



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1993

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GOVERNOR OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF LAN KWAI FONG VICTIMS
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN OFFERED HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ALL THE VICTIMS OF THE INCIDENT AT LAN KWAI FONG, CENTRAL EARLY THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE INJURED AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, THE GOVERNOR THANKED THE POLICE FOR COPING VERY SWIFTLY WITH THE DISASTER AND THE EMERGENCY AND MEDICAL STAFF WHO HAD ALSO BEEN WORKING HARD.

"THERE WILL BE OBVIOUSLY MANY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COMING DAYS AND WEEKS FOR THINKING ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE DISASTER," HE SAID.

"AT THE MOMENT ALL I'D LIKE TO DO IS TO OFFER MY CONDOLENCES AND TO THANK THE MEDICAL STAFF AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES WHO COPE SO WELL WITH THE DISASTER."

AFTER VISITING THE VICTIMS AT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL, THE GOVERNOR ALSO WENT TO LAN KWAI FONG TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE SITUATION.

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INQUIRY ON LAN KWAI FONG TRAGEDY
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"EVERYONE IN HONG KONG WILL JOIN ME IN EXTENDING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE WHO DIED OR WERE INJURED IN THE TRAGEDY EARLIER TODAY," THE GOVERNOR THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SAID THIS MORNING.

MR PATTEN AND HIS WIFE VISITED POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, THE TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITAL, AND THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER DURING THE NIGHT. MR PATTEN EXPRESSED THE COMMUNITY'S GRATITUDE TO THE POLICE, MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.

THIS MORNING THE GOVERNOR MET THE CHIEF SECRETARY, ATTORNEY GENERAL, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE. THE POLICE HAVE PUT IN HAND AN INVESTIGATION TO SEE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WHAT IMMEDIATE LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED FROM THIS TRAGEDY ABOUT CROWD CONTROL. THE POLICE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER TODAY.

THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CONDUCTED BY MR JUSTICE BOKHARY. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE INTENTION IS THAT THE INQUIRY SHOULD BEGIN WORK STRAIGHTAWAY WITH THE AIM OF PRODUCING SOME INTERIM CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS. THE RESULTS OF THE INQUIRY WILL, OF COURSE, BE MADE PUBLIC.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS ARRANGED TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND COUNSELLING TO THE BEREAVED, AND OFFERED A TELEPHONE HOTLINE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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JUSTICE BOKHARY HEADS LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

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MR JUSTICE BOKHARY SAID THIS (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON THAT HE RECOGNISED AND ACCEPTED THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF HAVING BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO INQUIRE INTO THE TRAGEDY AT LAN KWAI FONG IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THIS MORNING WHEN 20 PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES AND MANY MORE WERE INJURED.

"OVER THE WEEKEND, MY TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE FINALISED, SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE, AND THE GATHERING OF MATERIAL WILL START.

"THE INQUIRY WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY MORNING. ITS OBJECT WILL BE TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY IT HAPPENED, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THE DANGER OF A RECURRENCE CAN BE REMOVED OR REDUCED.

"THE MATTER IS URGENT. THIS TRAGEDY, HAVING OCCURRED DURING ONE CELEBRATION, AN INTERIM REPORT IS NEEDED BEFORE THE NEXT. AND IT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR."

MR JUSTICE BOKHARY SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THIS STAGE PRECISELY WHAT FORM THE INQUIRY WILL TAKE; BUT THAT HE EXPECTED TO STUDY DOCUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO TAPES IF ANY, AND PLANS; AND THAT HE WOULD VISIT THE SCENE AND HEAR FROM WITNESSES.

THE PRELIMINARY REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR, WHO HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT IT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

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POLICE COMMISSIONER SADDENED BY LAN KWAI FONG EVENT

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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT HE WAS VERY SADDENED BY THE WHOLE ACCIDENT AND EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED OR INJURED BY THE TRAGIC EVENT IN LAN KWAI FONG.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MR LI POINTED OUT THAT THE POLICE HAD STARTED AN ENQUIRY COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF THE INCIDENT AND WERE COMPILING A REPORT FOR THE CORONOR.

"AMONG OTHER THINGS WE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO AREAS WHETHER THERE ARE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FOR THE FUTURE," MR LI SAID.

MR LI STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SETTING UP AN INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY TO BE HEADED BY A HIGH COURT JUDGE AND THE POLICE WOULD GIVE EVERY ASSISTANCE.

MR LI NOTED THAT THE POLICE HAD A DIFFICULT TASK TO PERFORM BECAUSE OF THE SHEER NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED.

/"POLICE ACTED

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"POLICE ACTED CORRECTLY AND SPEEDILY AND DONE ALL THEIR BEST TO MAKE SURE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE ARE RESCUED FROM THE SCENE," MR LI SAID.

HE PRAISED ALL THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION AT THE TIME AND TO ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES INCLUDING THE FIRE SERVICES, THE AMBULANCE SERVICE AS WELL AS THE MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF.

"THE INITIAL ENQUIRIES INDICATED THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE COMMITMENT. ANY OTHER CONCLUSION DRAWN WILL BE PREMATURE," MR LI ADDED.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID OVER 120 POLICE OFFICERS WERE ON DUTY IN THE LAN KWAI FONG AREA AND A REINFORCEMENT OF OVER 100 OFFICERS WERE DESPATCHED TO THE SCENE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT.

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NEW POSTAGE LABEL FOR COCK YEAR

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THE LABEL PAPER AND MACHINE DIE PLATE IMPRESSION OF THE ELECTRONIC POSTAGE LABEL (FRAMA LABEL) VENDING MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE WILL BE CHANGED FROM THE MONKEY DESIGN TO THE COCK DESIGN ON FEBRUARY 10.

ANNOUNCING THE CHANGE TODAY (FRIDAY), THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MRS DORIS HO, SAID NO OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WOULD BE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHANGE.

HOWEVER, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, AN ADVANCE ORDER SERVICE FOR PRE-PACKAGED SETS OF FRAMA LABELS BEARING MACHINE CODES '01' AND '02' WILL BE AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS:

- * BETWEEN 10 CENTS AND \$2.30;
- * BETWEEN \$2.40 AND \$5; AND
- * THE MOST COMMON POSTAGE RATES OF 10 CENTS, 80 CENTS, 90 CENTS, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5.

A LIMITED QUANTITY OF PRE-PACKAGED FRAMA LABELS, BEARING THE MOST COMMON POSTAGE (10 CENTS, 80 CENTS, 90 CENTS, \$1.70, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5), WILL BE ON SALE ON FEBRUARY 10 AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES:

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

/ADVANCE ORDERS

ADVANCE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ANY POST OFFICE (EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE) DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 4 TO 14.

CUSTOMERS MAY COLLECT THE LABELS ON FEBRUARY 10 FROM THE POST OFFICE WHERE THEY PLACE THEIR ORDER.

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT ALL POST OFFICES (EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE) ON THAT DAY FOR PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION.

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RESIDENTS URGED TO SPEAK OUT ON POLITICAL REFORMS

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE URGED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED POLITICAL REFORMS AND TO PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS SO AS TO HELP BRING ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT ARE "FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG".

THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR HERMAN CHO, MADE THE APPEAL AT THE SHEUNG WAN NEW YEAR CARNIVAL TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR CHO NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SUBMIT RELEVANT VIEWS AND PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR REFERENCE WHEN LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE GOVERNOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PACKAGE IS INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY.

MR CHO SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS WERE BASED ON HONG KONG PEOPLE'S GENERAL WISHES FOR A GRADUAL APPROACH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THESE PROPOSALS AIM TO ENABLE MORE PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SO THAT THE "HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG" CONCEPT CAN BE TAKEN FORWARD.

THE SHEUNG WAN NEW YEAR CARNIVAL WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE SHEUNG WAN AREA COMMITTEE.

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FACTORY FINED FOR BREAKING REST DAY RULE

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FEMALE WORKERS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS MUST BE GIVEN A DAY OFF ON THEIR SCHEDULED REST DAYS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT GAVE THE ADVICE FOLLOWING A RECENT CASE IN WHICH THE JEAN MACHINE LIMITED IN WANG LUNG STREET WAS IMPOSED THE MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000 BY A TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATE FOR EMPLOYING WOMEN TO WORK ON THEIR REST DAY.

/LABOUR INSPECTORS

LABOUR INSPECTORS DETECTED THE OFFENCE DURING A VISIT TO THE COMPANY WHICH EMPLOYED 39 FEMALE WORKERS ON THE REST DAY SPECIFIED IN A PRESCRIBED NOTICE.

UNDER THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS, AN EMPLOYER MUST NOT ENGAGE ANY WOMEN TO WORK IN AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING ON THEIR REST DAYS, OR CHANGE THEIR REST DAYS WITHOUT NOTIFYING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CHANGE TAKES EFFECT.

"THE LAW ALSO REQUIRES AN EMPLOYER TO DISPLAY IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE IN THE FACTORY A PRESCRIBED NOTICE SETTING OUT THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT, INTERVALS FOR MEAL OR REST, AND REST DAYS FOR WOMEN WORKERS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (PROSECUTIONS), MR JOHN SUNG, SAID.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO BREACHES THE PROVISION IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000, HE ADDED.

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FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL FOR EASTERN RESIDENTS
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THE ANNUAL EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD IN VICTORIA PARK ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 3).

THE EVENT IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS WITH HELP FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

IT IS THE LARGEST IN A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES HELD IN THE YEAR TO CALL ON RESIDENTS TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE POLICE TO COMBAT CRIME.

THE CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD FROM 2.30 PM TO 5 PM. THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF POLICE VEHICLES, BICYCLE PERFORMANCES BY THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AND EXHIBITIONS OF FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-CORRUPTION MATERIAL.

POPULAR SINGERS WILL GIVE PERFORMANCE AND JUNIOR POLICE CALL MEMBERS WILL DEMONSTRATE MARTIAL ARTS.

EIGHT RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE SEVEN STALL GAMES AND CHILDREN'S "PLAYHOUSES".

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY; THE ACTING POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR LEE CHI-YUEN AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG.

/THE ACTIVITY

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THE ACTIVITY IS SPONSORED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND
THE ICAC ISLAND EAST REGIONAL OFFICE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN
DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 3) AT THE VICTORIA
PARK FOOTBALL PITCHES NOS. 1 TO 3. THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BEGIN AT
2.30 PM.

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