Deal a fair hand

A year or two hence, Hong Kong faces both internal and external challenges. Initially, the challenges relate to the political and constitutional systems, which are faced with pressures to reform and a desire to move forward. Later, the challenges will turn to external, when Hong Kong embarks on a period of rapid development and growth. The government, with its leadership, must be prepared to deal with both sets of challenges.

Many people feel that the rules are not fair and that the cards are stacked against them. But if the government has to allow the market to set prices, it must also allow the market to set rules. It is easier to reform the market than to reform the government.

Frank Cheng
frank@longlong.com

Rising anger at elite excesses heralds change

Guan Sanyou

For a country with 1.2 billion people, China has few problems that can quicken the reader’s pulse like the leaders’ scramble for power. In 2011, it was the rise in the cost of food, with food prices soaring to 32 percent in January. But in 2012, it will be the rise in the cost of housing, with housing prices soaring to 64 percent in January.

Guan Sanyou, professor of political science at the University of Science and Technology of China, argues that the Chinese people are fed up with their leaders’ excesses. The Chinese people want to be treated fairly and equally, but they are not. The Chinese people want to be treated with respect and dignity, but they are not. The Chinese people want to be treated with honesty and integrity, but they are not.

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Frail hope in the face of elite excesses

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