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**Using newspaper reports to glean insight  
into current affairs.**

**A Case study : The Singapore Parliamentary  
and Presidential Elections.**

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# NewspaperSG

- Online archives of Singapore newspapers
  - 1831 – 2009
  - URL: [newspapers.nl.sg](http://newspapers.nl.sg)
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# **Elections in 2011**

- Parliamentary Elections : 7 May 2011
  - Presidential Elections : 27 August 2011
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# Singapore's politics

- 10 Parliamentary Elections between 1968 – 2006
- People's Action Party (PAP) won all seats in 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980.
- Opposition won 2 seats in 1984; 1 in 1988; 4 in 1991; 2 in 1997; 2 in 2001; and 2 in 2006.
- 2011 : PAP lost 6 seats and garnered only 60.14% (lowest ever) of total votes casted.

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# Presidential Elections

- 1993 : Ong Teng Cheong elected
- 1999 & 2005 : S R Nathan (uncontested)
- 2011 candidates:
  - Tan Cheng Bock, Tan Jee Say, **Tan Kheng Yam** & Tan Kin Lian

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- Singaporeans politically apathetic?
  - Only concern about economic well-being and material wealth?
  
  - “stifling environment”
  - traditional media bias towards ruling party
  
  - Internet (political sites) & new media
-

# NewspaperSG usage stats in 2011

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages
Jan 2011	35285	65453	395319
Feb 2011	36412	64109	376205
Mar 2011	49841	90780	473786
Apr 2011	42936	76677	412861
<b>May 2011</b>	<b>66527</b>	<b>116862</b>	<b>611861</b>
Jun 2011	47421	85069	522151
Jul 2011	48929	90345	517565
<b>Aug 2011</b>	<b>51222</b>	<b>94665</b>	<b>523321</b>
Sep 2011	49802	93781	509233
Oct 2011	48486	94649	506465
Nov 2011	46601	105525	495306
Dec 2011	43821	107918	490345
Total	567283	1085833	5836418

# Most viewed articles in May 2011

## Chun Sing: 'Ridiculous dream' comes true

**MR CHAN Chun Sing, 19.** Academic results: Four distinctions at A level, a distinction for mathematics and a merit for economics in the S-papers, eight distinctions at O level.  
Schools: Raffles Institution and Raffles Junior College.  
Activities: Chess, vice-head of the Students Council (Functions Department), scouting, jogging, reading political and economic issues.  
Languages: English and Chinese.  
Family: Madam Kwong Kai Fong, 56, his mother, is a machine operator in a plastics company. Sister Siew Yin, 24, is a third-year student at NTL.  
Proposed course: Economics Tripos at Chet's College, University of Cambridge.



Chun Sing may appear a little timid and shy. But as Miss Seah Hui Hui, his Raffles Junior College classmate pointed out, he is "small but dynamic". She was referring to Chun Sing being articulate and confident — and of speaking his mind when

the occasion called for it. Be it Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia or the dangers of protectionism to the world economy. But it is the world of economics that fascinates him no end. He explained that it is because economics strikes the "perfect balance" between the pure

sciences and the arts. That goes some way to explain why he has chosen to read economics at Cambridge. And as for his interest in politics, he said that "a good economist must have a fairly competent grasp of the political current". Chun Sing gets most of

his reading materials from public libraries. "My mum earns only about \$800 a month. Where can I afford the luxury of books and magazines?" he said. And given his family's financial status, Chun Sing said the scholarship has made it possible for him to

pursue what would otherwise be a "ridiculous dream" — getting a university education abroad. Chun Sing has been provisionally nominated for the Singapore Armed Forces (Overseas) Scholarship and plans to serve in the SAF as an officer after graduation.

## Patrick: Like father in some ways

**MR PATRICK Tan Boon Ooi, 19.** Academic results: Four distinctions at A level, merits for Chemistry and Biology in S-papers, seven distinctions at O level.  
Schools: Anglo Chinese Secondary School and National Junior College.  
Activities: Choir member, drama, enjoys swimming, reading, writing

PATRICK is like his father, Dr Tony Tan, the Education Minister, in some ways, said Mrs Mary Tan in a telephone interview. She said Patrick has plenty of determination, a drive to succeed and a great love for books. "When he sets himself a task — be it swimming, drama, or singing — he goes all out to achieve his goal," she said. "The teachers in ACS and NJC were very good and gave him a lot of opportunities to develop himself."

Mrs Tan said that what she appreciates most about Patrick, who is already in Harvard, is his willingness to start from the very bottom. In other words, he does not expect special treatment, she said. She explained: "For instance, in singing, he may not be very good and may be singing a very small part in a choir but he still gives all he can." The same applies to drama, which he picked up to

poetry and essays, and likes science. Languages: English and Chinese. Family: Dr Tony Tan, the Education Minister, is his father. His mother, Mrs Mary Tan, is a housewife. He has a sister, Patricia, and brother, Philip. Proposed course: Liberal Arts, Pre-Medicine at Harvard University.



Chan Sing phones his mother to tell her the good news.

## Business-minded

**■ Top Catholic Junior College student Ong Wei Hong, 19, who had perfect scores in all six subjects and a distinction for the Mathematics S-Paper:**  
"Business — that's where the money and my interest is. It is boring to be an academician. But business is different — you have to be clever and shrewd to succeed. I guess I must have inherited the interest from my father who is in the insurance business."



## Thanks, Mum

**■ Chan Chun Sing, 19, one of four top scorers from Raffles Junior College, who had six distinctions, a distinction for the Mathematics S-Paper and a merit for the Economics S-Paper:**  
"My mother is a machine-operator. I do not stay with my father because my parents are divorced. I think my poor background has made me more determined to succeed."

# Hwa Chong students keep spirits — and scores — high

Overall results up on last year's; Excellent showing by other colleges, too

ITS former school building might be defective but the spirit of Hwa Chong Junior College remains high: Its students emerged tops in the A level results this year. Most other junior colleges also bettered their previous year's results — and jubilation was all around yesterday as students smiled and cheered with some hugging or kissing their teachers and principals. Four Hwa Chong students achieved perfect scores in six subjects and 123 students got at least four A level dis-

two Os, including a pass in General Paper, has gone up — from 85 per cent last year to 89.59 per cent. Said Hwa Chong's principal, Mr Bernard Fong: "I am pleased that despite the crisis and the inconveniences, the students have done well." Top students interviewed said perhaps the best thing that could have happened in Hwa Chong was the crisis in May last year.

**Had to prove a point**

I've done it, top scholar Show Mao tells mum

By JUNE 1 2008

YAMAHA CONTINUES TO OUT

YAMAHA CONTINUES TO OUT





# Most viewed articles in August 2011

## HOME

Focus on parliament

Highlights of yesterday's Parliament sitting

Good intentions not enough

**A thick skin helps**

**Jaya: What people want**

**Augustine on the warpath**

**What makes us tick?**

**Don't take growth for granted, Chen tells the young**

**Dixie's maiden speech**

**General's bus ride**

**General's bus ride**

**General's bus ride**

**General's bus ride**

**General's bus ride**

**General's bus ride**

**General's bus ride**

Dr Tan Cheng Bock kicks off the debate on the Presidential address

### 'No more blank cheque for Government'

Take the right bus for a safer ride  
— Helen Liang

HE construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.

This warning was issued by Dr Tony Tan on Friday at the forum on economic affairs at the UIC last Friday. The assembly was chaired by Dr Tan.

He said that the construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.



Dr Tony Tan

**Soo Khoon is Deputy Speaker**

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Soo Khoon

**Ow: Loans the answer**

Dr Tan said that the construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.

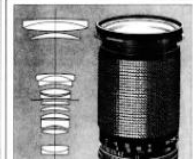
**Answers on social unit**

Dr Tan said that the construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.

**Zoom-in on this fabulous festive offer!**

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## MORE EMPHASIS ON HDB FLATS? Foolish to build MRT now: Tony Tan

By WONG MAI YUN

HE construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.



DR TONY TAN

**Most think Govt acted rightly, says Cheng Bock**

THE majority of Singaporeans are now satisfied that the Government had acted appropriately when it recently arrested those involved in a Marxist conspiracy, Dr Tan Cheng Bock (Ayer Rajah) said yesterday.



DR TAN CHENG BOCK

Dr Tan said that the construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.

**There is a certain group of solid citizens who, because of their links with the detainees either through a shared religion or community work, have yet to accept the reasons for their detention.**

Dr Tan said that the construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.

**Arrests not aimed at Church**

Dr Tan said that the construction industry has become overhauled and it appears were to be solid enough to stand i build its proposed (SRT) system now. It will find itself in trouble.

**General's bus ride**

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## Dr Tony Tan: If only I had studied Chinese...

IF HE had studied Chinese as a second language in school instead of Latin, he would be better off today, Education Minister Dr Tony Tan told a group of PAP members.

The minister said that Singaporean schoolchildren scored high in science and mathematics for their O levels compared with those in other countries.

He said that students who did poorly in a second language but qualified for the university were given provisional entry and help in their second language.

The newsletter noted that Dr Tan had called on party members to air their views on education policies that affect politics so that changes can be made to solve the problems.

**General's bus ride**

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# Top keyword searches in May 2011

- chen show mao – member of Workers' Party
- chan chun sing – member of PAP, now a minister
- low thia kiang – leader of Workers' Party
- chiam see tong – leader of Singapore Democratic Party
- election
- pap – the ruling party in Singapore
- workers party – one of the opposition parties in Singapore
- tin pei ling – member of PAP

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# Top keyword searches in Aug 2011

- Names of presidential candidates with different keyword combinations
  - S'poreans interested to know career & political history of candidates, their stand on certain issues, their relationships with other political personalities
-

# Links from external sites to NewspaperSG in May 2011

External links	Number of access to NewspaperSG articles
<a href="http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/05/30/tan-cheng-bock-spore-is-...">http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/05/30/tan-cheng-bock-spore-is-...</a>	243
<a href="http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/index.aspx">http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/index.aspx</a>	229 (NLB's site)
<a href="http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/05/17/workers-party-will-pose-...">http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/05/17/workers-party-will-pose-...</a>	201
<a href="http://theonlinecitizen.com/2011/05/picking-up-where-ong-teng-ch...">http://theonlinecitizen.com/2011/05/picking-up-where-ong-teng-ch...</a>	185
<a href="http://infopedia.nl.sg/articles/SIP_45_2005-01-06.html">http://infopedia.nl.sg/articles/SIP_45_2005-01-06.html</a>	174 (NLB's site)
<a href="http://www.mrbrown.com/blog/2011/05/our-acting-mcys-minister-ask...">http://www.mrbrown.com/blog/2011/05/our-acting-mcys-minister-ask...</a>	162

# Links from external sites to NewspaperSG in Aug 2011

External links	Number of access to NewspaperSG articles
<a href="http://www.facebook.com/l.php">http://www.facebook.com/l.php</a>	2494
<a href="http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/08/04/old-newspaper-articles-disap...">http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/08/04/old-newspaper-articles-disap...</a>	1405
<a href="http://furrybrowndog.wordpress.com/2011/08/03/old-newspaper-articles-disap...">http://furrybrowndog.wordpress.com/2011/08/03/old-newspaper-articles-disap...</a>	1353
<a href="http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/08/03/more-questions-for-dr-pa...">http://www.temasekreview.com/2011/08/03/more-questions-for-dr-pa...</a>	1197
<a href="http://forums.hardwarezone.com.sg/showthread.php">http://forums.hardwarezone.com.sg/showthread.php</a>	1118
<a href="http://libguides.nl.sg/content.php">http://libguides.nl.sg/content.php</a>	897 (NLB's site)
<a href="http://www.nl.sg/NLWEB.portal">http://www.nl.sg/NLWEB.portal</a>	736 (NLB's site)
<a href="http://theonlinecitizen.com/2011/08/old-newspaper-articles-disap...">http://theonlinecitizen.com/2011/08/old-newspaper-articles-disap...</a>	644

# What does it mean for NL?

- Singaporeans increasingly relying on digital platform to find information
- NLB must keep up with the trend of information consumption by its target audience in terms of its newspaper service in order to remain relevant
- must remain neutral and make information freely available so as to remain a credible and trustworthy institution

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**Thank you**

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