

Greece offers \$2m reward as fire toll rises

ATHENS — The Greek authorities yesterday offered up to a million euros (\$2 million) for help to arrest arsonists blamed for starting some of the fires that have been devastating the country, threatening historic sites and killing at least 61 people.

Earlier yesterday, local police had initially feared that fires might engulf Olympia, listed as a world heritage site by Unesco.

The site appeared to be safe later. — AFP

PICTURE: PAGE 12



STAR SIGNING HENRY (LEFT) FAILS TO MAKE AN IMPACT FOR BARCELONA

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INTER ROCKED AFTER GOALIE IS SENT OFF

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Choc-a-block and the threat is growing

Two new centres to treat heart disease and cancer

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THE statistics are worrying. The threat from heart disease and cancer — Singapore's top two killers — looks set to jump, in line with the country's rapidly ageing population.

By the year 2015, just seven years from now, outpatient attendances for heart patients will have risen 60 per cent from the current 200,000 per year, to 320,000. Cancer cases will rise to 13,000 a year — up 44 per cent from 9,000 now.

To cope with this, two more national centres — one for heart and the other, cancer — will be set up at the National University Hospital (NUH) in the coming months, Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan said yesterday.

Currently, patients with heart disease or cancer are treated in all hospitals with the National Heart Centre (NHC) and the National Cancer Centre of Singapore (NCCS) at the Singapore General Hospital's (SGH) Outram campus providing an additional tertiary level of care.

But the NHC is crowded, said Mr Khaw. "If you go and visit them you will see every nook and corner is being made use of, because when we set up NHC it was a much smaller outfit ... I think a new facility for the heart centre is urgently needed."

The situation at NCCS was just as bad — it's "choc-a-block", said Mr Khaw.

If you visit the centres, every nook and corner is being made use of.

— Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan

He said he saw merit in setting up the new centres at NUH instead of expanding the existing ones at SGH, to provide a better spread of healthcare resources throughout the island.

Last year, NUH saw 3,600 new cancer patients last year, an increase of 20 per cent from 2005. For heart dis-

eases, it sees 10,000 new patients and performs 4,000 surgical procedures annually.

The move to set up the new national disease centres follows closely on plans by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to boost Singapore's healthcare capacity with another two hospitals — one expected to be in the north (Woodlands) and another in the west. These are in addition to the new Khoo Teck Puat Hospital being planned for Yishun.

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Army captain dies in race; second such fatality this year

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JUST last month, Captain Ho Si Qiu finished a creditable 23rd out of 1,369 runners at the 10-kilometre Saucony-100Plus Passion Run here.

Yesterday morning, the 25-year-old platoon commander from the Officer Cadet School took on a bigger challenge — the 21-km Singapore Bay Run, also known as the Safran Sheares Bridge Run & Army Half Marathon 2007.

But as he crossed the finishing line at 7am, about one and a half hours after the race started, CPT Ho collapsed and stopped breathing.

Medics attended to him within 30 seconds. At the medical post, an intubation was performed and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, was carried out immediately, but no heart rhythm was detected.

But CPT Ho failed to respond and was sent to the Singapore General Hospital hospital. He was pronounced dead at 8.07am.

Police have classified the case as unnatural death and are investigating.

CPT Ho's death is the second sudden death from running this year — the first athlete who died was 17-year-old Thaddeus

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Army captain dies in race

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cheong in June, just after crossing the finishing line at a national triathlon selection trial for this year’s SEA Games.

Organisers of yesterday’s run, which is into its 16th year, said measures were in place to ensure the safety of the record 70,000 participants, an increase of 5,000 from last year. There were 13 medic points set up and over 100 medical personnel deployed.

Said a spokesman for Safra: “During registration, we advised participants to hydrate during race day, give their bodies adequate recovery time during training, give the bodies a complete rest before the actual race and take fluids at each of our water points.

“They were also advised not to take part if they feel unwell.”

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, the Community Development, Youth and Sports Minister, who participated in the run, along with Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said last night he was saddened by CPT Ho’s death.

But he felt that the organisers had taken all possible safety measures.


Said Dr Balakrishnan: “As I was running, I noticed there were many ambulances, medical teams and medical equipment. This was one event in which the SAF, I believe, made every effort to ensure medical cover was present, was available and was able to move into action immediately.

“At the finish line, CPT Ho was treated by a full medical team, including a doctor. So, at this time, it appears that what measures that could be taken, were taken.”

This latest casualty comes at a time when the National Sports Safety Committee is due to release its report to the Singapore Sports Council (SSC).

The 12-member committee is finetuning the report to ensure all areas of safety are covered and best measures are implemented.

Mr Balakrishnan’s ministry is also studying a preliminary report submitted by the National Sports Safety Committee, and is discussing the findings with relevant sports associations.



What you won't get to see

There's a red moon rising, but chances are, Singaporeans won't get to see much of it. At 5.52pm tomorrow, the moon will turn red during a total lunar eclipse expected to last 90 minutes. As it passes into the shadow cast by the Earth, the moon will only be illuminated by refracted sunlight, consisting mostly of red and yellow wavelengths – hence its red appearance. Also known as the “Blood Moon” eclipse (as seen in this AFP file photo), the last time this occurred was in 2000.

Mr Albert Lim, 48, president of The Astronomical Society of Singapore, said the umbral phase – when the moon is totally obstructed by the Earth's shadow – “will occur during evening daylight here, making it very difficult to observe”.

Mr Lim noted that the moon, at an altitude of -8°, will not be visible during its reddest point in the eclipse, which will occur at 6.37pm. It is only during the partial eclipse, from 7.23pm to 8.24pm, that the red moon may be visible here.

But even then, “it is not likely to be perceptible”, said Mr Lim. “The moon, by then, would have passed its red phase and may appear grayish instead.”

Still, for those who want to try their luck, Changi Beach and East Coast Park will offer the best view.

Another alternative: *The Discovery Channel* will video-stream this event live from three Australian observatories. The streams can be viewed on its South-east Asia, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand websites (www.discovery-channelasia.com/eclipse/) from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

Globally, skywatchers in North and South America, east Asia and Australia will be treated to the best views. — NGIAM YING LAN



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME ISN'T QUITE AS BRILLIANT.



DIFFERENT OUTCOMES

successful because Odex was not the copyright owner or exclusive licensee of all but one *anime* video titled *Mobile Suit Gundam Seed*. For all the rest, it was a mere sub-licensee and, therefore, not entitled to pursue claims for copyright infringement – only copyright owners or exclusive licensees may do so.

Accordingly, the court held that Odex had “no civil right of action under the Copyright Act against the persons whom the identities are sought”.

Copyright infringers should, however, bear in mind that even though Odex may not have the right to pursue such claims, the actual copyright owners or exclusive licensees would have such a right.

It was reported that Odex might appeal against the PacNet decision.

But what about the enforcement action that Odex has already taken?

Should it desist from further pursuing any claims unless it manages to get the PacNet decision reversed?

What about the funds that Odex has collected in settlement of its supposed claims? Is Odex obliged to return those funds if the PacNet decision is not overturned on appeal?

This brings to the fore another aspect of the Odex case – that the Odex letters of demand to subscribers were apparently not sent by lawyers but by Odex itself.

Letters of demand sent by lawyers are subject to rules on legal conduct. For example, a lawyer may not “demand anything other than that recoverable by due process of law”.

Should such provisions be made broader so as to embrace letters of demand sent by persons such as Odex as well?

Otherwise, a client sending out a letter of demand himself – even if after procuring legal advice – may easily circumvent them.

Another interesting snippet from the decision of District Judge Lau concerns the costs incurred by Odex in tracing the copyright infringers.

Odex engaged an American company, BayTSP, to track the copyright infringers. Odex’s Peter Go had quoted an article in his affidavit, which highlighted the low cost of BayTSP’s services – tracing up to 100 files for only \$12 per month, with a setup fee of \$25 for 100 images.

In a notice that has been put up on its website, Odex stated that “many of those who received Odex’s letter have ... settled the matter.

The average amount of compensation paid by those who have settled is about \$3,000 to \$5,000.”

And yet, in a letter issued to the media last week, Odex had said the total amount it has recovered so far “has not covered even 20 per cent of Odex’s enforcement costs”.

The revelation of BayTSP’s low costs heightens the mystery surrounding Odex’s “enforcement costs” and revives the question of whether the quantum of the sums demanded by Odex to settle its claims against copyright infringers is excessive.

In the fog of all the negative perceptions generated by Odex’s pursuit of copyright infringers, it should not be forgotten that copyright infringement is illegal and offenders run the risk of civil and criminal penalties.

But the Odex case has highlighted that all parties involved must pay more than lip service to the due process of the law.

*The writer is a legal academic.
These are his personal views.*

What's your view? Email us at news@newstoday.com.sg

24 motorbikes set ablaze in Woodlands

TWENTY-FOUR motorcycles went up in flames in the wee hours in several multi-storey car parks at Woodlands Circle.

Eye-witnesses said the fire started at a multi-storey car park at about 4.10am. In a space of 12 minutes, they said, fires had broken out in nearby areas.

It appeared that the Woodlands Circle car parks hit by arsonists included Blocks 766A, 768A, 748A and 748.

Civil Defence officers were at the scene and put out the fires in good time. No one was hurt in the incidents and investigations are on-going. — CHANNEL NEWSASIA

\$500,000 more for Islamic studies

SINGAPORE’S Islamic Religious Council (Muis) is injecting \$500,000 into a fund for part-time *madrasah* (religious schools) in mosques.

The fund, which now stands at \$1.2 million, is aimed at ensuring that every Muslim child receives religious education and also at subsidising the training of teachers.

This was announced during the Mosque Madrasah Convention yesterday, to approve the Muis curriculum in all the 68 mosques by 2010. The curriculum, called aL.I.V.E, details religious education for students who do not attend full-time *madrasah*.

Introduced in 2004, the curriculum combines traditional religious education with contemporary teaching methods. It aims to teach young Muslims the practice



TODAY FILE PHOTO

SCHOOL'S IN: The Muis fund has \$1.2 million to ensure all Muslim kids get religious education.

of their faith in a modern, multi-religious environment.

Through the fund, Muis also wants to help children from low-income families attend such classes in the mosques.

— CHANNEL NEWSASIA