



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Saturday, October 20, 1973

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SEPTEMBER G.C.P.I. UP FIVE POINTS

The General Consumer Price Index for September 1973 was 181 - five points higher than that for the previous month. This was due mainly to a rise of eight points in the index for foodstuffs.

An increase of four points was recorded in the index for clothing and footwear, while increases of one point each were recorded in the indexes for fuel and light, alcoholic drink and tobacco, miscellaneous goods, and services. Movements in the indexes for other sections of commodity were insignificant.

Compared with August, there were increases in the average retail prices of rice, bread and cakes, salt water fish, pork, other meat, poultry, fresh vegetables and eggs.

The exceptionally rainy weather experienced last month reduced considerably the volume of locally produced fresh vegetables.

As a result retail prices of fresh vegetables increased substantially and this was responsible for over two-fifths of the overall rise of five points in the General Consumer Price Index. On the other hand, the average retail prices of fresh water fish, beef and fresh fruits dropped.

A Census and Statistics Department spokesman said that food prices in particular vegetable prices generally reach their peak each year around this time.

As to non-food items, prices of clothing materials and also men's, women's and children's items of clothing and footwear were raised, resulting in an increase in the index for this section of commodities.

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WEDDING PRESENT FOR PRINCESS ANNE

Hong Kong's wedding present to Her Royal Highness Princess Anne will be a locally manufactured carpet and a pair of matching rugs.

Announcing this today, a government spokesman said Buckingham Palace had advised that the Princess would be pleased to accept this gift from the people of Hong Kong.

The matching rugs have been dispatched to arrive in time for the wedding, which will take place on November 14. These will be followed by the carpet, designed according to a pattern selected by the Princess.

The estimated cost of \$5,000 will be met from public funds.

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URBCO YOUTH DANCE

The Urban Council will present another youth dance on October 27 in the staff restaurant of the Central Government Offices (West Wing), Lower Albert Road, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Two popular Hong Kong groups have been engaged to perform at the dance. The highlight of the party will be a lucky draw at the end of the occasion.

Tickets at \$1.50 are now on sale at the City Hall Theatre Booking Office.

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1973 WETTEST YEAR ON RECORD

The abnormally high rainfall recorded last month has made the year 1973 the wettest year in the recorded history of Hong Kong.

It brought the rainfall total for the first nine months of the year to 3086.4 mm -- which already exceeded the previous record annual rainfall of 3040.7 mm set in 1889.

According to the Royal Observatory, the total recorded rainfall last month was 476.0 mm -- which was 197.2 mm or 70 per cent above normal.

During the month two tropical cyclones -- severe tropical storm "Louise" and Typhoon "Marge" -- necessitated the hoisting of tropical cyclone warning signals. Although no strong winds were experienced in Hong Kong, "Marge" brought a total of 60.2 mm of rainfall between September 13 and 15.

The strong monsoon signal was also hoisted twice because of two surges of the winter monsoon towards the end of the month.

A total of 10 thunderstorms and heavy rain warnings was issued during the month and 10 aircraft were diverted due to adverse weather conditions.

A maximum temperature of 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded on September 12 and a minimum temperature of 22.8 degrees Celsius on September 19.

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Note to Editors: A full report by the Royal Observatory on the weather of September 1973 is boxed for collection.

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NEW POST OFFICE FOR NORTH POINT

The new Tsat Tsz Mui Post Office at Stanhope House, North Point, will be opened by Mr. Shum Choi-sang, Chairman of the Causeway Bay Kaifong Association at 10 a.m. on Monday (October 22).

It will offer the full range of postal services - except insured letters and boxes. Business hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

There are 350 Post Office Private Boxes installed at the new post office. An automatic 10-cent stamp selling machine and a pillar box have also been installed outside the main entrance to provide the necessary facilities outside office hours.

The new post office will take over the letter delivery services from the present King's Road Post Office which has become overburdened due to the fast growth in the North Point area.

The King's Road Post Office will continue to offer the usual counter services. From Monday, its business hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

The new Tsat Tsz Mui Post Office will bring the total number of post offices to 67, including a mobile post office operating in the New Territories.

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TRAFFIC CHANGES IN TSUEN WAN

New traffic arrangements will be introduced next week in Tsuen Wan and Fung Wong Village in Kowloon to improve traffic circulation.

Starting from 10 a.m. on Monday (October 22), three streets in Tsuen Wan will be re-routed one-way. Kwan Mun Hau Street between Tak Wah Street and Tsuen Wan Market Street will only permit one-way traffic heading towards Tsuen Wan Market Street.

At the same time, Tsuen Wan Market Street between Kwan Mun Hau and Yan Chai Street will be opened to one-way traffic going to Yan Chai Street; while Yan Chai Street will only provide one-way access for traffic going towards Tak Wah Street.

Meanwhile on Tuesday (October 23), Wan Fung Street in Fung Wong Village will be re-routed one-way in a clockwise direction. The section of Ngan Fung Street north of Kam Fung Street will be routed one-way southbound, while its section south of Kam Fung Street will be routed one-way northbound.

Appropriate traffic signs will be set up to guide motorists.

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ENTRY DEADLINE FOR DESIGN EXHIBITION EXTENDED

The application deadline for the "Young People's World" creative structural design exhibition is extended to November 7, the organisers announced today.

"This will enable more participants to join the exhibition," said Mr. Antonio Chu, Officer-in-charge of the Social Welfare Department's Youth Work Unit which has organised the project.

The exhibition will take place from November 24 to December 1 at Kowloon Park during this year's Festival of Hong Kong.

About 30 works will be selected for display. Prizes will be awarded to the four best designs and all participating groups will receive souvenirs.

Prospectus and application forms are obtainable at the Youth Work Unit at Room 908, Causeway Bay Magistracy Building, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong (Tel. 5-712467 and 5-705516) or Kowloon Government Offices Building, 18th floor, 405 Nathan Road, Kowloon (Tel. 3-884111 ext. 331).

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SUMMER TIME ENDS TOMORROW

Summer time in Hong Kong will officially end at 3.30 a.m. tomorrow (Sunday).

Residents are reminded that before going to bed this (Saturday) evening, they should set their clocks and watches back one hour.

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RESUMPTION OF AIRMAIL SERVICES TO MIDDLE EAST

Airmail services to Egypt, Israel and Syria have been resumed, the Postmaster General announced today.

While there are no direct air services operating to these countries from Hong Kong, he said, it was possible to route airmails through intermediate countries. He warned, however, that delays in delivery may occur.

There is no change in the position regarding surface mail to Egypt, Israel and Syria. This will remain suspended until shipping services to these countries from Hong Kong are resumed.

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Release time: 2.30 p.m.