingcara Perancis, Encik Louis Clair, yang terkenal dengan kerjanya di Paris, London dan Jepun.

Satu lagi projek menghubungkan lampu jambatan dengan pinggir sungai itu juga sedang dilakukan.

ZON TERBATAS

Lesen sepanjang hari bagi Jan. kini dijual

SKIM Melesen Kawasan (ALS) sepanjang hari akan dilaksanakan mulai 3 Januari tahun depan.

Lesen sepanjang hari dan lesen sebahagian hari bulanan untuk tempoh Januari itu

6.30 petang dari Isnin hingga Jumaat dan antara 7.30 pagi dengan 3 petang Sabtu dan malam perayaan Tahun Baru, Tahun Baru Cina, Hari Raya Puasa, Deepavali dan Krismas.

Usaha jamin ruang udara bersih

Abdullah gembira dengan kemajuan ke arah sekitaran bermutu di rantau ini

NEGARA-NEGARA Ascan sedang berusaha mencapai Indeks Persekitaran Pencemaran (PSI) di bawah paras 100 bagi tahun 2010.

Buat masa ini, pelbagai program dalam peringkat nasional sedang dirancang oleh

yang berlangsung hingga 10 Disember.

Semasa berucap merasmikan bengkel itu di Hotel Carlton semalam, Menteri Negara (Sekitaran), Encik Abdullah Tarmugi, berkata:

"Negara Ascan sedang

dioksida, nitrogen dioksida, karbon monoksida dan ozon di ruang udara.

Ukuran itu kemudian dinyatakan dalam bentuk indeks — dalam kategori baik, sederhana, tidak sihat, amat tidak sihat dan merbahaya.

dari Amerika berkongsi pengetahuan dengan peserta tentang penggunaan PSI, termasuk teknik mengawas bagi mendapatkan data pengiraan PSI.

Sementara itu, pelbagai program nasional sedang di-

sekitar yang bergerak dan yang tidak bergerak," kata Encik Abdullah.

Beliau melahirkan kegembiraannya dengan kemajuan dan usaha ke arah sekitaran yang bermutu di rantau ini.

"Saya percaya dengan

S'pura undang Lat beri ceramah

Oleh NOORAIMI HAMZAH dari Kuala Lumpur

SINGAPURA telah mengundang kartunis terkenal

HOME

Students learning Malay now say it in Bahasa Baku

SCHOOL WATCH

An occasional focus on what's happening in schools

IT IS no longer "sa-year" for pupils learning Malay in primary schools. When they refer to themselves, they now say "sa-yah".

They are pronouncing words according to Sebutan Baku, which has been adopted by other Malay-speaking countries in the region — Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Sebutan Baku or Standardised Malay Pronunciation is based on phonetics. This means that Malay pronunciation will follow the spelling closely.

Hence, "dua" (two) is pronounced as "du-ah" and not "du-er", which is the way it is generally pronounced in Singapore, which uses the Johor-Riau dialect.

The dialect, named after the way the Malays living in the Johor-Riau region speak, used to be the standard pronunciation in Malaysia as well until the switch to Bahasa Baku was made.

The Minister of State (Education) Sidek Saniff announced last year that Sebutan Baku will be taught in primary schools starting this year. Last week, he said during a visit to two primary schools that he was happy with the progress pupils were making in the use of Sebutan Baku.

Some of the main differences in pronunciation between the two ways of speaking Malay deal with the words ending in "a" and "i".

For instance, the word "bapa" (father), which was pronounced as "ba-per", is now pronounced as "ba-pah".

Words such as "teknologi" (technology), whose pronunciation of "g" ended in "je" will now be spoken as "ghee".

Using Sebutan Baku is expected to help Singaporeans communicate better with Ma-

HOW THEY SOUND IN SEBUTAN BAKU

This is how some well-used words are pronounced in Sebutan Baku, according to an Education Ministry official.

For words ending in "a", the pronunciation changes from "er" to "ah":

- Bapa (father): "Ba-pah" and not "Ba-per"
- Berapa (how many or how much): "Ber-a-pah" and not "Ber-a-per"
- Mata (eye): "Matah" and not "Ma-ter"
- Terima kasih (thank you): "Teri-mah kasih" not "Teri-mer kasih"

For words ending in "gi", the pronunciation changes from "jee" to "ghee":

- Psikologi (psychology): "Si-ko-lo-gi", not "Sai-ko-lo-ji"
- Teknologi (technology): "Tek-no-lo-ghee", not "Tek-no-lo-jee"

Other examples:

- Bilik (room): "Bi-lik", not "Bi-let"
- Buluh (bamboo): "Bu-luh", not "Bu-loh"
- Subjektif (subjective): "Sub-jek-tif", not "Sub-jek tif"
- Unit (unit): "U-nit", not "U-nit"
- Sedikit (few; little): "Ser-di-ki", not "Ser-di-ket"

lays in the region.

Commented Mr Kamiti Naim, 46, general secretary of the Singapore Malay Teachers' Union: "As it is, some parts in Malaysia like Kedah as well as Indonesia have a different way of speaking Malay. With Sebutan Baku, there will be uniformity, so communication will be more effective."

Others, like Madam Jamaliah Mustafa, a Malay language teacher at Opera Estate Primary School with 17 years experience, felt that even non-Malays will benefit from the standardisation of Malay grammar, spelling and pronunciation.

She said: "It will be easier also for the non-Malays, because they will know the pronunciation of Malay words just by looking at them."

Another Malay language teacher, Madam Norazikin Jamar, pointed out the close similarity between pronunciation and spelling. "Sebutan Baku helps a lot in reading and writing. Children do not get mixed-up."

Madam Norazikin, who teaches Sebutan Baku in Puchong Primary, added that Primary 1 children, especially, had adapted very well.

For Fastal Rizal Alias, 12,

of Anglo Chinese Junior School, the new pronunciation meant more interesting classes with role-playing opportunities. Faizal and his classmates often get to act out plays in Bahasa Baku as part of his school's plan to promote the language.

But Sec 3 student Miranti Abdillah of Katong Convent said it was difficult adjusting to the new way, and she and her friends tended to lapse into the Johor-Riau pronunciation outside of school hours.

Light-up for four bridges on S'pore River

FOUR bridges on the Singapore River will be lit to bring life to the city area at night before the end of this year.

The lighting up of the Anderson, Cavenagh, Elgin and Coleman bridges by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board will cost \$1 million.

The STPB's senior director for development, Mrs Pamela Lee, said the lights will highlight the bridges' structure and intricate metalwork.

In a second phase of the project, the STPB plans to introduce special festive lighting, with lasers and coloured lights, which will be turned on during festive occasions.

The permanent lighting, specially designed by French consultant Louis Clair, will use energy-efficient equipment and white and yellow lights. It will cost \$42,000 a year to operate the lights.

Tenders have been invited and will be awarded by the end of the month.

The bridges project is part of the STPB's Perfecting the Jewel plan, under which special "soft" touches will be added to refine Singapore's tourism product.

Later, buildings in the Civic District will also be lit.

The idea for the bridge light-up was initiated by Mr Ong Beng Seng, the managing director of Hotel Properties Ltd, who paid for the first consultancy study for the project. The STPB subsequently

took over the project.

Said Mrs Lee: "Only the key features of the bridges will be lit for a dramatic visual effect. We have to take care that they are not 'over-lit'. The total effect should be romantic."

"We have a beautiful city, and we are trying to make it more beautiful at night so instead of staying at home and watching television, people will take a stroll by the river-side."

The fact that the bridges are different in design makes it easier to have distinctive lighting for them, she added.

The Anderson and Cavenagh bridges are made of steel, while Elgin Bridge has a concrete arch. Coleman Bridge has metalwork on its sides.

The lighting will take advantage of these designs. For example, the lights will emphasise the strong structural lines and railings of Cavenagh Bridge.

Mrs Lee emphasized that the light-up would be energy-efficient. A team of STPB and government officials which made a study trip to look at lighting projects in European cities such as Paris and London also studied the use of energy-efficient equipment.

"We found that if the lighting is properly designed and if energy-efficient equipment is used, it can produce a lot of light, but will consume less electricity," she said.

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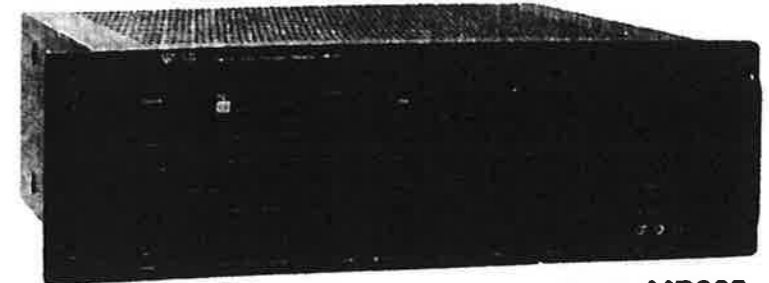
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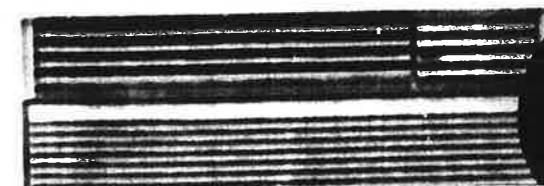
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Les Miserables

DALAM NEGERI

Manfaatkan skim bantuan niaga serantau

Komodor Teo: Walau pemerintah bantu, usaha teroka di tangan peniaga Melayu

PARA peniaga Melayu harus memanfaatkan skim-skin bantuan yang disediakan oleh pemerintah untuk meluaskan perniagaan mereka di peringkat serantau. Ini disarankan oleh Menteri Negara (Kewangan dan Perubangan), Komodor (Kerakan) Teo Chee Hean...

DPMS lakar arah cabaran baru

DEWAN Perniagaan Melayu Singapura (DPMS) telah melakar arah yang baru bagi pembangunan masyarakat niaga Melayu yang canggih dan dinamik. Lakaran itu disesuaikan dengan perubahan dan penampilan sekitar perniagaan dan suasana politik dunia yang berubah-ubah. Itulah antara cabaran baru yang dibawa oleh DPMS...



TAK MENDUGA: Cik Salmah hantar tiket selepas diingatkan rakan.

Projek \$1j sinari jambatan di Sungai S'pura

EMPAT jambatan di sepanjang Sungai Singapura akan dijadikan daya penarik yang bermandikan cahaya lampu berwarna-warni di bawah satu projek bernilai sekitar \$1 juta. Deretan lampu juga dipasang bak rantai berkilauan untuk 'menghubungkan' Jambatan Anderson dengan Jambatan Cavenagh...

Tuah datang meluncur

SETELAH membeli sebuah televisyen, Cik Salmah Masdar langsung lupa tentang tiket cabutan nombor bertuah yang diterimanya. Tetapi bak kata pepatah untung sabut timbul, untung batu tenggelam, kawan Cik Salmah mengingatkan dan beliau sempat menghantar tiket itu sehari sebelum perayaan ditutup — dan ia terpilih memenangi hadiah utama. Semalam, Cik Salmah, 30 tahun, seorang suri rumah, tersenyum lebar kerana menjadi pemilik kereta jenis Daewoo 1.5 litre Racer.

Misi peruncit ke China tinjau pasaran

SATU delegasi peniaga runcit setempat akan melawat China minggu depan untuk memeriksa pasaran di sana. Rombongan tersebut akan melawat beberapa buah tempat termasuk Beijing, Tianjin dan Shanghai. Semasa ke tempat-tempat itu, rombongan tersebut akan melakukan kunjungan ke pejabat-pejabat pemerintah serta sumber-sumber perdagangan, di samping memajukan khidmat perunding cara masing-masing dalam bidang perniagaan runcit.

Asatizah kini boleh anggotai SKSGMS

Langkah peringkat taraf sebagai tenaga pengajar. Para asatizah setempat kini berpeluang menjadi anggota Syarikat Kerjasama Serbaguna Guru-Guru Melayu Singapura (SKSGMS). Ini menyusul pemindaan peraturan SKSGMS untuk memperluas keanggotaannya demi membantu mempertingkatkan ekonomi masyarakat Islam Singapura. Pengerusi SKSGMS, Encik Khairun Ali, berkata langkah itu juga secara langsung meningkatkan ekonomi asatizah dan taraf mereka sebagai tenaga pengajar.

Advertisement for 'Salah Satu' furniture store. It features various furniture items like sofas, chairs, and tables with prices. Text includes 'Jualan perabot yang termurah dan terbaik' and 'Salah Satu' logo.

CBD kurang sibuk, trafik lancar

Ramai pemilik kereta dijangka elak pusat bandar. MASALAH kenderaan yang menderu masuk ke Kawasan Pusat Bandar (CBD) sejaru selepas lampu di gerbang zon terbatas (RZ) dimatikan, akan berakhir. Malah, perjalanan trafik di CBD dijangka bergerak lebih licin — tidak lagi tersendat-sendat seperti sekarang. Demikian kata beberapa pemilik kenderaan mengenai lesen skim Bayaran Manual Kenderaan (MRP) yang akan dilaksanakan 2 Januari depan.

Harga COE naik paling tinggi

MELAINKAN motosikal, harga kenderaan kategori Sijil Hak Memilik Kenderaan (COE) bagi bulan depan terus melambung tinggi dengan kenaikan terbesar pada kategori terbuka. Keputusan taruhan yang dikeluarkan oleh Pejabat Pendaftaran Kenderaan (ROV) semalam menunjukkan kenaikan itu meletakkannya harga COE kali ini sebagai yang tertinggi tahun ini. COE bagi kategori terbuka, misalnya, naik daripada \$22,820 bulan ini kepada \$28,420 — meningkat \$5,600. Ini diikuti oleh kategori 1,601-2,000 cc yang meningkat \$4,700 iaitu daripada \$22,000 kepada \$26,700.