

TODAY's brief, Tuesday, Nov 25

BY EMILIA TAN KENING
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NATAS travel fair. TODAY file photo

Agencies involved in NATAS travel fair boycott hold press conference

The Big Four travel agencies – SA Tours, Chan Brothers, Dynasty Travel, CTC — will reveal today (Nov 25) why they are withdrawing from the mega travel fair organised by the National Association of Travel Agents Singapore (NATAS) and share their plans to hold a rival trade show. TODAY earlier reported that the four agencies had pulled out of the fair. It is believed that the breakaway arose from disagreements over the entrance fees that NATAS charges the public and how the proceeds from the fair were used.

In court today...

Judgement is expected to be delivered in the case of Aljunied-Hougang-Punggol East Town Council vs National Environment Agency. The NEA is alleging that the town council held an unlicensed Chinese New Year fair at the Hougang Central Hub between Jan 9 and 14.

Singapore's Q3 GDP results

Singapore will report detailed data on gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter. Data is expected to show that growth remained modest, a Reuters poll has found, at a time when the economy is facing headwinds from restructuring and sluggish global demand. The median forecast in a Reuters survey of 12 economists expected Singapore's GDP in July-September to have grown 2.5 per cent from a year ago, above the advance estimate of 2.4 per cent.

Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development

Second Minister for Environment and Water Resources Grace Fu will deliver the opening address and in one of the discussions, experts will talk about how disruptive innovation can deliver economic growth that is inclusive and sustainable.

Customer satisfaction in F&B and Tourism sectors

The Institute of Service Excellence (ISES) at Singapore Management University will announce the 2014 third quarter Customer Satisfaction Index of Singapore for the F&B and Tourism industry sectors. Ms Caroline Lim, Director of ISES, and Dr Marcus Lee, Academic Director of ISES, will be presenting the latest findings.

UMNO holds General Assembly meetings

Malaysia's largest party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) convenes its closely-watched General Assembly meetings this week, with hot button issues including the planned repeal of the Sedition Act and a debate on whether to abolish vernacular schools set to be on the agenda. Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is UMNO president, will deliver a presidential briefing tonight. Meanwhile, the meetings of the Umno Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings will also be opened tonight by Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

Hong Kong's Leung Chun-ying visits Seoul

Hong Kong's embattled chief executive Leung Chun-ying will be visiting Seoul from today until Thursday, at the invitation of South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se. He is expected to meet Korean officials to discuss how to enhance business ties between the two sides as well as expand the scope of cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Mr Leung will also hold talks with South Korea's tech minister Choi Yang-hee to boost cooperation in the fields of the so-called "creative economy".

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US-India trade policy forum

United States Trade Representative Michael Froman will meet Indian Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitaraman for the first round of a bilateral US-India trade policy forum in four years. The talks will include a meeting of a high-level working group on intellectual property rights that had been set up following discussions earlier this month between United States President Barack Obama and Indian President Narendra Modi.

AFF Suzuki Cup

Coach Bernd Stange will be putting the Lions through their paces at the Jurong West Stadium ahead of the must-win game against Myanmar tomorrow. Singapore are seeking their first win at the new National Stadium and hoping to bring back the Kallang Roar. Singapore lost 2-1 to Thailand in their 2014 ASEAN Football Federation Suzuki Cup Group B opener on Sunday.

Wet weather

Bring your umbrellas out. Thundery showers are expected mainly over southern, western and central Singapore in the afternoon. Temperature is forecast to be between 24°C and 32°C.