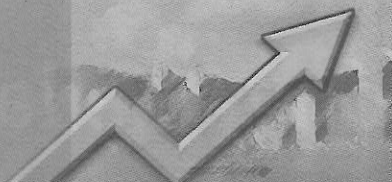


Central Station



Students take aim at gangster link

The case of Leung Chun-ying's backers breaking bread, so to speak, with a former gangster is getting curiouser and curiouser.

Now even students from the University of Hong Kong want to know the inside story.

Its students union placed full-page ads in eight Chinese-language newspapers urging the chief executive contender to explain the matter.

The ads cost about HK\$300,000 – and the union insists it came out of its pockets and not from donations.

Leung's campaign director Fanny

Law Fan Chiu-fun and deputies Lau Ping-cheung and Tang Shuk-tak, along with core supporter Lew Mon-hung, attended a dinner last month with Kwok Wing-hung – nicknamed Shanghai Tsai – and several Heung Yee Kuk members.

The student union, led by president Chan Koon-hong, has expressed grave concerns over whether Leung's camp deliberately invited Kwok and relied on his influence to induce Election Committee members from the kuk to vote for him.



You can add color to purple campaign

Whenever we want to have fun we round up the gang and paint the town red, but some kind-hearted people who want to spread cheer hope we'll also Paint the Town Purple.

That's the clarion call for Enlighten Action for Epilepsy, which is trying to raise awareness of the disorder and improve the quality of life of people who suffer from it.

Purple is the color associated with epilepsy and March is Epilepsy Awareness Month.

There is a stigma that surrounds

the disorder, says organizer Shyamala Padmasola.

It was only in June 2010 that the Cantonese term for epilepsy was changed to *no gan tsing* from *dean gan tsing*. *Dean* is synonymous with being crazy.

To help, people are encouraged to wear purple, donate a purple HK\$10 note, or participate on Purple Day, March 26.

There are other suggestions as well on www.enlightenhk.org/index.php/purple.

Price of larger yuan notes weighed

Mainlanders shouldn't put their money on larger yuan notes coming out soon.

China will move cautiously on issuing bills with a face value more than 100 yuan, says Hu Xiaolian, the central bank vice governor.

She said if there were larger notes people would lose more if they

become victims of counterfeit scams. As for the matter of convenience – the main argument of those clamoring for bigger bills – Hu says debit cards are widely available.

"Convenience in making payments and preventing counterfeiting are two issues that must be considered," she said.

Meeting fifway

Firemen have vowed to press ahead with industrial action starting tomorrow.

At the center of the dispute are working conditions. The staff side wants the work week reduced from the current 54 hours to 48 hours – in line with other discipline services.

The Fire Services Department says the reduction can't be that drastic without incurring extra costs. At most, it can cut the hours to 51, but night shift manpower would need to be streamlined.

The tussle isn't over, but it's reassuring to hear both sides say emergency services won't be affected during the three days of work-to-rule action.

As far as residents are concerned, it's important that disagreements don't spill over to the public domain and affect safety. No matter how the dispute unfolds, this is the cardinal rule that both sides have to

At the departmental level, the gap is a bridge. What's important is that it's the sides to improve the working conditions who have to risk personal safety to save dangerous zones.

I'm sure many are familiar with heroic who lost their lives in the course of duty

The department's baseline is that who society why public safety improvements will be, they should be extra cost. This is consistent with the policy objective that departments should implications when they juggle working at the level of service.

Slicing three hours off instead of six of meeting the union's demand for a 48-hour difference of three hours really so serious can't be reached?

Shortening the week to 51 hours will improvement. Should firemen consider a keep talks going? Why not?

Perhaps conspiracy theorists are tem union and department are indeed on the



from 54 hours.

Civil Service Bureau to boost

when unionists argued the night shift may put public safety headly Fa Yuen Street blaze in

wouldn't do anything to explain its night shift

power was redeployed to day earned high respect in society, their efforts and sacrifices in best places to live in.

of industrial action to fight for hope taken to avoid undermining

Why not?

mailto:editor@thestandard.com.hk

Mary Ma

Talks swirl of Putin

Some days Vladimir Putin, going by his action-man series of staged photo events, be anything from a deep-sea treasure to a martial arts champion to a leather big-bike rider.

For some, the Russian president is a bit of a ladies' man.

Putin has been linked to Alina Kabayeva, a former Olympic gymnastics champion, former beauty contestant and lingerie model Yana Lapikova, his official photograph.

Lately, however, it's being whispered he's having an affair with Anna Chapman.

Since being deported by the United States for espionage, Chapman has been tea business, editing a newspaper and modeling way Chapman – for all intents and purposes never run out of job offers in Russia. And that's between models of the country's most powerful online chatter.



Vladimir Putin has been linked to, from far left, Yana Lapikova, Alina Kabayeva and Anna Chapman.

Weather Bulletin

Today **13/3 Tue**

Temperature

Hi **15°C**

Lo **12°C**

RH Range: **80-95%**

Sunrise today **06:34**

Sunset tonight **18:32**

Tidal Information

01:19	1.6m
05:59	-1.0m
12:45	2.2m
19:12	0.7m

香港天文台
Hong Kong Observatory

Four-day forecast for HK

14/3 Wed	15/3 Thu	16/3 Fri	17/3 Sat
Hi 18°C	21°C	24°C	25°C
Lo 14°C	17°C	19°C	20°C

Dial-a-Weather: **187 8200**

HK Observatory website address:
<http://www.hko.gov.hk>
<http://www.weather.gov.hk>

The Standard's daily average gross circulation: **200,114** (1 July-31 December 2011) ABC

The Standard 英文虎報

Editor-in-Chief Ivan Tong Tel: 27982798 editor@thestandard.com.hk; Executive Editor Steve Shellum Tel: 27982305 steven.shellum@thestandard.com.hk; Business News Editor Bonnie Chen Tel: 27982755 bonnie.chen@singtaonews.com.hk; Sports Editor Gabby Alvarado Tel: 27982896 gabby.alvarado@singtaonews.com.hk; Features Editor Robert Yeap Tel: 27982858 robert.yeap@singtaonews.com.hk; Circulation Tel: 31813355 circulation@thestandard.com.hk; Display Advertising Tel: 31813355 classified@thestandard.com.hk; Subscriptions Tel: 31813355 circulation@thestandard.com.hk; Copyright Permission Tel: 27982844 copyright@singtao.com.hk