



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1975

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WOMEN CAN OUTLIVE MEN BY AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS

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HONG KONG WOMEN CAN EXPECT TO OUTLIVE MEN BY AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS, ACCORDING TO A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS NOW ON SALE.

ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, COMPILED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF WOMEN IN 1971 WAS 75.0 YEARS WHILE THAT OF MEN WAS 67.4 YEARS -- A DIFFERENCE OF 7.6 YEARS AND ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.

+THE GAP IS WIDER THAN THAT OF 1961 -- THE YEAR WHEN HONG KONG'S FIRST SET OF LIFE TABLES WAS PREPARED -- WHEN THE EXPECTANCIES OF WOMEN AND MEN WERE ESTIMATED TO BE 70.5 AND 63.6 YEARS RESPECTIVELY.

+NOT ONLY ARE THESE FIGURES RELATIVELY HIGH FOR A DEVELOPING COUNTRY, BUT THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN LIFE SPAN BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IS COMPARABLE WITH THOSE PREVAILING IN THE MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD,+ THE ARTICLE STATES.

THE OVERALL SEX RATIO AT DEATH IN 1973 WAS 1,218 MALES TO 1,000 FEMALES, A SLIGHT INCREASE ON 1961'S RATIO OF 1,215 MALES TO 1,000 FEMALES.

+DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE WAS A MARKED DECLINE IN DEATHS CAUSED BY INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH. FOR THIS GROUP OF CAUSES, THE MORTALITY RATE OF MALES DROPPED BY 56 PER CENT WHILE THAT OF FEMALES DROPPED BY 77 PER CENT.+

+ON THE OTHER HAND, DEATHS CAUSED BY NEOPLASM INCREASED BY 66 PER CENT FOR MALES BUT BY ONLY 31 PER CENT FOR FEMALES WHILE DEATHS CONNECTED WITH PREGNANCY, CHILD-BIRTH AND PUERPERIUM DROPPED BY 88 PER CENT.

+ALL THESE FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO A MUCH HIGHER MALE DEATH RATIO BUT THIS WAS COUNTER-BALANCED BY AN INCREASE IN DEATHS AMONG OLD WOMEN CAUSED BY DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM. WITH MORE AND MORE WOMEN SURVIVING TO OLDER AGE GROUPS WHICH ARE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO THESE DISEASES, THE MORTALITY RATE FOR FEMALES AMONG THEM INCREASED MORE RAPIDLY THAN THAT OF MALES.+

+ALTHOUGH THE RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY HAS DROPPED CONSIDERABLY BECAUSE OF BETTER CHILD-CARE FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENT IN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS, THE DEATH RATIO BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE INFANTS ROSE FROM 1,178 BOYS TO 1,000 GIRLS IN 1961, TO 1,235 BOYS TO 1,000 GIRLS IN 1973,+ THE ARTICLE SAYS. +IT WOULD APPEAR THAT BOYS ARE MORE EASILY AFFECTED BY BIRTH HAZARDS THAN GIRLS.+

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AS FOR THE DEATH RATIO BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS FROM ONE TO FOUR YEARS OLD, THE MORTALITY RATE FOR BOTH WAS ABOUT 4.4 PER THOUSAND POPULATION IN 1961.

+AGAIN GIRLS SEEMED TO HAVE FARED BETTER THAN BOYS DURING THE PROCESS OF IMPROVEMENT IN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WHICH LED TO A MARKED DECLINE IN DEATHS AMONG THIS AGE GROUP= AND THE SEX RATIO OF MORTALITY IN 1973 ROSE TO 1,096 BOYS TO 1,000 GIRLS.+

ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, DEATH RATES AMONG CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE -- THOSE FROM FIVE TO 14 YEARS -- HAD BEEN KEPT EXCEPTIONALLY LOW. ACCIDENTS, ESPECIALLY MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS AND DROWNINGS, HAD BECOME THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG THIS GROUP BY 1973, WITH BOYS AGAIN PROVING TO BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUCH ACCIDENTS THAN GIRLS.

+IN 1961, THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH RATE IN THIS GROUP WAS 61 PER CENT HIGHER FOR BOYS THAN FOR GIRLS. BY 1973, THIS DIFFERENCE HAD INCREASED TO 97 PER CENT.+

AS FOR THE 15 TO 49 AGE GROUP, THE SHARP INCREASE IN SEX RATIO AT DEATH OBSERVED OVER THE PERIOD 1961-1973 WAS MAINLY CAUSED BY A LARGE DECLINE IN MATERNAL MORTALITY AMONG WOMEN AND AN INCREASE IN DEATHS AMONG MEN DUE TO NEOPLASM.

ON THE WHOLE, DEATH LEVELS IN HONG KONG ARE LOW AND COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE ARTICLE SAYS.

+WHILE FURTHER DROPS IN DEATH RATES CAN BE EXPECTED, THESE ARE BOUND TO BE MODERATE AND THE SEX DIFFERENTIAL IN MORTALITY WILL PROBABLY NOT CHANGE SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.+

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE AT \$6 EACH.

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WATER STORAGE 98.5 PER CENT OF FULL CAPACITY
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HONG KONG'S TOTAL WATER STORAGE AS AT 9 O'CLOCK THIS (MONDAY) MORNING WAS 66,282 MILLION GALLONS, REPRESENTING 98.5 PER CENT OF THE FULL STORAGE CAPACITY. AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THE STORAGE WAS ONLY 40,253 MILLION GALLONS.

PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, AT PRESENT THE BIGGEST IN HONG KONG, WAS FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH 50,500 MILLION GALLONS. ON THE SAME DAY LAST YEAR, PLOVER COVE ONLY HELD 30,149 MILLION GALLONS.

A TOTAL OF 95.2 MM (3.75 IN) OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS ENDING AT 9 A.M. TODAY.

TOTAL RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR STANDS AT 1,632.8 MM (64.28 IN). THE MEAN AVERAGE RAINFALL SO FAR THIS YEAR AMOUNTS TO 963.0 MM (37.91 IN).

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ANTI-SMUT BILL TO GO BEFORE LEGCO ON WEDNESDAY

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THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS BILL, WHICH LAYS DOWN TOUGH NEW PENALTIES AGAINST PORN PEDLARS, WILL BE GIVEN ITS FIRST READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 2).

THE BILL IS DESIGNED TO FIGHT ALL FORMS OF PORNOGRAPHY -- WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO DEAL WITH THE SEX-AND-VIOLENCE COMIC BOOKS ON SALE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

THREE OTHER BILLS WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED IN COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST TIME. THESE ARE THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL WHICH RELATES TO INDECENT PUBLIC LIVE PERFORMANCES= THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL WHICH PROVIDES GREATER PROTECTION FOR BUYERS OF UNCOMPLETED FLATS= AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH EMPOWERS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ENTER PROPERTIES WITHIN 70 METRES OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AREA.

TWO OTHER BILLS ARE DUE TO BE DEBATED BEFORE THEIR THIRD AND FINAL READINGS. THESE ARE THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH ENABLES THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TO MAKE CONTROLLING REGULATIONS, AND THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH RAISES THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENCES FROM \$10,000 TO \$100,000.

THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, WHICH PROVIDES STIFFER PENALTIES AGAINST TAX EVADERS, IS ALSO DUE TO COMPLETE ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY WITH SEVERAL AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS EARLIER THIS MONTH.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL ASK THREE QUESTIONS RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND SECURITY OF TAX INFORMATION.

OTHER BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDES A MOTION TO EXTEND THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA UNTIL JULY 31, 1977.

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INTERIM ARRANGEMENT FOR CERTAIN GARMENT EXPORTS TO NORWAY
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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JIMMY MCGREGOR, TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT HONG KONG WOULD UNILATERALLY INTRODUCE RESTRAINTS ON EXPORTS OF CERTAIN GARMENTS TO NORWAY WITH EFFECT FROM TOMORROW (JULY 1) AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE CURRENT TEXTILES AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY.

MR. MCGREGOR MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS WERE ADJOURNED FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD.

TALKS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS STARTED IN OSLO ON JUNE 23. HOWEVER BY JUNE 25 IT BECAME CLEAR THAT NO FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS AGREEMENT COULD BE MADE FOR THE TIME BEING, AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED IN ORDER THAT THE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT CONSIDER THEIR POSITION.

TO AVOID SERIOUS DISRUPTION TO THE TRADE AND AFTER CONSULTING THE TEXTILE ADVISORY BOARD, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO INTRODUCE UNILATERAL RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS AS AN INTERIM MEASURE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT CAN BE FINALISED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND NORWAY.

THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVE THE CONTINUATION OF FOUR RESTRAINT CATEGORIES UNDER THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WHICH COVERS CERTAIN UNDERGARMENTS, SHIRTS, BLOUSES AND TROUSERS. IN ADDITION, HONG KONG WILL VOLUNTARILY RESTRAIN EXPORTS OF CERTAIN OTHER SHIRTS AND BLOUSES, WHICH NORWAY DEMONSTRATED DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS, ARE CAUSING MARKET DISRUPTION. AN EXPORT REGISTRATION SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED FOR ELEVEN OTHER CATEGORIES OF GARMENTS.

DETAILS OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1975 TO JUNE 30, 1976 ARE ANNOUNCED IN NOTICE TO EXPORTERS, SERIES 3, NO. 18/75 DATED JUNE 30, 1975. IN A FURTHER NOTICE TO EXPORTERS, SERIES 3, NO. 19/75 DATED JUNE 30, 1975, EXPORTERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT RETURNS OF EXPORTS OF WOVEN BLOUSES AND JUMPERS OF CONTINUOUS SYNTHETIC FIBRES AND COTTON KNITTED SHIRTS SHIPPED IN THE PERIOD JUNE 1, 1974 TO MAY 31, 1975 TO THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JULY 10, 1975.

COPIES OF THESE NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECEPTIONIST COUNTER ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, 46 CONNAUGHT ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED BY MR. C.H. POON, INDUSTRY ASSISTANT TELEPHONE NO. 5-247315.

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RHKAAF COMMEMORATIVE COVERS

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SPECIAL POSTAL COVERS COMMEMORATING THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE'S SILVER JUBILEE HAVE BEEN RETURNED BY THE R.A.F. MUSEUM IN HENDON FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THOSE WHO HAVE PLACED ORDERS.

THE COVERS WERE FLOWN ON FEBRUARY 1 THIS YEAR BY TWO OF THE SQUADRON'S AIRCRAFT -- AN ALOUETTE MARK IIIIB HELICOPTER AND A BRITTEN NORMAN ISLANDER. THE FORMER WAS DOING A FLYING DOCTOR RUN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, MAKING STOPS AT NIM WAN, WU KAU TANG AND SAM A TSUEN= WHILE THE LATTER WAS CARRYING OUT A TRAINING FLIGHT TO CLARK AIR BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

DETAILS OF THE TWO FLIGHTS WERE OVERPRINTED ON THE COVERS AND SENT TO THE RAF MUSEUM FOR AN INSERT GIVING A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RHKAAF. THEY HAVE NOW BEEN RETURNED FOR DISTRIBUTION.

ALL THE 1,298 SPECIAL COVERS FLOWN IN THE ISLANDER HAVE BEEN SIGNED BY AIR VICE MARSHAL CAIRNS, WHO WAS ADJUTANT OF THE RHKAAF IN 1955, AND THE CREW OF THAT FLIGHT. A TOTAL OF 3,140 COVERS OF THE 13,803 CARRIED BY THE ALOUETTE HELICOPTER WERE ALSO SIGNED BY THE CREW.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER, 340 ORDINARY COVERS AND 383 COVERS SIGNED BY THE HELICOPTER CREW WERE ORDERED BY MEMBERS OF THE RHKAAF AND THE PUBLIC. OF THE SPECIAL COVERS FLOWN BY THE ISLANDER, 128 WERE ORDERED BY THE UNIT AND SOME 100 BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN HONG KONG.

ALL THE COVERS HAVE BEEN SOLD OUT AND NO MORE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED.

THE COVERS, DEPICTING A SPITFIRE MARK 24B AIRCRAFT AND AN ALOUETTE IIIIB HELICOPTER, WERE ISSUED BY THE RHKAAF IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE RAF MUSEUM IN HENDON. SALE PROCEEDS WILL BE HANDED TO THE MUSEUM FOR GENERAL PURCHASES AND FOR BUYING AND MAINTAINING OLD AIRCRAFT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE COVER ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1975.

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NEW NURSERY SHOWS THE WAY
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, TODAY CALLED ON NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TOWARDS FINANCING SUBVENTED WELFARE PROJECTS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW KOWLOON WOMEN ASSOCIATION NURSERY IN TSZ WAN SHAN SOUTH ESTATE WELFARE BUILDING, MR. LEE SAID THE ASSOCIATION HAD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHER NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANISATIONS TO FOLLOW BY ESTABLISHING A WELL-EQUIPPED NURSERY SOLELY OUT OF ITS OWN RESOURCES IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION.

HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PROMOTION OF WELFARE WORK AND NOTED THAT DESPITE ITS TIGHT BUDGET, THE GOVERNMENT HAD INCREASED SUBVENTIONS TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING NURSERIES FOR 1975-76.

HE ALSO THANKED ALL NURSERIES FOR THEIR CONTINUED CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN EXERCISING STRICT ECONOMY ON SPENDING WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE.

MR. LEE NOTED THAT THE NEW KOWLOON WOMEN ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN WELFARE WORK AND HAD BEEN PROVIDING A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969.

THEIR LATEST PROJECT WILL PROVIDE PLACES FOR 100 CHILDREN BETWEEN TWO AND SIX YEARS TO BENEFIT WORKING MOTHERS LIVING IN TSZ WAN SHAN AREA.

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FERRY STREET SECTION TO BE CLOSED FOR A FEW HOURS
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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT THE SECTION OF FERRY STREET BETWEEN SAIGON STREET AND JORDAN ROAD IN YAUMATI WILL BE CLOSED FOR SIX HOURS AS FROM 12 MIDNIGHT ON THURSDAY (JULY 3) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGE IN THE AREA.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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EMPLOYERS HELP EASE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES TOLD NEW TERRITORIES ROTARIANS THIS EVENING THAT HONG KONG EMPLOYERS HAD DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS DONE MUCH TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC SLUMP ON OUR SOCIETY.

HE SAID HONG KONG MUST CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO SHARE THE WORK TO BE DONE AMONG THE WORKERS AVAILABLE AND TO LESSEN THE INCIDENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS MOREOVER PRESSING ON WITH DEVELOPMENT IN EVERY MAJOR POLICY FIELD ALTHOUGH SOME MORE SLOWLY THAN PLANNED, HE SAID.

TOUCHING ON HONG KONG'S GROWING ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GREATER EFFORT BEING MADE ON THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

CITING TSUEN WAN AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THERE WERE MANY FINE SCHOOL HALLS WHICH COULD BE USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT OF ALL KINDS. ROTARIANS COULD HELP IN DEVELOPING THESE ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED.

+HONG KONG SUCCEEDS AND SURVIVES BECAUSE OF THE EFFORTS OF YOU ALL, AND LOOKING BACK AT THE LAST YEAR, I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH OPTIMISM,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

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GOVERNMENT LOTTERY
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FOUR WELL-KNOWN ARTISTES OF COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL HELP PROMOTE THE SALES OF THIS YEAR'S THIRD GOVERNMENT LOTTERY TICKETS AT STATUE SQUARE IN CENTRAL ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 2) BETWEEN 1 P.M. AND 2 P.M.

THEY ARE MR. HO YA-YAU, MISS CONITA CHAN HOI-SEE, MISS CHENG KIT-MAN AND MISS MA SHUK-KAU.

DURING THE SALE PROMOTION, ANOTHER FOUR COMEDIANS OF COMMERCIAL RADIO WILL ENTERTAIN THE PUBLIC ON THE G.I.S. MOBILE STREET THEATRE.

UP TO THIS AFTERNOON, A TOTAL OF 433,000 TICKETS WAS SOLD. SALES WILL CLOSE AT 9 P.M. ON FRIDAY (JULY 4).

THE WINNING NUMBERS WILL BE DRAWN BY THE FOUR COMMERCIAL RADIO ARTISTES ON JULY 5, AT THE CITY HALL THEATRE.

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