

PART II

**HOW MANY RED FACES ARE THERE IN EXCHANGE SQUARE ?
RESTAURANTS CLOSE FOR 'RENOVATION'**

Three of the 5 food outlets at Exchange Square, those that, until recently, were operated by Mr Johnny Chan Yick Man's Concord Star Enterprises Ltd, have been closed.

The closures were executed first thing on Monday morning.

Officially, senior staff at Concord Star is telling people that the restaurants are being closed, temporarily, for the purposes of renovation.

But, for the third consecutive day, no workers have arrived to start the alleged renovation works.

Concord Star, officially, has made no statement as to the reason for the outlets' closures to its patrons and there is no sign, outside the outlets, explaining the reason for the closures.

The outlets are only one year old so that the idea of closing down the restaurants for renovations seems odd, to say the least.

The outlets are Net Seafood, Exchange Bar and Exchange Restaurant.

Concord Star, as at yesterday, was operating Cre-Asian Restaurant and Bar Cigar House.

Many of the staff members of Concord Star told TARGET, today, that they still have not been paid for the month of April – and it appears that they may never get paid.

Yesterday, the Operations Manager of Concord Star, Mr Jean-Philippe F. Durieux, sent a letter to certain staff members.

TARGET was able to obtain a copy of this letter, the one sent to the Captain in the Exchange Restaurant.

This is the letter:



Quite a number of members of Concord Star are known to have made numerous reports to The Labour Department, a part of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

According to The Labour Department, a group of 6 staff members will meet with officials of The Labour Relations Service, tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 pm, at the Western Magistracy Building.

Another meeting has been scheduled for June 12 at 10:30 am for another 3 staff members, according to a Ms Cheung of The Labour Relations Service.

That Concord Star is having problems is, now, confirmed, 10 times and more, with quite a number of creditors, all telling TARGET similar stories.

Altadis Cigar Asia Pacific Ltd, a subsidiary of the giant, publicly listed US company, Altadis USA Incorporated, told TARGET, today, that it had stopped permitting the distribution of its cigars through any of Mr Johnny Chan Yick Man's entities or outlets.

The secretary to Mr Eric Piras, Managing Director of Altadis Cigar Asia, said that all supplies of Santa Damiana and Don Diego Cigars, premier cigars, imported from Dominican Republic by Altadis Cigar Asia and previously sold through the offices of Mr Johnny Chan Yick Man, had been halted at the beginning of this month.

She said that The Hongkong Wine Exchange Ltd had been among the distributors of Altadis Cigar Asia for the previous 2 years.

But that had come to an immediate stop.

TARGET was told that The Hongkong Wine Exchange/Mr Johnny Chan Yick Man owes in excess of \$HK300,000 to Altadis Cigar Asia.

However, TARGET was unable to confirm this as fact, prior to going to print.

But, as far as Telford International Company Ltd, a supplier of Champagne and white wine, it is owed \$HK25,866 by Concord Star.

Mr Leo Li, Assistant Sales Manager, Telford International, told TARGET that his company had stopped supplying Laurent Perrier Champagne, Rose and Brut, to Concord Star, as well as Dynasty white wine.

Mr Li said that Telford International was owed for supplies, dating back to October 2000.

Mr Massimo Mureddu, Managing Director, Stable Trading Ltd, said that he had closed Concord Star's account and will be going to the Small Claims Tribunal on June 12.

Mr Mureddu, obviously passionate about the situation, by the tone of his voice when he spoke to TARGET's reporter, said that his company is owed \$HK44,701.24.

He said that his company had supplied foodstuffs, comprising, among other things, cheese and pastas, to Cre-Asian Restaurant and Exchange Restaurant, and that his bills are more than 90 days old.

It would appear, by the way that events have unfolded, of late, that Mr Mureddu may have a long wait for his money.

Jebsen and Company Ltd told TARGET, via Ms Bonnie Tso, that it has taken back all the wines, left with Concord Star on a consignment basis, and that it was owed \$HK76,173, up to today's date.

A similar story came from Mr Raymond Lam, of Maxxium China Ltd, another former wine supplier to Concord Star.

Mr Lam claimed his company is owed \$HK24,718 by Concord Star, that debt, going back to March this year.

Ms Christina Ng, a Director of Fortune Seafood, said that her company was owed \$HK21,229.70, that sum of money, being outstanding since March.

Fortune Seafood supplied fish and fish products to Concord Star.

Another wine supplier, ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)

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