



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, February 19, 1973

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### NEW LOOK FOR BOTANIC GARDENS

#### More Species Of Flowers And Plants Added

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Botanic Gardens, which attracts thousands of visitors on weekends and holidays, is putting on a new and more colourful look.

Constant improvements are being made by the Urban Services Department to the Garden and since last April, various species of flowers and plants have been grown to provide added attractions to holiday-makers.

A large lawn round the modernised fountain in the centre of the Garden has been turned into a flower bed for roses and seasonal flowers.

The roses, imported from Australia and Holland, are of different varieties and colours.

A Bauhinia section, a Camellia centre, and a Magnolia centre have been set up round the aviary.

There are over 30 Magnolia of six different species. The flowers, imported from Australia, had to be grown first in a nursery bed and then transplanted.

A bamboo section, containing seven species of bamboo shoot, has been added near the entrance facing Upper Albert Road.

Over 20 species of palm trees from Singapore have also been planted in the Garden.

/It is .....

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It is expected that a Rock Garden, a shrub section and a conifer section will be completed this year.

Azalea, with attractive colours of violet, purple and white, will be grown on the slopes round the garden. The flowers, blooming in March and April, will add a wealth of colours to the area.

The Urban Services Department is looking for area species of flowers and plants. There are also plans to extend the zoo and the aviary by building more cages for animals and birds.

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EXCO APPOINTMENT

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The Hon. H.J.C. Browne has been appointed temporarily to the Executive Council with effect from February 16 during the absence of the Hon. G.R. Ross.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR LAST MONTH

Higher Prices For Food, Clothing And Services

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The General Consumer Price Index (Sept. 63/Aug. 64 = 100) for January 1973 was 144, one point higher than that for the previous month.

There were increases of one point each in the indexes for foodstuffs, clothing and footwear, miscellaneous goods, and transport and vehicles.

An increase of three points was recorded in the index for fuel and light, while an increase of four points was recorded in the index for services.

Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant.

Compared with the previous month, there were increases in the average retail prices of fresh water fish, salt water fish, other fish, rice, pork, beef, poultry, edible oil and fresh fruits.

On the other hand, the average retail prices of fresh vegetables and eggs dropped.

For non-food items, higher prices for kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas caused the index for fuel and light to move upwards.

The index for services also went up mainly as a result of increased charges for hairdressing on the approach of the Lunar New Year.

The Modified Consumer Price Index for January 1973 was 148, one point higher than that for the previous month, and nine points higher than that for the corresponding month in 1972.

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### SHORT COURSES ON PRINTING

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The Morrison Hill Technical Institute, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Printers' Association, will conduct two short courses on printing beginning in the middle of March.

"This is to meet the demand from the local printing industry for better and more sophisticated techniques", a spokesman for the Education Department said today.

These courses, the first of their kind, are known as the Basic Printing Technology and Offset Printing Instructors Training respectively. They will be held at the Morrison Hill Technical Institute Annex in Caine Lane on a part-time day-release basis.

Participants must be sponsored and released by their employers to attend classes one morning each week for twelve weeks.

The fees for each course are \$20, payable in advance by one instalment.

Further details may be obtained from the Hong Kong Printers' Association, No. 48, Johnston Road, First Floor, Wanchai (Tel. 5-275050) or from the Morrison Hill Technical Institute at No. 6, Oi Kwan Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel. 5-745321).

Meanwhile, the Education Department is planning to set up a Department of Printing at the Kwun Tong Technical Institute which is due to open in September 1975.

Day and evening classes on printing will be held at this new institute.

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#### YOUTH PROJECT COMPETITION

Young People Invited To Contribute To Unusual Exhibition

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Mr. Stephen Law Chi-kin, Senior Principal Social Welfare Officer and chairman of the Organising Committee, announced today the start of an unusual competition among young people between 13 and 25 to test their awareness of the meaning of social welfare.

The competition is being organised by the Social Welfare Department in co-operation with the Education Department and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

The aim is to invite groups from voluntary agencies, schools, and institutions to choose any aspect of social welfare services in Hong Kong covered by the recently-published white paper, and then to interpret it in an attractive and significant way.

"Let us say a group representing a school in the Western district chooses blind welfare as their theme," Mr. Law said. "They will then have to devise an exhibit measuring seven feet by seven feet illustrating in an essay, and accompanying charts, pictures, slogans, models, and so on, what the theme means to them.

"It is hoped that in this way, participants will not only involve themselves, by association, with social welfare work in Hong Kong, but also contribute towards a better community understanding and appreciation of these services."

/Fifty of .....

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Fifty of the best entries will be displayed in the main concourse of the Ocean Terminal between May 18 and 20, and participants contributing the top 13 will receive as prizes educational or recreational equipment worth \$3,000.

The first prize will be such equipment worth \$1,000, the second \$600, and the third \$400. Ten consolation prizes will be equipment worth \$100 each.

The prizes are being arranged by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

The Education Department is helping to circulate both the conditions of entry and application forms among all schools.

A qualification is that each entry must be the joint effort of a group of at least five members, and so acknowledged by a responsible officer.

The first step is for the group to inform the Social Welfare Department's Youth Work Unit, Kowloon Government Offices Building, Nathan Road, before April 6, of its choice of theme and plan of approach.

"This is necessary," Mr. Law explained, "in case too many groups choose the same theme. The Unit will then be able to make an alternative suggestion."

Eventually a panel of judges will consider all the entries, and the best will be mounted for display in the Ocean Terminal.

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PRIZES FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS POSTER DESIGN WINNERS

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Note to Editors: Winners of the Anti-Narcotics Poster Design Competition will receive their prizes at a ceremony to be held at the 35 mm theatre of G.I.S. on the 5th floor of Beaconsfield House on Wednesday (February 21). The ceremony will begin at 2.30 p.m.

A total of 16 boys and girls will receive their awards from Rev. K.L. Stumpf, Chairman of the Education and Publicity Sub-Committee of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, which sponsored the competition. Their entries were chosen as being the best from among the 328 designs submitted in the competition.

Entrants were required to depict the beautiful aspects of life in contrast to the misery of drug addiction.

Details of the winners and their posters will be available at the ceremony.

You are cordially invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover the presentation of prizes.

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COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL

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Recipients of the Colonial Police Medal may now use the letters C.P.M. after their names.

They may do so on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

This applies to members of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force and the Fire Services who have been awarded the medal either for gallantry or for meritorious service.

The Queen has approved an amendment to the Royal Warrant governing the Colonial Police Medal.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

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A number of premises in Kowloon City will be without water for five hours on Thursday (February 22) starting from 1 a.m.

This is to allow the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

Affected premises are within the area bounded by Prince Edward Road, Nga Tsin Long Road, Nga Tsin Wai Road and Ta Ku Ling Road.

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LABOUR DISPUTE AT HIGH ISLAND SITE SETTLED

With Help Of Labour Relations Service

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With the help of the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department, an amicable settlement has been reached in a labour dispute involving some 350 workers at one of the main construction sites of the High Island Water Scheme.

The dispute broke out on February 12 when workers of Vianini S.P.A. stopped work and demanded better terms of employment.

Direct negotiations reached a deadlock and two days later the Labour Department intervened.

Officers of the Labour Relations Service travelled 18 miles to the construction site on two consecutive days and conducted a series of separate discussions and joint meetings with the parties concerned.

Final agreement was reached last Thursday (February 15).

A new scheme of working hours for daily rated workers and a revised wage rate were introduced. Workers will be given a 15-minute tea break in the morning and in the afternoon.

The revised wage rate amounts to a 25 per cent wage increase over the old wage rate, which was somewhat below the market rate.

Workers in turn promised to raise their efficiency and productivity.

"The agreement was reached in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and co-operation which will benefit both the management and the workers in the long run," a Labour Department spokesman said.

/Vianini S.P.A. ....

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Vianini S.P.A. is the contractor of a \$460 million project to build dams for the High Island Reservoir.

The company employs a range of modern heavy construction equipment and the total labour force is expected to be increased to 1,000 by the end of the year.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.