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Getting a coffee is not so simple an operation at the agency's headquarters

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POLITICS



Police in riot gear fire tear gas at Occupy Central protesters in Connaught Road Central, Admiralty. Yesterday was the first time tear gas had been deployed by Hong Kong police since 2005. Photo: K.Y. Cheng

TEAR GAS FIRED AS THOUSANDS JOIN OCCUPY

Union leaders call for strikes as police defend hard-line response and Benny Tai admits protest movement's leaders are not in control

Staff Reporters

The streets of Central and Admiralty descended into chaos last night after police in riot gear fired tear gas at protesters as the Occupy Central campaign, a movement that promised "peace and love", escalated.

By midnight there was little sign of the mass protest ending. Thousands of protesters, despite police use of pepper spray, batons and tear gas, occupied the main roads outside the government headquarters complex in Admiralty. Many joined in after hearing of the confrontation from the media, and a smaller blockade began late last night in Causeway Bay, while hundreds occupied a section of Nathan Road in Mong Kok.

But Occupy co-organiser Dr Chan Kin-man urged the protest-

ers to retreat. "It is a matter of life and death ... Retreating does not mean giving up ... Occupy Central has succeeded as long as the spirit of democracy never dies."

He said it was time to plan the next step of the campaign.

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kun, who supports the Occupy Central campaign, said: "We do not want to see anyone get hurt."

Images of officers carrying shotguns, wearing gas masks and chasing protesters in the streets of one of the world's safest metropolises shocked millions watching around the world.

With traffic and public transport in Central and Admiralty at a standstill, there were doubts as to whether the financial centre would open for business today.

Protesters vowed to escalate their action and student leaders urged workers to strike and shops to close. They said they would

boycott classes until Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying resigned and Beijing gave "genuine universal suffrage" to Hong Kong. The Professional Teachers' Union, which has 90,000 members, and the pro-democracy Confederation of Trade Unions echoed the call for strikes.

On the other side, the authorities in Hong Kong and Beijing condemned the protests as illegal

Nobody can stop the protest now. They may only stop if CY Leung steps down

OCCUPY CO-ORGANISER BENNY TAI

and promised firm action. A Hong Kong government spokesman last night urged Occupy Central co-organiser Benny Tai Yiu-ting to honour his earlier promise and end the protest for the sake of Hong Kong's interests and the safety of participants.

Organisers had always said the movement would be peaceful. Tai said last month he would stop the protests if there was violence. Tai, a University of Hong Kong law scholar, admitted the campaign was out of control. "Nobody can stop the protest now. They may only stop if CY Leung steps down," he said.

The last time police had fired tear gas was during the 2005 anti-globalisation protests. Then, the Hong Kong public were largely spectators as officers battled militant South Korean protesters during a World Trade Organisation ministerial conference.

This time, the city's police were pitted against young, local protesters. The scenes left Hong-kongers traumatised and shell-

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shocked. One protester, 13-year-old Matthew Chau, said: "I can't believe police would resort to tear gas ... My eyes hurt so bad."

Police chief Andy Tsang Wai-hung defended the use of tear gas, saying police had a responsibility to "resume social order".

As emotions ran high, wild rumours circulated. Some claimed officers fired rubber bullets at the crowd and that the PLA had been deployed to put down the demonstration.

Government spokesman denied the rumours and said Hong Kong did not ask the PLA for help.

Scholarism convener Joshua Wong Chi-fung and other student leaders were released last night after being detained for

about 40 hours. At least 78 people – including three pan-democrat lawmakers – were arrested and 26 people were taken to hospital.

Occupy leaders announced the immediate launch of the long-planned civil disobedience campaign in the early hours of yesterday. The decision was spurred by clashes at government headquarters between police and students.

The protests were triggered by Beijing's ruling last month that Hong Kong would be able to use one man, one vote to elect the chief executive in 2017, but only two or three candidates could run and they would need majority support from a nominating committee.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Beijing loosens rules for Shanghai free-trade zone

Lucrative shipping sector will be more open to foreign investors in year-old 'mini Hong Kong'

Daniel Ren in Shanghai
ren.wei@scmp.com

Beijing said it was lifting restrictions on foreign investments in several industries, such as the shipping sector, in Shanghai's free-trade zone, a day before the much-hyped "mini Hong Kong" its first year in business.

The policy change follows Premier Li Keqiang's (李克強) statement this month that market forces would be allowed to play a dominant role in the FTZ, touted as a testing ground for sweeping reforms.

According to a circular to ministries and provincial governments from the State Council, more than 20 sectors are to be opened up to overseas investors in the FTZ.

For the first time, they will be allowed to own a controlling stake in joint-venture shipping agencies, with the investment cap raised from 49 to 51 per cent.

Foreign investors will also be allowed to engage in salt wholesaling in the 29 sq km zone. The trade has so far been treated as vitally important to the economy, and thus controlled only by domestic authorities and licensed state-owned firms.

"Liberalisation of the shipping-agency sector has been discussed for more than a decade," said Xiong Hao, assistant general manager at Shanghai Jump International Shipping.

Shipping is a lucrative business, and industry officials said raising the cap would encourage the world's biggest shipping lines to expand in China, as they could now directly tap the booming business at the Yangshan deep-water port, which is part of the FTZ.

The new measures also include lifting of some restrictions in the manufacturing sector, such as on motorcycles, aviation engine parts and railway-bridge and station equipment, also aimed at wooing foreign investors to the zone.

But analysts said the moves



Restrictions will also be eased on the rail sector. Photo: AP

were more symbolic than substantive, as it would still be difficult for foreign firms in the listed sectors to set up shop in the FTZ because of its limited size.

The FTZ has been greeted with suspicion in some quarters ever since its inception last September, as China has failed to deliver on its promise of large-scale deregulation and free yuan convertibility under the capital account in the zone.

As a result, newly registered foreign businesses, excluding those from Hong Kong, account for only about 5 per cent of the total at the FTZ.

In July, the Shanghai municipality unveiled an upgraded version of the zone's "negative list" – sectors off-limits to foreign investors – with the number of items on the list cut from 190 to 139.

Though sold as a major breakthrough, Gong Baihua, a law professor at Fudan University, had said the list still lacked transparency and clarity. "The central government's circular carries a loud message that the reforms in the Shanghai FTZ could be expanded now that the top authorities have endorsed Shanghai's pioneering moves," said Xu Mingqi, a researcher at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. "The leadership's determinations to deepen reforms through the FTZ have been made clear."

DIGEST

Anti-Asian activist fired for using fake IDs

A critic of Asian immigration in Canada has been fired from the anti-multicultural group he helped found after the *Post* revealed he used fake identities to support his campaign against "pro-multicultural, ethnocentric candidates running our largest cities". This was a reference to two Hong Kong emigrants running for mayor in Toronto and Vancouver. > **WORLD A11**

Competition body leaves firms guessing

The Competition Commission in charge of investigating monopolies will not produce a figure to define at what point a company is deemed to have a substantial share of market power. Two years ago it was suggested that a 40 per cent market share would be deemed substantial. But commission chairwoman Anna Wu Hung-yuk said market power would be assessed case by case. > **CITY C1**

Russian banks plan dim sum bonds in HK

At least four Russian banks will issue up to 2.5 billion yuan (HK\$3.1 billion) in dim sum bonds in Hong Kong by early next year, as Western sanctions accelerate a switch by the country's lenders from US dollars. > **BUSINESS B1**

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OCCUPY CENTRAL - DAY 66

A plan that went astray

6 Jan 2013
Benny Tai Yiu-ting floats his idea of Occupy Central in his article in the HK Economic Journal



September 28
Benny Tai announces the start of Occupy Central hours after students stormed Civic Square at the Admiralty government headquarters. Police try to disperse the crowd with tear gas, but roads in Admiralty, Mong Kok and Causeway Bay are occupied.

October 31
Democratic Party expresses reservation on the students' idea of triggering a de facto referendum by lawmakers' resignation.

November 22
Radical protesters stage a demonstration against the Occupy movement leadership in Admiralty.



December 1
Pan-democratic lawmakers call on student leaders to halt the attempt to blockade the government headquarters after violent clashes the night before. Three Scholarism members go on hunger strike, but Federation of Students decides not to join.



December 2
Occupy trio announce they will turn themselves in to police today (Dec 3)

November 20
Apple Daily's owner Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, who has said he supported Occupy movement with his paper, urges protesters to consider retreating.

November 19
A group of protesters stormed the Legislative Council building overnight. Occupy founders, student leaders and pan-democratic lawmakers either condemn or distance themselves from the group.



October 26
Students indicate they are not keen on further dialogue with officials after a televised meeting a week earlier fails to bear any fruit, but Occupy founders and pan-democrats urge them to continue the talks.

October 9
Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kun says student leaders are "foolish" and they have hijacked the Occupy movement with hardline approach, urging them to retreat.



Stance on surrender/retreat

Pan-democratic parties let members decide for themselves

Three Occupy founders surrender to police today

Students wait to be arrested rather than turn themselves in to police

Benny Tai planned to launch action in Central, but young protesters ended up taking control in Admiralty and setting up three different camps

Gary Cheung and Jeffie Lam

When University of Hong Kong legal scholar Benny Tai Yiu-ting penned his thoughts in a weekly column for the *Hong Kong Economic Journal*, he expected few readers to pay heed to it.

In the January 16, 2013 article, entitled "Civil disobedience is the most powerful weapon", Tai raised the idea of mobilising 10,000 people to block roads in the financial heart of the city should the central and local governments create a system for the 2017 chief executive election that did not allow a "genuine" choice of candidates.

To his pleasant surprise, the article caught on in the public sphere, laying the groundwork for turning his blueprint into a popular movement.

But today, the Occupy Central protests that Tai launched with conviction on September 28 have deviated markedly from his script - in ways that he and his two co-founders had not imagined in their wildest dreams.

The original plan was to camp on Chater Road in Central for three days from October 1, the National Day holiday. In early September, Tai said they would act on a date that "would cause the minimal damage to Hong Kong's economy".

He also pledged to keep the campaign away from residential districts to avoid harming people's livelihoods.

The first indication that things might get tricky was when members of the Federation of Students and pupil-led protest group Scholarism barged into a forecourt at government headquarters in Admiralty on September 26, irate at being denied a rally at nearby Tamar Park in favour of a pro-Beijing event.

The area, known as Civic Square, had been a popular protest venue until it was fenced off. Scholarism convenor Joshua Wong Chi-fung and several federation leaders were arrested, prompting people from all walks of life to gather at the scene in support of them.

Despite the sudden turn of events, Tai and his fellow Occupy organisers, Dr Chan Kin-man and the Reverend Chu Yiu-ming, initially rejected pressure to start their campaign immediately.

Student activists insisted, however, and the Occupy trio agreed the "era of civil disobedience" had begun.

Noting that 80 per cent of protesters flocking to the main sit-in site of Admiralty were young, the trio acknowledged the student-led nature of the movement and positioned themselves as facilitators and "service leaders".

But the shift in leadership left the campaign less organised than planned. In its early days, a rift emerged between Occupy organisers and the student leaders and concerns were arising that the protests could spin out of control.

Since early October, the Occupy trio have been suggesting that students consider giving up their sites, noting a growing backlash from non-participants affected by the occupation.

But student leaders believed it would be inappropriate to dis-

perse the crowds before the government made any concession on Beijing's strict framework for the 2017 vote.

The occupation wore on, and the patience of Hongkongers wore thin.

Two weeks ago, Chan again urged protesters to consider ending their road blockades and refocusing instead on winning long-term support from the public.

Yesterday, Chan and his two co-founders renewed that call as they announced they would turn themselves in to police today.

Tai said the form of civil disobedience they envisaged had changed.

The love and peace that Occupy stood for was overshadowed by an "umbrella movement" that earned its name from dramatic scenes of protesters wielding umbrellas to fend off police tear gas and pepper spray.

"The absolute majority of participants in the protests still adhere to the principle of non-violence," Tai insisted.



Occupy Central co-founder Chan Kin-man. Photo: Sam Tsang

When violence erupts, it is time to consider the transformation of the movement

OCCUPY CO-FOUNDER BENNY TAI

He spoke after overnight clashes late on Sunday and early on Monday, during which protesters wearing hard hats and protective masks massed around government headquarters and charged police lines - after student groups called on them to surround the offices. The government strongly condemned Scholarism and the federation.

"When violence erupts, no matter who started it, it is time to consider the transformation of the movement," Tai said.

But he said the government was to blame for the violence because of its failure to respond to protesters' demands.

Dr Ma Ngok, head of Chinese University's department of government and public administration, said the very nature of a mass movement made it difficult to proceed as planned.

"Without the Occupy leaders' promotion of the civil disobedience concept, the 'umbrella movement' would not have happened," Ma said. "But it was not completely unimaginable that the protests would veer from their original expectations."

Jail or fine? Trio's penalty hinges on actual roles

Surrender of Benny Tai and partners raises the question: how should they be punished?

Stuart Lau, Jeffie Lam and Chris Lau

They could be let off with a slap on the wrist or be thrown behind bars for years. As the trio who came up with the Occupy Central civil disobedience idea turn themselves in to the police today, legal eagles differ over the severity of their likely punishment.

Ex-director of public prosecutions Grenville Cross raised the possibility of a five-year jail term, the maximum for organising an unauthorised assembly under the Public Order Ordinance.

But Eric Cheung Tat-ming, a

To be honest, there wasn't much organisation on their part, if any

ERIC CHEUNG, HKU LAW LECTURER

University of Hong Kong principal law lecturer, said the facts did not support convicting Benny Tai Yiu-ting, Dr Chan Kin-man and the Reverend Chu Yiu-ming of organising such an assembly. If they were just participants in an unauthorised assembly - something Tai said yesterday they were prepared to admit to - a fine would be the norm, Cheung said.

HKU law professor Simon Young said the trio's trip to the police station "will be like walking into a lion's den". "They may think they will only face minor charges ... but the joint enterprise principle could result in more serious criminal liability."

Cross said the more serious offence of organising, with the five-year maximum, was possible, depending on what they intended to confess. "This maximum shows that, in the most serious cases, the legislature clearly intended that offenders can receive condign punish-

ment," Cross told the *Post*. "I do not think that anyone could seriously deny that the unauthorised assemblies we have seen on our streets over the past two months represent, in terms of scale, duration and consequences, a worst-possible-case scenario."

He noted that the trio did not hide themselves, meaning the police could have arrested them earlier but decided not to.

"If the trio hope that by surrendering themselves they can somehow force the hands of the authorities, they may be sorely mistaken," Cross said.

But Cheung noted the trio did no more than announce the start of the campaign. Several hours later they called on people to leave the rally after police used tear gas. "To be honest, there wasn't much organisation on their part, if any," he said.

His view appeared to be borne out by protesters who said the Occupy trio did not represent them. "It is only Tai's personal view," said hospital ward assistant Polly Lui on the idea of surrendering. She said she had no intention of turning herself in.

Renovation worker Sam Choi, 30, agreed, saying: "The police have been abusing their power."

Cheung said that if the police arrested the Occupy trio, there was no reason to refuse bail. The sentence should range from a fine to a short time in jail, he said.

The fact police never cordoned off the sit-in zones meant it would be legally impossible to distinguish between an onlooker and someone who intended to break the law, he added.

Joining the trio to surrender today are Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kun, diehard supporter and Baptist University lecturer Shiu Ka-chun, social worker and founder of minority rights group Unison Fermi Wong Wai-fun, and nine Democratic Party members including former chairman Dr Yeung Sum and ex-lawmaker Cheung Man-kyong.

Barred MPs vow to continue inquiry

Danny Lee and Stuart Lau

British lawmakers vowed to continue their inquiry into Hong Kong, but were forced to postpone a trip to the city after Beijing barred the delegation over fears the visit might send the "wrong signals" to protesters.

The move by Beijing - with a deputy ambassador to Britain declaring a "100 per cent" chance of refused entry for the eight MPs - was questioned in London and Washington.

Beijing and London signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration in 1984, setting out the terms of Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

The chairman of Britain's Foreign Affairs Committee, Richard Ottaway, told Parliament in an emergency debate that China's action amounted "to saying the Joint Declaration is null and void", and might affect Sino-British relations.

The minister responsible for Hong Kong affairs, Hugo Swire, told MPs the ban was "not in the spirit of the Sino-British Joint Declaration".

"As a cosignatory, the United Kingdom has a legal interest and a moral obligation for the monitoring and implementation of that treaty," Swire said. "It is vital it is fully upheld."

British lawmaker Richard Graham, who was refused a visa to China last week, revealed to Parliament he received an angry letter from ambassador Liu Xiaoming (劉曉明) warning him not to support illegal activities such as Occupy Central, after he held a debate about Hong Kong.

The committee said it "will postpone its visit to Hong Kong but will continue to take oral evidence" as the inquiry continues.

"The committee's delegation

... scrutinising Hong Kong may send the wrong signals to the figures of Occupy Central," China's deputy ambassador to Britain, Ni Jian, said to Ottaway in justifying the ban. "Also, it shows some encouragement for illegal actions."

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying (華春瑩) said in Beijing yesterday that a visit by MPs would be "unreasonable and useless".

Professor Johannes Chan Man-mun, a former dean of law at the University of Hong Kong, questioned Beijing's move.

While China had the right to deny entry to any visitor to Hong Kong, he said Beijing "cannot brush aside the Joint Declaration as if it does not exist or has no legal effect".

"Under the Joint Declaration, China agreed with the UK that it would honour its promises on Hong Kong for 50 years from 1997. Thus, the UK has a contractual interest to ensure that such promises are carried out."

The US weighed in on Monday. "We hope the members of Parliament will be able to travel freely, as they wish," the State Department's Jen Psaki said.

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The number of years after 1997 that the Sino-British Joint Declaration is valid

There is no rift over hunger strike: Joshua Wong

Chris Lau chris.lau@scmp.com

Scholarism convenor Joshua Wong Chi-fung has rejected suggestions that his hunger strike plan has caused a split with the Federation of Students.

Wong said the move was part of a two-pronged strategy and the federation was responsible for other aspects of the movement.

Asked if there was a rift, Wong said: "Of course not. You can see that our friends at the federation are mainly in charge of escalating action. As for the hunger strike, Scholarism is in charge."

Wong said his group had discussed the plan with the federation before announcing it on Monday night. But federation secretary general Alex Chow Yong-kang told *Apple Daily* yesterday he had not been aware of when it would be announced.

Chow told the *Post* his group decided not to join the hunger strike as "it may not be an effective way to pursue a dialogue with the government". They would instead preserve their energy and

resources for community work. Wong said his group - which represents secondary school pupils - took on the hunger strike as the older students in the federation were better able to endure the rigours of frontline protest. "It's a division of labour," he said.

Wong made the comments hours after he announced on Monday night that three Scholarism members - himself, Prince Wong Ji-yuet and Isabella Lo Yin-wai - would begin an indefinite hunger strike.

Prince Wong, 17, who has

been a Scholarism member for two years, attends International Christian Quality Music Secondary School, while Lo, 18, who has been with the group for half a year, goes to Baptist University. Joshua Wong, 18, was admitted to Open University in September.

The trio are having two check-ups per day and will drink only water - unless told otherwise by doctors, who might ask them to consume a glucose solution if their health deteriorates. The hunger strike is aimed at pressing the government to enter into further dialogue and "reboot" the political reform process.

In response, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying urged students to take care of their health.

But Wong said: "Instead of asking us to take care of our bodies, he should have taken heed of our request to meet with officials."

"I just hope that Leung and Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, instead of expressing concern, seriously consider starting a dialogue."

The three co-founders of Occupy Central - Benny Tai Yiu-ting, Dr Chan Kin-man and the Reverend Chu Yiu-ming, who yesterday announced their plan to hand themselves in to police today - urged the students to call off their hunger strike. The students said the trio should urge the government to start a dialogue with them instead.



Isabella Lo (left), Prince Wong and Joshua Wong speak to the media yesterday. Photo: Reuters

OCCUPY CENTRAL - DAY 36

Neighbourhood spirit

Protesters have built makeshift communities at scattered Occupy sites, with tent villages, a study hall for students and even a library

Jeffie Lam
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In the early days of the Occupy movement, elegantly dressed office ladies in Admiralty wishing to join protesters had a problem.

Unless someone was around to help, the 60cm barriers surrounding the occupied sites were a near-insurmountable obstacle for anyone wearing a tight skirt.

Not any more. In an example of the numerous ways the sites and the lives of people at them have evolved to meet needs, improvised staircases made from scrap wood now provide access at regular intervals.

The creator of the steps is retired garment-factory manager Chan Wing-fai. Chan gets up early almost every morning to salvage wood from a refuse station near his home in Lai King.

"I have never picked up trash before, nor did I think I would ever do it," the 68-year-old said in Admiralty on a recent afternoon, as he coached a group of young people on how to make chairs with discarded furniture.

"Originally I built the staircases with boxes of bottled water but they were not very durable," he said. "Then I decided to strengthen them with planks."

Across the three protest sites in Admiralty, Causeway Bay and Mong Kok, similar stories are being told in a movement that

began camping in Harcourt Road, and she ended up taking on the role of "tent manager".

To spend a night in the Freedom Quarter, protesters must line up at the booth at 8.30pm and read through a set of guidelines before checking in.

They are given star stickers for their tent, which they have to remove the next day to indicate they have left.

"I didn't have any experience and I just learned how to do it bit by bit," Pat said. "I guess it's just a rule of nature. People live in groups and it's natural that every one of them will pick up a different role and gradually build the community."

At the less-populated Causeway Bay site, a library corner offers protesters a choice of books donated by supporters.

Next to the library corner on Yee Woo Street is a white board that provides updates on the democracy movement—such as the latest stances of student leaders and officials—and a timetable for civic lectures.

"Everyone can write something on the board—there is no leader here," said an elderly man who refused to give his name.

The five-odd supply stations on Nathan Road in Mong Kok evolved independently, with the managers not knowing one another. Now they have created a group on WhatsApp that they use to keep in close communication.

"We will give the group a shout if we are running out of certain types of supplies, and see if anyone can pass us some," said Ping Lee, who runs a station opposite Shantung Street.

The stocks are donated by democracy supporters. Lee puts a list up next to his booth with updates about what is needed.

"People just drop the stuff and go," Lee said. "There was one time we received more than 20 boxes of bottled water just an hour after we put up a notice. People are very passionate."

The protest site in Mong Kok is also well-known for its pantheon of deities installed by protesters to guard the barricades, which includes Jesus, Buddha and war god Kwan Tai.

Student Tony Chan, part of a team that built the Kwan Tai shrine on Mong Kok Road, said it began with a picture of the deity, and evolved into a statue and then the present temple.

They eventually incorporated the temple into part of the defence line by using bamboo and wooden frames from construction sites.

Mirana May Szeto, an assistant professor in the University of Hong Kong's department of comparative literature, said the protesters had demonstrated that they treasured the community they had developed.

"We have very small homes and we value the sharing of space," she said.

"People actually want to stay as long as possible to ensure the sense of community and livelihood."

As the movement passed its first month, protesters understood that the community they had built would inevitably be demolished, but hoped the spirit could remain.

"Hongkongers used to be quite cool to each other, never saying hello to our neighbours and not even knowing their surnames after 20 years," Chan the staircase man said. "Perhaps this movement could make a change in everyone."

Additional reporting by Chris Lau



The various sides of the Occupy movement, including tents, deities, medical volunteers, supplies, yellow ribbons and makeshift desks. Photos: Sam Tsang, Nora Tam, Felix Wong, K.Y. Cheng, EPA



People actually want to stay ... to ensure the sense of community

PROFESSOR MIRANA MAY SZETO (PICTURED)

was planned as a three-day sit-in but has now passed the one-month mark.

On Harcourt Road, a "study hall" where class-boycotting students continue their education can now seat 200.

An elderly man named C. L. Chang was the carpenter for that project. Like Chan, he carried dumped boards from Wan Chai to Admiralty every day for a week, which were fashioned into chairs for students using the study room.

"As the study room became a new landmark in Admiralty, people—and even a restaurant—started sending tables and chairs to us. Furniture stores also sent us some sample cabinet boards of high quality."

Opposite the Admiralty Centre railway exit, freelance designer Pat is managing a newly established "Freedom Quarter"—two zones that together offer about 100 tents for protesters to stay overnight.

Pat barely knew other protesters before the police fired the 87 canisters of tear gas on September 28 that galvanised the protest. Someone invited her to take care of a booth a few nights after she

Exco member snubs anti-Occupy petition

Anna Wu says she will not sign anything for or against a political issue

Gary Cheung
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An executive councillor known for her liberal views has broken ranks with most members of the government's policymaking body by choosing not to sign a petition backing the police and calling for an end to Occupy Central protests.

Anna Wu Hung-yuk, chairwoman of the Competition Commission and Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority, has now snubbed two petitions by the Alliance for Peace and Democracy, the first launched in July and the second in October.

At the time of the first one Wu said that she would not sign any petition that dealt with political positions. "My position has not changed, and as stated the last time I do not sign any petition for or against any particular position with matters of this type," Wu said.

Wu, a solicitor, urged students at the helm of the pro-democracy protests to consider forming a

political party to groom leaders and take part in public policymaking.

Executive Council convenor Lam Woon-kwong, who also chose not to sign the first petition, did not respond to inquiries regarding the second.

Wu and Lam are among the 14 non-official members of Exco, which assists the chief executive in policymaking. The other 12 non-official members all signed the second petition despite concerns the campaign is adding to political polarisation in the city.

Twelve of the 16 official Exco members had signed the first.

Both Wu and Lam are known as moderate voices in Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying's cabinet.

The most recent petition, which the Alliance started on October 25, seeks to "support our police", "free our roads" and "restore law and order", all with the goal of ending the pro-democracy sit-ins, which have paralysed parts of the city for five weeks.

The alliance said its latest effort had collected more than 1.5 million signatures by Saturday. The campaign ended yesterday.

Executive councillor Cheung Chi-kong said the chief executive did not call on non-official Exco members to sign.

In 2012, Wu played a key role in defusing the crisis sparked by a government plan for the compulsory introduction of a national education curriculum in primary and secondary schools.

The curriculum was criticised as being an attempt to brainwash pupils.

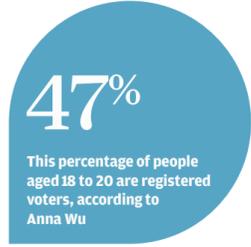
The Committee on the Implementation of Moral and National Education, chaired by Wu, recommended in October 2012 that the curriculum be shelved.

While vowing to keep an open mind, Wu had some advice for student leaders.

"At this point, I hope the students will consider forming a political party as many students have a vote. They can groom leaders or be king-makers and actively participate in public policy making," she said. "Political reform and participation in politics is for the long haul."

She said that just 47 per cent of those aged 18 to 20 were registered voters. "Students aged 18 and above should register as voters," she said.

Additional reporting by Ng Kang-chung



EXILE'S SUPPORT

Zhou Fengsuo, a former student leader of Beijing's democracy movement in 1989, has flown in from the US to offer his support to Occupy protesters.

"Twenty-five years ago ... the first Hongkonger I knew told me that he saw hope for China in Tiananmen Square. And today, your presence here represent the hopes of China's future democracy," Zhou told the crowd in Admiralty last night.

"We failed to implement democracy in China 25 years ago, and now we need the young people of Hong Kong to stand up for their rights."

Zhou, who had been No 5 on Beijing's wanted list during the Tiananmen movement, said he had decided to join Hong Kong's "umbrella movement" after seeing images of police using tear gas to disperse protesters on September 28.

He said the Occupy protest resembled the situation in Beijing in 1989, with young people fighting—and sacrificing—to make their dreams of democracy come true.

But he believed the protest would not suffer the same bloody ending as Hong Kong enjoyed the rule of law, press freedom and a modern social media system that allows for swift information flow.

He refused to offer advice to the student leaders, who he said had a better understanding of the situation, but he encouraged Hongkongers to use their creativity to press the movement forward.

Zhou, who will stay in Hong Kong for a week, said he would camp overnight with protesters in Admiralty. He also plans to visit the June 4 memorial museum in Tsim Sha Tsui.

Like many Beijing student activists, Zhou fled to US and lived in exile after the June 4 crackdown with no prospect of returning to his motherland. Jeffie Lam

More protesters claim they were beaten by police

Emily Tsang
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More Occupy Central protesters last night claimed they had experienced violence at the hands of police when they were arrested in Admiralty last month.

About a dozen protesters said they had been "bashed" by officers trying to clear Lung Wo Road on October 15. The arrests happened on the same night that television cameras recorded a group of officers apparently kicking and punching Civic Party activist Ken Tsang Kin-chiu after his arrest.

One of the arrested protesters, Issac Tong Pun-yuen, said they had been punched, kicked, pulled by the hair and hit on the

head by a group of between three and five officers.

"We are trying very hard to locate video clips from social media, yet all we could find were bits and pieces," he said. "The police deliberately dragged us to a place where the press was unable to see before they beat us up."

The group includes teachers, social workers and performers as well as students.

Tong said Tsang's case—over which seven officers have been suspended pending investigations—was the tip of the iceberg.

The protesters said they planned to seek legal advice.

They said they had contacted 28 of the 45 people arrested that night, when police used pepper spray to clear the road. Thirteen of these said they had suffered violence, of whom 10 said they required hospital treatment.

Several of those arrested said they had been resting in Tamar Park and were not involved in attempts to block Lung Wo Road.

Ken Pang said he was arrested while telling students to retreat. He said officers grabbed him

from behind and punched him in the chest.

Another punched him in the face and twisted his hand, and he was kicked as he fell to the ground, he said.

"I repeatedly told them I was leaving the site, but they went ahead anyway," said Pang. He said police never told him he was arrested and did not read him his rights before putting him in the police vehicle.

A police spokesman said the force had an established mechanism to deal with complaints and would look into each complaint in a fair and impartial manner.

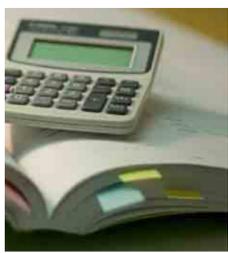
As of yesterday, some 1,324 complaints had been received in connection with the protests.

Additional reporting by Ng Kang-chung



The group of 13 protesters includes teachers, social workers, performers and students. Photo: Jonathan Wong

ISSAC TONG PUN-YUEN



Business break
Universities on the mainland give students time off to start their own firms

> NEWS A3



Movie row
Controversy grows in Japan over war film directed by Angelina Jolie

> ASIA A14



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Welfare groups say government rules are hitting hawkers markets

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South China Morning Post

南華早報

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OCCUPY CENTRAL



Workers clear barricades at the Admiralty Occupy site (left) before police officers remove remaining protesters (centre), clearing the way for traffic to resume for the first time in more than two months. Photos: Felix Wong, Nora Tam, Sam Tsang



ORDERLY END TO 75 DAYS OF TURMOIL

Police end Admiralty sit-in, but students vow to fight on, predicting a 'second wave of occupation'

Staff Reporters

The police ended the main sit-in of the Occupy movement in Admiralty yesterday with the arrest of 247 people, including politicians, student leaders and a pop star. Traffic through the area resumed 75 days after the occupation started.

However, student leaders vowed to continue their pro-democracy cause in other ways after Christmas.

Monitored by members of the police watchdog and more than 200 local and international journalists, the seven-hour police operation proceeded without

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ONLINE

scmp.tv
Visit our website to watch videos of the clearance

any clashes between officers and protesters, unlike in the clearance operation in Mong Kok.

By 11pm, all traffic on Harcourt Road had resumed.

Police cordoned off the camp along Harcourt Road at 2.20pm, after court bailiffs cleared the roads covered by an injunction which applied to one-fifth of the area. By that time, more than 100 protesters had started a sit-in on the road, waiting to be arrested.

Speaking at the sit-in before he was arrested, Federation of Students secretary general Alex Chow Yong-kang said: "I would not say ... the movement ends with victory, but I don't think we have failed either."

He expected a "second wave of occupation" would happen in the coming months, when people protest at public forums during the second stage of public consultation on political reform.

Other sit-in participants included Democratic Party founding chairman Martin Lee Chum-ing, *Apple Daily* boss Jimmy Lai Chee-ying, Canto-pop singer Denise Ho Wan-see and nine members of the federation.

There were also ordinary citizens like Au Yeung Siu-hung, 67, who had been protesting in Admiralty every day over the past two months. Au said he was there to "fulfil the spirit of civil disobedience by shouldering the legal

consequences" – in the words of the three Occupy Central founders who turned themselves in to police last week.

A government spokesman said the occupation was a "severe blow to the economy, politics, society and people's livelihood".

He expressed "gratitude" to the police force for their hard work, while urging the public to abide by the law in expressing their views in future. Executive councillors made the same appeal in a joint statement.

Lester Shum, Chow's deputy, said the clearance would not mark an end to their fight for genuine universal suffrage.

"I believe what the government has lost is not only the support of young people, but also Hongkongers," he said as he

I would not say ... [it] ends with victory, but I don't think we have failed either

ALEX CHOW, FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

gathered with dozens outside Kwai Chung police station last night, where the first batch of those arrested were being held.

About 7,000 officers were deployed in two shifts for the clearance operation, and 909 protesters who left voluntarily after the area was sealed off at 2.20pm had

their details taken. A police source said the remaining Occupy site in Causeway Bay would probably be cleared next week as the priority was to make sure that Admiralty was not reoccupied.

Some owners of businesses near the Occupy camp and workers affected by traffic jams expressed relief, while worrying that protesters would return.

Chung Kim-wah, director of Polytechnic University's Centre for Social Policy Studies, said Leung Chun-ying's administration would not find governance easier despite the end of Occupy, which he added had "tom society apart".

Danny Lee, Emily Tsang, Phila Siu, Jennifer Ngo, Joyce Ng, Peter So, Alan Yu, Samuel Chan, Clifford Lo and Timmy Sung

POLICY

Leaders stress 'new normal' growth

Beijing likely to tolerate slower rate with higher efficiency

Victoria Ruan in Beijing
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China's top leaders said they were confident of achieving their major economic goals for this year as they laid out a blueprint for 2015 designed to keep growth steady while pursuing new investment-led infrastructure and technology initiatives.

Wrapping up the three-day Central Economic Work Conference yesterday, the leaders vowed to guide a slower but greener and more sustainable "new normal" growth – but emphasised rising economic risks.

"The main goals and tasks for the full year are expected to be completed relatively well, with the economy running in a reasonable range while positive changes emerge in economic restructuring," a statement issued through Xinhua said.

Analysts widely expect eco-

nomical growth to slow to a 24-year-low of 7.4 per cent this year. Beijing has said it will tolerate growth a bit slower than the official target of "about 7.5 per cent".

The statement did not mention any specific growth targets for the next year, although government think tanks have called for lowering it to 7 per cent.

"Chinese authorities will likely tolerate a slower growth rate at around 7 per cent under the framework of 'new normal' econ-

7.4%

Analysts widely expect the mainland's rate of growth to slow to this level this year

omy and will strike a balance between social, environmental, and economic targets," said ANZ Bank chief Greater China economist Liu Li-Gang.

Stressing the "huge elasticity, potential and room for manoeuvre" in the economy, the planners added that they expected the "new normal" growth to feature more diversified consumption as well as new investment opportunities.

However "the downward pressures of the economy remain big", they said, noting the pains being felt from economic adjustment in a difficult operating environment. They also warned risks such as high leverage and bubbles would persist for some time.

The environment's capacity to support growth, they said, "has reached or is approaching an upper limit" after three decades of "development and construction activities at high intensity".

"We expect industrial overca-

capacity to be one of the main reasons for an investment slowdown in 2015," said CCB International analysts in a note.

Thomas Byrne, Moody's head of Asia-Pacific sovereign risk group, yesterday warned of rising loan defaults at state enterprises.

The government vowed to maintain policy stability and ensure "adequate strength of fiscal policy and a proper ... monetary policy".

The People's Bank of China said in a statement after the conference that it would guide "steady, appropriate growth" in credit and money supply. It cut benchmark interest rates last month to ease soaring real funding costs. Economists widely expect more easing.

Policymakers emphasised that investment remained key to growth. Reforms would be quickened in areas including administrative approval, price, monopoly industries, capital markets and private banking, they said.

> PBOC ACTION B1

DIGEST

Illegal detention prompts probe

Authorities have launched an investigation after three villagers and a 10-month-old baby were illegally detained when a fine for violating family planning rules was not paid. The incident in Shandong (山東) province came to light after a video was posted online. > CHINA A6

Applied Chinese courses under fire

Two new applied Chinese courses announced by the Education Bureau – for Chinese used in service industries and in hospitality professions – are coming under fire for only steering ethnic minority students towards the service industry. > CITY C1

Awards mark 25 years of success

A quarter of a century after it was launched to boost business confidence, the DHL/SCMP Hong Kong Business Awards arrive as the city needs similar support. But for the winners themselves, our special report reveals it is a challenge they are eager to embrace. > INSIDE



Torture report reveals enforcer

The US senate committee report on the use of torture by the CIA has revealed the role of two psychologists in devising interrogation techniques. Their company, among the few identifiable players in the report, has been paid more than US\$80 million. > WORLD A17

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