



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975.

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

DANGER OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING FIRES IN HONG KONG REDUCED CONSIDERABLY	1
WORK TO START SOON ON SIXTH PUMPING STATION FOR HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME	2
THREE NEW STAMPS ON HONG KONG FESTIVALS TO BE ISSUED	3
SEWAGE SYSTEMS IN KENNEDY TOWN AND CHEUNG SHA WAN TO BE IMPROVED	4
MORE CAMPING FACILITIES NEEDED, SAYS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE	5
SPECIAL REGISTRATION FACILITIES FOR SAI KUNG RESIDENTS	6
MR. ALEX WU APPOINTED TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	6
TOTAL BANK DEPOSITS AMOUNT TO \$33,970 MILLION	7
352,000 LOTTERY TICKETS SOLD SO FAR	7

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975.

- 1 -

LESSER DANGER OF MULTI-STOREY
BUILDING FIRES IN H.K.
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STRICT FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG HAVE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THE DANGER OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDING FIRES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. HARRY WOOD, WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A FILM CURRENTLY SHOWING HERE ABOUT A FIRE IN A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 138-STOREY BUILDING IN THE UNITED STATES.

MR. WOOD SAID IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO DENY THAT A DISASTROUS MULTI-STOREY BUILDING FIRE COULD NEVER OCCUR IN HONG KONG.

+BUT THE DANGER OF ONE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE IS DECLINING EACH YEAR DUE TO THE IMPOSITION OF INCREASING STRINGENT FIRE SAFETY REQUIRMENTS IN BUILDINGS,+ HE SAID.

MR. WOOD POINTED OUT THAT BUILDING PLANS ARE REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL WHEN FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS ARE PRESCRIBED, SUCH AS FIRE ATTACK SYSTEM, AUTOMATIC ALARM SYSTEMS FOR SMOKE AND HEAT, EXTINGUISHERS AND HOSEREELS.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ACTS IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE BUILDING AUTHORITY OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON MEANS OF ESCAPE IN THE EVENT OF FIRE AND IT CARRIES OUT FULL CHECKS ON ALL BUILDINGS BEFORE THEY ARE OCCUPIED.

+I WOULD NOT LIKE TO LULL THE PUBLIC INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY - FIRE CAN STRIKE ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME AND THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST CAUSE FOR COMPLACENCY - BUT I CAN ASSURE THE COMMUNITY THAT OUR BUILDING AND FIRE REGULATIONS AND CODE OF PRACTICE ARE AMONG THE STRICTESST IN THE WORLD, CERTAINLY A GOOD DEAL STRICTER THAN THOSE IN SOME POSSIBLY MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,+ MR. WOOD SAID. +THEY ARE REGULARLY REVIEWED AND UPDATED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE AND NEED.+

PERIODIC INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS ARE IN PROPER WORKING ORDER AND MEANS OF ESCAPE ARE KEPT FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION.

MR. WOOD WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S CAPACITY TO COPE WITH MULTI-STOREY BUILDING FIRES AND RESCUE OF VICTIMS ARE GOOD AS IT IS EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN APPLIANCES. HE SAID THIS CAPACITY WOULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED WHEN THE NEWLY ORDERED 50-METRE LADDERS, NOW BEING BUILT IN WEST GERMANY, ARRIVE NEXT YEAR.

/HE SAID:

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975

- 2 -

HE SAID: + IF A FIRE DOES OCCUR IN A TALL BUILDING, OUR MAIN RELIANCE WILL BE ON THE BUILT-IN SAFETY FACTORS. PROVIDING THESE SAFETY FACTORS ARE NOT ABUSED, FOR EXAMPLE BY WEDGING OPEN STAIRCASE DOORS, BY BLOCKING STAIRCASES OR BY MAKING ILLEGAL STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS, THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A FIRE SHOULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.+

AS THE MAJORITY OF FIRES IN HONG KONG OCCURRED IN MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS, HE POINTED OUT, WE'VE GOT LOTS OF EXPERIENCE.+

MR. WOOD SAID A POINT HE HAD PARTICULARLY NOTED IN THE FILM, BUT WHICH A LAYMAN MIGHT OVERLOOK, WAS THE COMMENT OF A WOMAN ABOUT THE LACK OF FIRE DRILL.

HE SAID:+ BECAUSE OF COMPLACENCY, FIRE DRILLS ARE TOO OFTEN NEGLECTED OR NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY MANAGERMENTS AND STAFF.+

+HOWEVER, KNOWING EXACTLY WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE WILL HELP IN THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. FOR THIS REASON, I CANNOT OVER-EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE DRILLS BEING CARRIED OUT REGULARLY IN ALL BUILDINGS,+ MR. WOOD STRESSED.

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SIXTH PUMPING STATION FOR HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME

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ANOTHER PUMPING STATION WILL BE BUILT IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME.

THE TAI SHUI HANG PUMPING STATION IN SHATIN IS THE SIXTH OF EIGHT PUMPING STATIONS TO BE BUILT UNDER A SCHEME TO DEVELOP THE LOWLAND CATCHMENT AREA IN SAI KUNG PENINSULA.

WHEN COMPLETED, THIS STATION WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 5,000,000 GALLONS A DAY. IT WILL DRAW FLOOD WATER FROM THE STREAM SOUTH OF THE TAI SHUI HANG VILLAGE AND PUMP IT THROUGH A 364-METRE PIPELINE TO A POINT WHERE IT WILL FLOW THROUGH THE TUNNEL SYSTEM INTO THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR.

TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PUMPING STATION AND A SHORT ACCESS ROAD WERE INVITED EARLIER THIS WEEK. WORK WILL BEGIN IN TWO MONTHS AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

MEANWHILE, CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FIVE OTHER PUMPING STATIONS AT SAI KUNG PENINSULA IS WELL UNDERWAY.

IMPROVEMENT WORKS, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION CHANNELS AND DIVERSION DAMS, HAVE ALSO BEEN CARRIED OUT SO AS TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY TO AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE AREA.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975

- 3 -

POST OFFICE TO ISSUE THREE NEW STAMPS ON HONG KONG FESTIVALS
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THREE SPECIAL STAMPS DEPICTING HONG KONG FESTIVALS WILL BE ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES FROM JULY 31 TOGETHER WITH A SPECIAL SOUVENIR SHEET INCORPORATING THE THREE NEW ISSUES.

THE STAMPS, FEATURING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL AND THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL, WILL BE ISSUED IN DENOMINATIONS OF 50 CENTS, \$1 AND \$2, RESPECTIVELY.

AN EXHIBITION OF THE NEW STAMPS WILL BE HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR LIFT LOBBY OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, PEDDER STREET BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 4.30 PM FROM JULY 21 TO 25.

SPECIAL FIRST DAY COVERS HAVE ALSO BEEN DESIGNED AND THESE WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES FROM JULY 17 AT 20 CENTS EACH.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO OBTAIN THEIR REQUIREMENTS EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICING OF FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IN PEDDER STREET, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE IN NATHAN ROAD, AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE IN SALISBURY ROAD.

FOR THIS SERVICE, ADDRESSED FIRST DAY COVERS MUST BE HANDED-IN WITH AN ORDER FORM TOGETHER WITH A REMITTANCE TO COVER THE COST. THE CHARGE WILL BE \$3.70 PER COVER WHICH INCLUDES THE COST OF THREE STAMPS TOGETHER WITH A SERVICE FEE OF 20 CENTS.

THE COVERS MUST BE FULLY ADDRESSED BY THE APPLICANT, AND NOT LESS THAN 10 COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITH EACH ORDER.

ORDER FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE ON JULY 16.

ANY PERSON ORDERING SERVICED COVERS ADDRESSED TO A LOCAL DESTINATION MAY COLLECT THEM ON AUGUST 1, 1975 FROM THE OFFICE WHERE THE ORDER WAS PLACED.

COVERS ADDRESSED OVERSEAS WILL BE SENT FORWARD BY ORDINARY POST, SURFACE MAIL, UNLESS SUFFICIENT STAMPS ARE AFFIXED TO COVER AIRMAIL AND/OR REGISTRATION CHARGES.

THE LATEST ACCEPTANCE DATE FOR ADVANCE ORDERS OF SERVICED COVERS WILL BE NOON ON TUESDAY, JULY 29.

/A SERVICE

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975

- 4 -

A SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED ON JULY 31 AT ALL POST OFFICES WHERE FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER, IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATE STAMP AND HANDED BACK TO THE PERSON PRESENTING THEM. NO TIME TYPE WILL APPEAR IN THE POSTMARK.

THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR THIS SERVICE ARE THAT ONLY ARTICLES BEARING AN INDICATION THAT THEY ARE "FIRST DAY COVERS" WILL BE SO TREATED. THE ARTICLES MUST BE ADDRESSED TO A LOCAL ADDRESS. THE ARTICLES MUST NOT BEAR ANY OTHER CANCELLATION AND NO REGISTERED ITEMS WILL BE PROCESSED BY THIS METHOD.

SPECIAL POSTING BOXES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE ON JULY 31 FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE FIRST DAY COVERS CAREFULLY HAND-POSTMARKED BEFORE DESPATCH TO THE ADDRESS ON THE COVERS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE THREE NEW STAMPS ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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IMPROVED SEWAGE SYSTEMS FOR KENNEDY TOWN AND CHEUNG SHA WAN * * * * *

BETTER DRAINAGE FACILITIES WILL SOON BE PROVIDED IN VICTORIA ROAD AND THE NEW KENNEDY TOWN RECLAMATION AREA ON THE ISLAND AS WELL AS IN CHEUNG SHA WAN DISTRICT IN KOWLOON.

ON THE ISLAND, A NETWORK OF PIPES AND CULVERTS WILL BE INSTALLED TO COLLECT FLOODWATER FROM THE HILLSIDE OF VICTORIA ROAD AND DISCHARGE IT OUT TO SEA. THE WORK, WHICH INVOLVES LAYING SOME 250 METRES OF PIPELINE, IS EXPECTED TO START IN SEPTEMBER AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN NINE MONTHS.

IN CHEUNG SHA WAN, A NEW SEWER WILL BE BUILT IN CHEUNG WAH STREET TO REPLACE THE PRESENT ONE WHICH HAS BECOME INADEQUATE AS A RESULT OF INTENSE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW SEWER WOULD INVOLVE THE LAYING OF AN ADDITIONAL 335 FEET OF PIPES TO COPE WITH PRESENT NEEDS AND PROVIDE SPARE CAPACITY TO SERVE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

WASTE WATER IN THE SEWERS WOULD FIRST BE TREATED AT THE LAI CHI KOK SCREENING PLANT BEFORE BEING DISCHARGED INTO THE SEA, HE ADDED.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975

- 5 -

MORE CAMPING FACILITIES NEEDED IN HONG KONG
SAYS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE

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HONG KONG NEEDS MORE CAMPING FACILITIES FOR ITS GROWING YOUNG POPULATION, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ONLY 29 HOLIDAY CAMPS WITH ACCOMMODATION FOR ABOUT 4,000 YOUNGSTERS - +A PROVISION THAT HARDLY MEETS THE PRESSING DEMANDS OF RECENT YEARS,+ HE SAID.

HOLIDAY CAMPS, HE SAID, HAVE AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN HONG KONG WHICH IS SO SMALL IN AREA AND HEAVILY POPULATED, BECAUSE THEY GIVE THE YOUNGER GENERATION A CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CITY LIFE.

+THIS NEED HAS BEEN RECOGNISED IN THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA OF YOUTH WORK,+ HE ADDED.

MR. LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE EXTENSION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ROTARY YOUTH HOSTEL AT FAN LING WAI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

BUILT WITH A DONATION OF \$80,000 FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG AND ANOTHER \$120,000 FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND, THE NEW WING HAS ACCOMMODATION FOR ANOTHER 60 PEOPLE AND DOUBLES THE CAPACITY OF THE HOSTEL.

HE RECALLED THE CLUB'S LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE HOSTEL, BUILT EIGHT YEARS AGO WITH DONATIONS FROM THE CLUB, AND SAID THIS WAS PROOF OF ITS CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF YOUTH.

MR. LEE AND MR. LAWRENCE FUNG, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB, LATER JOINTLY UNVEILED A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF THE EXTENDED HOSTEL.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. LEE'S SPEECH ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION.

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LEGCO AND EXCO APPOINTMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT MR. ALEX WU IS TO REPLACE MR. WILSON WANG ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM TUESDAY (JULY 1).

A SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WOULD BE THE ONLY CHANGE THIS YEAR IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

MR. WANG HAS BEEN ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SINCE 1968 AND HIS CURRENT TERM OF APPOINTMENT EXPIRES ON MONDAY (JUNE 30).

MR. WU, 54, THE MANAGER OF A PRINTING FIRM, HAS BEEN AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE URBAN COUNCIL SINCE 1973.

HE IS A MEMBER OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND HAS BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNOR, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, HAD RE-APPOINTED MR. SZETO WAI AND MR. P.C. WOO TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THEIR CURRENT TERMS EXPIRE ON JUNE 30.

THE APPOINTMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS MR. P.G. WILLIAMS, MR. JAMES WU, MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND MR. LI FOOK-WO, WHICH EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, HAVE BEEN RENEWED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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REGISTRATION FACILITIES IN SAI KUNG

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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT SAI KUNG NEXT WEEK TO CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS.

RESIDENTS IN THE AREA ARE ADVISED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL FACILITY, WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR THEIR CONVENIENCE, TO REGISTER THEIR 11-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS.

THE TEAM WILL OPERATE AT THE SAI KUNG RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICES BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. ON JULY 2, 3, 8 AND 9.

HOLDERS OF JUVENILE I.D. CARDS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD REGISTER FOR ADULT CARDS ONCE THEY REACH THE AGE OF 18.

CHANGES IN REGISTERED PARTICULARS, SUCH AS CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT, ADDRESS OR MARITAL STATUS, SHOULD ALSO BE REPORTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE RECORDS CAN BE UPDATED.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1975

- 7 -

BANKING STATISTICS

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THERE WERE 74 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG AS AT MAY 31 THIS YEAR WITH TOTAL DEPOSITS OF \$33,970 MILLION, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS ISSUED TODAY BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE STATISTICS IS AS FOLLOWS:

LIABILITIES		\$MILLION
1. DEPOSITS		33,970
2. AMOUNT DUE TO BANKS ABROAD		17,720
3. OTHER LIABILITIES		6,875
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	58,565
ASSETS		
1. CASH		590
2. AMOUNT DUE FROM BANKS ABROAD:		
(I) DEMAND AND SHORT TERM CLAIMS	17,217	
(II) TIME DEPOSITS	1,927	19,144
3. LOANS AND ADVANCES:		
(I) HONG KONG	24,169	
(II) ABROAD	8,055	32,224
4. INVESTMENTS:		
(I) HONG KONG	2,384	
(II) ABROAD	50	2,434
5. OTHER ASSETS:		
(I) HONG KONG	3,185	
(II) ABROAD	988	4,173
	TOTAL ASSETS	58,565
AVERAGE LIQUIDITY DURING MONTH		48.15%

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362,000 LOTTERY TICKETS SOLD SO FAR

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A TOTAL OF 362,000 TICKETS FOR THE THIRD GOVERNMENT LOTTERY THIS YEAR WAS SOLD UP TO 12.30 P.M. TODAY (SATURDAY).

THE WINNING NUMBERS OF THE LOTTERY WILL BE DRAWN ON JULY 5 IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE BY FOUR COMMERCIAL RADIO ARTISTES - MR. HO YA-YUE, MISS CONITA CHAN HOI-SEE, MISS CHENG KIT-MAN, A D MISS MA SHUK-KAU.

THE FOUR ARTISTES WILL ALSO HELP SELL TICKETS AT STATUE SQUARE BETWEEN 1 P.M. AND 2 P.M. ON JULY 2 TO PROMOTE TICKET SALES.

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