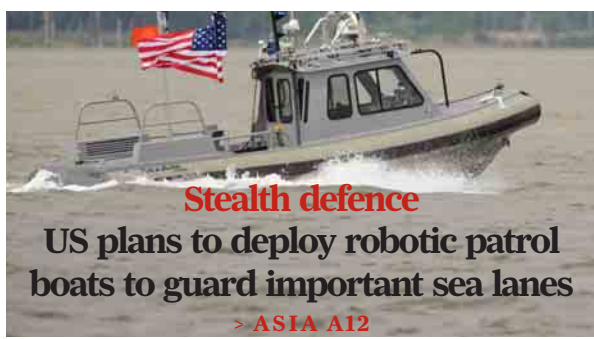




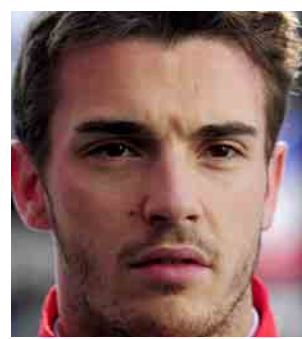
**Let the camera roll**  
**HK-born Oscar**  
**winner Ruby Yang**  
**plans to make a**  
**documentary on**  
**her hometown**

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**Stealth defence**  
**US plans to deploy robotic patrol**  
**boats to guard important sea lanes**

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**Bittersweet win**  
**French driver**  
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**crash-marred**  
**Japanese GP won**  
**by Hamilton**

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**David slays Goliath**  
**The man who took**  
**on the government**  
**and won**

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**POLITICS**



Protesters at Admiralty yesterday. Students were warned to end their blockade overnight and give civil servants free access to the government complex. Photo: May Tse

## STUDENTS OPEN TALKS BUT VOW PROTESTS WILL GO ON

**Meeting to arrange talks with chief secretary doesn't bring agreement, and Admiralty sit-in continues despite warning it will be cleared by force**

Staff Reporters

The Federation of Students last night began preparatory talks for a meeting with Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, but said its members would continue the protests that have paralysed parts of Hong Kong for a week.

That was despite Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying setting a deadline of 4am today for protesters to stop blocking access to government headquarters in Admiralty, or "appropriate force" would be used.

While the protesters vacated two lanes of Lung Wo Road, the main artery leading to the government offices, footbridges remained mostly blocked.

The developments came after political, social and religious leaders called on protesters to step back from confrontation with police.

With the eyes of the world on Hong Kong, some governments have called on the administration to show restraint. But a senior US government official was quoted by *The New York Times* as saying Washington would not "get into the middle of this".

He said the US knew it had little leverage over China when it came to Hong Kong and Beijing had repeatedly told the US to mind its own business.

In a rare show of unity, leaders from both political camps and other prominent figures called for calm and urged the protesters

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occupying "choke points" to retreat.

The protests, triggered by Beijing's announcement of a restrictive framework for the 2017 election of the chief executive by one man, one vote, were launched two weeks ago by tertiary students. They were later joined by secondary school students under the banner of Scholarism.

When they escalated last weekend Occupy Central leaders

declared the civil disobedience movement had begun. Sit-ins have since blocked traffic in Admiralty and parts of Central, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and Mong Kok.

Former chief executive Tung Chee-hwa applauded the students' "great sacrifice" but said the time had now come for dialogue.

Andrew Li Kwok-nang, the widely respected former chief justice, said: "I sincerely urge the student protesters to leave immediately." Otherwise, Li said, their safety would be in danger.

Another former chief justice, Yang Ti-liang, made a similar appeal. Henry Tang Ying-yan, Leung's main rival in the 2012 chief executive election, also urged protesters to withdraw and avoid clashes.

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kun, who had earlier visited protesters to show his support, said: "At this moment, we can make a satisfactory conclusion to our actions."

Late last night, the deputy secretary general of the Federation of Students, Lester Shum, said federation members had met undersecretary for constitutional affairs Lau Kong-wah and other officials, but they had not agreed to its conditions for talks with Lam and Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung.

"We will have to meet again ... before entering into formal talks," Shum said.

A dozen young people man-

ning the barricades on a footbridge from Admiralty Centre to government headquarters said they belonged to no group and insisted the narrow passage they left unobstructed was enough for civil servants to get to work. They said the three main groups behind the movement did not represent them.

"If we don't keep the pressure on the government, the movement will lose its meaning," said Henry Chan Kai-wing, a 29-year-old doctor.

Kitty Choi, director of administration, said: "Right now the barricades on the footbridge set up by protesters have left only a very narrow passage for staff to enter the headquarters. How can the 3,000 civil servants rely on this to get to work? I am worried it will be very congested tomorrow."

Protesters occupying a junction outside Leung's office in Tim Wa Avenue held a vote and decided to hand the site back to police as a goodwill gesture. But minutes later, the main entrance was occupied by others who refused to leave.

Occupy Central announced protesters in Mong Kok would be leaving to join the "occupation" in Admiralty. But protesters debated hotly whether they should leave amid a lack of clear leadership, and the crowd later grew.

In Causeway Bay, scores remained camped out. Philip Tsang, 34, one of the volunteers who have kept the occupation up in the absence of any Federation of Students representatives, said: "There's no leader here. Each one of us has an opinion and we don't plan to vote on the next step."

**I sincerely urge the student protesters to leave immediately**

ANDREW LI KWOK-NANG

## Tsang 'lost sleep' worrying about protest escalation

**Financial secretary admits government had 'no psychological preparation' for scale of campaign**

Stuart Lau and Fanny W.Y. Fung

Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah has admitted the government had "no experience or psychological preparation" for the "unprecedented" Occupy Central campaign.

Writing in his latest weekly blog, the city's No 3 official said he "did not sleep well" and worried about the city-wide civil disobedience protests escalating.

"The rapid pace of developments over the past week was completely beyond everybody's expectations," wrote Tsang. "It's hard not to be concerned that more serious chaos would happen ... To be honest I persistently didn't sleep well."

"Undeniably, the transformation of the mass movement is unprecedented. The government, political parties, community groups, the media and the public have no experience or psychological preparation to face this situation, making it all the more difficult to resolve the standoff."

Tsang added: "Groups of different classes, backgrounds and interests in society have a completely different understanding and judgment of the event, with diametrically opposite reactions, making it difficult to predict how events will develop in future."

The confrontation between pro- and anti-Occupy groups in Mong Kok "further deepened our worries", Tsang said. "It led to fears that ... more serious matters would be triggered."

"This event is a grave test for all Hong Kong people. Its han-

dling will require everyone's wisdom and patience."

The financial secretary's article came ahead of his visit to the annual conference of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington.

Tsang said he had considered whether to cancel the trip but decided to go in order to explain the local situation in person.

"This US visit is a timely opportunity to explain to overseas friends Hong Kong's situation, to

**Its handling will require everyone's wisdom and patience**

JOHN TSANG

respond to their queries and to clear any misunderstanding," he wrote.

"The Heritage Foundation has, for 20 years, ranked Hong Kong as the freest economy in the world. I hope to make use of this opportunity to brief the foundation on Hong Kong's latest [situation] to maintain foreign investors' confidence in Hong Kong."

During his trip, Tsang will meet US Federal Reserve chairwoman Janet Yellen.

Speaking to the media at the airport as he was about to depart, Tsang again urged protesters to disperse.

**DIGEST**

**Party's plan for Xinjiang**

The Communist Party chief in Xinjiang (新疆) has called for a two-pronged approach to tackling widespread unrest in the region – resolute action against terrorists and increased education to steer people away from extremism. Zhang Chunxian (張春賢) made the comments during a visit to Turpan (吐魯番), the scene of deadly violence last year. > CHINA A6

**Migrants fear Ebola backlash**

African immigrants in the United States fear they will be discriminated against after a man from Liberia tested positive for the deadly Ebola disease in Texas. Some migrants said Americans were not aware of how big Africa was and did not understand that Ebola was confined to just a few countries in the west. > WORLD A15

**CITY**



**ANOTHER BLOW FOR REVAMP OF CENTRAL MARKET**

> PAGE C1

**MTR sweetens land offers**

In a bid to attract developers to tender for sites, the MTR Corp is likely to offer smaller parcels of land and accept lower prices. The move is in response to government pressure to make more land available for housing. The MTR – majority owned by the government – has sites available in Tin Shui Wai and Tseung Kwan O that could yield 4,600 flats. > BUSINESS B1

**Death threats at Harvard**

Hundreds of Asian students at the prestigious Harvard University in the US state of Massachusetts have received emailed death threats that are believed to have originated from overseas. It was mostly women with Asian sounding names who received the emails, making many fear for their safety. > WORLD A13

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