

West Coast Way attack: Unemployed man arrested

22-year-old to be charged with aggravated outrage of modesty

ASHLEY CHIA
ashley@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE – A 22-year-old unemployed man has been arrested in relation to an attack on a woman near West Coast Way on Monday.

He will be charged today with aggravated outrage of modesty, which carries a jail term of between two and 10 years, as well as caning. The Singaporean is also being probed for two other similar cases that were reported in the vicinity over the past three days.

On Monday night, a 25-year-old woman was set upon by a man —

whom she described to be of stout build and with tanned complexion — when she was metres away from reaching the back gate of her condominium, The Infiniti, in West Coast Park. The alleged attack led to some residents there asking for new street lights and security cameras to be installed along the dimly-lit path.

The victim, who is not named to protect her identity, told TODAY in an earlier interview that the man rained punches on her face and tried to suffocate her before flipping her over and slamming her head against the pavement.

Halfway through the struggle, the freelance graphic designer “played dead” and it was then that the attacker reached underneath her sweater and groped her. As she tried to break free, two of her neighbours appeared at the

“We were amazed and shocked. We still are, and are gradually feeling the relief and joy. We will leave it to the judicial system to deal justice to the culprit.”

The victim's brother

end of the pathway, sending the man scurrying away.

When contacted yesterday, the victim's 28-year-old brother thanked the police for their work. “We were amazed and shocked. We still are, and are gradually feeling the relief and joy,” he said. “We will leave it to the judicial system to deal justice to the culprit.”

The Commander of Clementi Police Division Melvin Yong said at a press briefing that the suspect was nabbed after investigators interviewed witnesses and went through closed-circuit television footage, as well as physical evidence the suspect was believed to have used — such as a stolen bicycle.

The man was arrested near Merpati Road on Thursday, said Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police (DAC) Yong. He added that a crime prevention advisory was sent to residents living in the Faber and West Coast Garden estates after the incident and patrols were also stepped up.

DAC Yong also said that there have been no similar cases reported in the area in the past six months.

Woman in gag order case says half-siblings always had ‘resentful feelings’

ASHLEY CHIA
ashley@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE – The woman sued by her stepmother for breaching a gag order against talking publicly about her family became emotional on the stand yesterday as she described how their relationship soured after her late father's will was settled in 2011.

During re-examination by her lawyer on the third day of the High Court hearing, Ms Wendy Chan recounted how she did things with her mother, such as going for meals together and driving her around, especially after her father died.

She also argued that she believes her stepmother, Mdm Eleanor Tan, had commenced the suit “under pressure” from her half-siblings because they “always had these resentful feelings” for her.

When asked to explain, Ms Chan said one reason was that all her half-siblings held “regular corporate-type jobs” and brought in a certain amount of money while she was more of a free spirit. The “years of resentment” also eventually caused her to be “totally shut out” from Mdm Tan's decision to sell the house, she added.

Ms Chan also said she felt “very hurt” and “emotional” when she found out that she was the only one among the children to have restrictions, such as the gag order, imposed on her when her stepmother gave each of them money from selling her late husband's Lornie Road property.

Mdm Tan, 79, is suing Ms Chan, 49, for breaching an oral agreement not to publicly talk about her and their family, after the stepdaughter commented on West Coast Member of Parliament Foo Mee Har's parliamentary question on public housing prices on a Channel NewsAsia forum in October 2012. Mdm Foo is Mdm Tan's daughter-in-law.

The dispute stems from an agreement made the previous year when Ms Chan was given S\$1 million and a further S\$36,000 to purchase her own apartment and cover interim rental expenses. Under the agreement, Ms Chan could not say or write anything about Mdm Tan and her family in the newspapers or on the Internet and social media, as Mdm Tan wanted to live the rest of her life in peace and privacy.

But Ms Chan's defence during this hearing is that there was never such an agreement. She pointed to a written agreement they had during a mediation session in September 2012, which revised her gag order such that she was only not allowed to say anything scandalous, untrue or defamatory about Mdm Tan and her family.

The court directed both parties to make written submissions by Apr 10.



* Singapore Army gets new Chief

Brigadier-General (BG) Perry Lim Cheng Yeow became the new Chief of Army yesterday, taking over the symbol of command from Major-General (MG) Ravinder Singh Harchand Singh during a Change of Command Parade at Pasir Laba Camp.

BG Lim, 41, joined the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in 1990, and was awarded the SAF (Overseas) and President's Scholarship in 1991. In the course of his military career, he has held, among others, the appointments of Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Singapore Guards; Commander, 7th Singapore Infantry Brigade; Head, Joint Plans and Transformation Department; and Commander, 3rd Division. The change of command is part of the SAF's continuing process of leadership renewal.

PHOTO: MINDEF

Power fault disrupts train services between Hougang and Dhoby Ghaut

WOO SIAN BOON
woosianboon@mediacorp.com.sg

SINGAPORE – Train services along the North East Line (NEL) between Hougang and Dhoby Ghaut were disrupted for over 30 minutes yesterday afternoon due to a power fault, affecting about 5,900 passengers.

The fault, which occurred at 3.54pm, was caused by a power trip at Potong Pasir Station, said operator SBS Transit. Engineers were despatched there to reset the power system.

The power fault also caused a train heading towards Punggol to come to a stop just as it entered Potong Pasir Station, leading to a misalignment between the station's platform screen doors and the train doors.

“As a result, passengers had to be detrained from the last door and guided by station staff to the nearby station,” said SBS Transit.

The cause of the power fault is still being investigated.

SBS Transit said it activated 13 shuttle buses and 80 staff to as-

sist commuters at the nine affected stations. Full train services resumed at 4.33pm.

However, some commuters claimed that train services were disrupted again at about 5.30pm.

IT analyst Priya Chhatwal, 33, said she heard a loud boom when a train travelling in the direction towards HarbourFront was approaching Serangoon Station.

“It was a really loud noise and definitely not normal. Some people got off but others stayed in the train until two staff came to tell them to get off,” she said.

Based on its CCTV recordings, SBS Transit said there was no “boom”, but it would look into the claims.