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SINGAPORE
ROUND-UPTHREE YOUNG ATHLETES TO
STAR IN VISA YOG AD

THREE Singapore Youth Olympic Games (YOG) athletes – sailor Darren Choy, swimmer Amanda Lim and footballer Jeffrey Lightfoot – will be featured in the Go World advertising campaign for global payments company Visa, in conjunction with the YOG.

The trio unveiled the campaign at the Singapore Sports School yesterday, together with American Olympic gold-winning gymnast Kerri Strug.

313@SOMERSET AMONG
WINNERS OF DESIGN PRIZE

THE Building and Construction Authority yesterday announced 313@Somerset, 78 Shenton Way and City Square Residences as the winners of the Design and Engineering Safety Excellence Awards.

The three were chosen by a panel of experts from the industry, from 20 projects vying for one of the construction industry's top honours this year.

NEW STAT BOARD TO UP
STANDARDS FOR REALTORS

THE Ministry of National Development plans to set up a statutory board – the Council for Estate Agencies – to raise the professionalism of the real estate-agency industry and to better safeguard consumer interests.

More cry foul over dive-course fees

BY SIA LING XIN

MORE dive enthusiasts have come forward claiming that Mr Lim Lye Heng, a dive operator who recently admitted to owing a group of divers over \$20,000, has yet to refund them for a dive course.

One of them, financial analyst Krischen Ho, 26, told *my paper* that she and two other friends had signed up and paid last July for a beginner's **open-water** course with Mr Lim, 37, the director of dive shop Reeffinder International.

The course was supposed to comprise two theory lessons, two pool sessions and a three-day dive trip.

But the lessons and sessions were delayed multiple times for about three months as Mr Lim

did not commit to the dates, she said.

He had first delayed lessons by saying that he was not feeling well, then further postponed lessons from “one week to one month without any reasons”, she said.

“He did not even bother to reply to our SMSes or e-mail when we tried to check if the lessons were on when the scheduled dates drew nearer,” she added.

When they asked for a refund last October, Mr Lim agreed. But he has not been picking up their calls since then.

“It’s been about half a year since he agreed to pay us back, but he has neither tried to contact us nor **acknowledge** our attempts to reach him,” Ms Ho said.

She did not make a police re-

port earlier, as she had only copies of bank transactions and no evidence of the agreed deal, she said.

But after *my paper* reported last Thursday that Mr Lim owes a group of 17 Singapore divers more than \$20,000, she went to lodge a police report.

The 17 divers had to fork out RM1,930 (S\$824) each after reaching Malaysia for a dive trip – on top of the \$1,180 they had already paid him.

According to him, the cheque payable to a **resort** they were to stay at had bounced, and if they did not pay up, they would have to arrange for their flights back.

He had signed individual **handwritten** IOUs for them but, upon reaching Singapore, told them he had no means of repayment. The police are looking into the case.

“I was so shocked when I saw

the report. He took our money, agreed to return it but failed to do so, and he did not just stop there. He went on to take money from more people,” Ms Ho said. “I don’t want anyone else to be cheated.”

Her friends who are involved will be making police reports soon, she added. The police have confirmed Ms Ho’s report.

When contacted, Mr Lim declined to comment.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Open-water: 露天水源
lù tiān shuǐ yuán

Acknowledge: 告知收到
gào zhī shōu dào

Resort: 度假村 dù jià cūn

Handwritten: 手写的
shǒu xiě de

Family remains top priority for mums

FROM PAGE A2

encouragement from these friends and my husband – and the brilliant fact that I’d be able to work from home after I had my baby – that I decided to turn my hobby into a business.”

Mrs Boyd was in her third trimester when she started Stub-

born Snails in 2007. Her son, Drayden, turned two last month.

Now, she receives between six and 12 orders a week. Her diaper cakes start from \$50 for a “fuss-free” version to over \$180 for a more elaborate one.

“Having a business is one of my proudest achievements,”

she said.

In the end, however, all the mumpreneurs *my paper* spoke to said that their families came first.

Said Ms Khor: “My first priority is still my first job, which is being a mum to my kids and a wife to my husband.”

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SPOTLIGHT ON TWO MUMPRENEURS



CARRIER WOMAN: Mrs Su Ling Zagorodnova’s business sells baby pouch carriers. (PHOTOS: JAMIE KOH, ONG WEE JIN)

PUSPIK STUDIO

SET up in 2008 by Mrs Su Ling Zagorodnova – an architect and urban planner by training, and mother of two daughters – Pupsik Studio is well known among mothers here for its signature baby pouch carriers.

These are fabric slings that allow mothers to “wear” their baby, allowing for increased mobility and bonding.

Since then, the store has expanded to carry maternity clothes, children’s clothes and

other specially selected parenting products which Mrs Zagorodnova, 34, sources from around the world.

“The kids and the family are still my priority and most of my work gets done only when the kids are sleeping or during pockets of time during the day,” said the mother of three-year-old Vera and one-year-old Nadya.

She said it helps that her husband is supportive – “we enjoy discussing aspects of the business together” – and she tries to involve her children in activities like “sticking stamps on orders (parcels for delivery)”.



TOY STORY: Co-founder of the business, Mrs Rose Meehan.

THE TOY RENTAL CLUB

THE two founders of this toy library are Mrs Anita Bruckers, 43, from Belgium, and Mrs Rose Meehan, 44, from Kenya.

They launched it in 2005 with “just a few hundred products and a hired truck”, said Mrs Meehan.

Today, their business is the biggest player in the market.

On being a mumpreneur, Mrs Meehan said: “It’s always a challenge. Anita had two school-age boys and I gave birth to triplets the year we launched!”

The duo now hope to franchise their business model.

Lim to
stand in
for Khaw

TRANSPORT Minister Raymond Lim will be taking over Mr Khaw Boon Wan’s responsibilities for the next three weeks, while the Health Minister recovers from a recent heart-bypass surgery.

Mr Khaw, 57, underwent a procedure called coronary artery bypass graft surgery on Tuesday because medical tests last week revealed a significant narrowing of a major heart artery, the Prime Minister’s Office has said in a statement.

The surgery is an open-heart procedure, where blood flow is rerouted around clogged arteries to improve blood and oxygen flow to the heart.

The tests followed an initial check-up, where Mr Khaw was found to have an abnormal stress electrocardiogram (ECG).

An ECG is a test that determines the heart’s electrical activity, which reflects heartbeat rhythms.

With each heartbeat, an electrical signal spreads from the top of the heart to the bottom. As it travels, the signal causes the heart to contract and pump blood.

Mr Khaw is recovering at the National Heart Centre Singapore, where he underwent surgery.

He is expected to be discharged in a few days and should return to work in a few weeks’ time.

KOH CHUIN YING