

LAUNCH PAD



A woman displays the new harddisk (HDD) audio player "UX-HD1" and portable HDD audio player "XA-HD500" at a press preview in Tokyo. The UX-HD1 is equipped with 40GB HDD to store some 20,000 digital music contents, CD, MD, radio tuner and three-way speaker systems, while XA-HD500 has 6GB HDD.



Japanese cosmetics giant Shiseido President Shinzo Maeda introduces the new hair care brand "Tsubaki" (camellia in Japanese) in Tokyo. The Tsubaki has shampoo and hair conditioners which contain a newly developed essence that includes a fragrance becomes more likeable each time. Shiseido will put it on the market in March for 800 yen (\$7) for a 550cc bottle.

CEO SAYS

ERIC NG PING CHEUN
CHAIRMAN
FIRST CITY BANK LTD

ERIC NG Ping Cheun est économiste. Et depuis peu président de la First City Bank Ltd. Mais le parcours qui l'a mené au sommet a commencé très modestement. Qui croirait qu'il fit « la plonge » dans des restaurants en France pour gagner de quoi payer ses études. Un aspect de sa vie qu'il n'avait jamais abordé jusqu'ici. Il rappelle aussi que le secteur des services est le métier de l'avenir.

Jusqu'au secondaire, l'économie n'a jamais été le fort d'Eric Ng. "J'ai touché à la filière scientifique, 'integrated science' comme cela se disait à l'époque. Aux examens du Higher School Certificate (HSC), j'ai eu de bons résultats mais je n'ai jamais été, comme le pensent beaucoup de gens, un lauréat", dit-il.

Après ses études au collège du St-Esprit, il prend de l'emploi comme caissier dans une filiale de la Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB). Il y travaillera pendant cinq ans. Il choisit ensuite d'entamer des études en sciences économiques à Aix-en-Provence, France. Il choisira les sciences économiques. "A Maurice, les jeunes ne sont pas toujours bien guidés pour leur choix de carrière. J'ai choisi les sciences économiques, parce qu'elles m'offraient l'interdisciplinarité. J'ai ensuite eu la chance d'avoir pour professeur, un excellent pédagogue qui a su me pousser à aimer cette matière qu'est l'économie. A mon premier essai, j'ai eu 19 sur 20."

À la voir assis dans son fauteuil de président, on aurait peine à croire que quelques années plus tôt, pour arrondir ses fins de mois, Eric Ng travaillait à faire la « plonge » dans des restaurants de province. "Cela ne m'a pas gêné. Je viens d'une famille modeste et faire ce métier même à temps partiel m'a fait découvrir la campagne française, la vraie vie française. Cette expérience m'a aussi enseigné la valeur de la bonne économie. A savoir qu'il faut travailler dur pour avoir des sous."

Eric Ng choisit de se spécialiser aussi en économie des institutions. "A mon retour au pays en 1995, après cinq ans d'études, je me rends compte que l'économie des institutions est encore inconneue de l'intelligentsia des affaires

L'avenir c'est le secteur des services



CORPORATE LADDER



Bernhard key to Volkswagen progress

FRANKFURT: German car giant Volkswagen is to give greater responsibility to Wolfgang Bernhard, currently head of the VW brand within the group, and put him in charge of group-wide production, the Financial Times reported last Monday. Bernhard, who has a reputation as a fierce cost-cutter, was seen by VW's main shareholders as being the key to the car maker overcoming its current problems, the newspaper said. — AFP

Hiramatsu new president of Livedoor



TOKYO: Internet portal Livedoor Co said it has appointed executive vice president Kozo Hiramatsu as new president replacing Takafumi Horie last week. The company said officer Fumito Kumanagai has also been appointed a

representative director. At the same time Livedoor said it has accepted the resignation of chief financial officer Ryoji Miyazaki. The management reshuffle came after prosecutors arrested president Takafumi Horie, along with three other senior Livedoor officials, on suspicion that they violated securities trading laws. Hiramatsu worked for consumer electronics giant Sony between 1973 and 1986.

Former Asda boss Paul Mason gets top job at Somerfield

LONDON: Unlisted British supermarket group Somerfield said on Friday it had appointed former Matalan and Asda boss Paul Mason as chief executive with effect from March 6 this year. Incumbent CEO Steve Back had resigned with immediate effect, the country's fifth-largest grocer said in a statement. John Lovering, chairman of the Violet Acquisitions private equity group which took Somerfield private in December, would assume the role of executive chairman in the interim, it said. Mason comes to Somerfield from his position as European President of jeans maker Levi Strauss. In addition to his spells at the helm of Asda and Matalan, he has also held senior positions at B&Q and Mars, Inc. — Reuters

DaimlerChrysler to cut management by fifth, lay-off 6,000

FRANKFURT: DaimlerChrysler will cut its bloated management by up to a fifth over the next three years, chopping around 6,000 jobs as a way to boost efficiency, the world's fifth-biggest carmaker said last Tuesday. The global programme - the first major strategic step by new Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche - will cost around 2 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) by the end of 2008 but should reap substantial savings. Under the sweeping overhaul that will streamline the group management board to nine members from 12 around a year ago, Daimler will in May move its headquarters from a campus outside Stuttgart, southern Germany, to nearby Untertuerkheim, to be closer to production. — Reuters

20 things I love about golf

1. Filling a 2 on your scorecard (a one is a dream).
2. Not seeing a single golfer for your entire round.
3. Wagging a brand new driver on the 1st tee.
4. Nailing a massive drive as you are waved through.
5. Watching your partner duff one.
6. Finding a new PRO V1 ball in the rough.
7. Discovering you have a shot on a hole you thought you have only halved.
8. Finding your ball just short of the water hazard.
9. Seeing your ball ricochet from the trees to the fairway.
10. Shouting "fore" really loud.
11. Getting a free drop.
12. Chipping in the hole.
13. Shuffling your feet into the sand of a freshly raked bunker.
14. Playing a round as good as Tiger.
15. Looking back at your foot prints along a dewy fairway.
16. That first post round very cold glass of beer in the clubhouse.
17. Adding up your would be stable for points after a strokeplay match.
18. Finishing a poor round with a great putt.
19. Playing a whole round with the same ball.
20. Striking in a 30 footer putt and knowing it is in all the way.

Share with us what you love or hate about golf and email to us on golf@lematinal.com

A game for life

UNLIKE MANY other sports such as football or tennis, where it gets increasingly difficult over the years to practice, golf is a game for life. You can play well into your 80's and in fact your golf gets better as you mature over the years. Even if you cannot walk anymore, a golf cart can carry you on the course. As long as you can swing a club, you can play golf.

Golf is a lifelong interest. It has the ability to generate in its fans a lifelong passion. You will take as much pleasure in recalling your failures as in boasting of your victories. As always, the "what ifs" will simmer in your mind, compelling you to come time and time again for more in the hope that something magical will happen one day and that you will discover that elusive trick or drill that will change your game forever... for the better.

— Dr Patrick Chui Wan Cheong Jr



We invite aspiring golfers and all enthusiasts of this sport to share views on the game and master the strokes with help from our panel of dedicated golfers Dr Patrick Chui Wan Cheong Jr, Paul Lim Fat, Eric Lo. E-mail your opinions & queries to golf@lematinal.com

TRIVIA

Gary Player, one of the most celebrated golfers from South Africa said the following famous lines: "The harder I practice, the luckier I get." Perhaps that explains his 29 holes in ones, of which 20 have come in tournaments.

— Dr P Chui Wan Cheong Jr

of the week

What award is presented to the PGA player with the lowest stroke average (minimum 80 rounds) in PGA Tour cosponsored or approved events during the season? It's named after "Harry," a member of the British "Great Triumvirate," whose members dominated the game in the early days.

Please e-mail your answers to golf@lematinal.com by Saturday, February 4. Win a gift hamper from Le Matinal. The winner's name will be published in the weekly column "3 Under Par" in the next edition of Perspectives. The jury's decision will be final.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Until the aerial attack on the World Trade Center in 2001, this match was held every odd year between U.S. pros and those of Europe. Now it's scheduled for every even year.

Answer : Ryder Cup
WINNER
Mahesh Sailendrasingh Chandan

