



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**Saturday, June 17, 1995**

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Agreement with waste collection truck drivers reached

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The Government today (Saturday) reached an agreement with private waste collection truck drivers to end their blockade of the landfills.

At today's meeting with the truck drivers, the Deputy Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands, Mr Tony Cooper, agreed that a working group comprising representatives from the Government, the truck drivers and waste producers will be formed to discuss the mechanics to introduce the charging scheme.

Charges will not be introduced until a mutually acceptable agreement is reached. The regulations on the charging scheme will go forward in the Legislative Council as scheduled next Wednesday. But the commencement date of charging will not be gazetted until there is an agreement.

In return, the drivers agreed to end their industrial action immediately and will enter into negotiations with the other parties in good faith.

Mr Cooper said: " We are looking forward to some useful and constructive discussions to resolve the payment issue sensibly."

He thanked the Urban Services and Regional Services Departments and other parties concerned for making temporary arrangement to receive refuse during the industrial action by the drivers.

In order to clear the backlog of refuse, the opening hours of the three blockaded landfills, namely Southeast NT, Shuen Wan, and Pillar Point Valley which receive privately collected waste will be extended until midnight today. If necessary, the opening hours of the Southeast NT Landfill will be further extended until the backlog is cleared.

End/Saturday, June 17, 1995

### AIDS hotline adds new features

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Members of the public can now listen to a range of pre-recorded messages in Putonghua on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases through the AIDS Hotline - 2780 2211 - run by the Department of Health.

A spokesman for the department said a caller to the hotline could choose to listen to messages in English, Cantonese or Putonghua, receive a fax copy of the messages in English or Chinese, or talk to a counsellor.

He said a new message on AIDS and the Travellers was introduced in June and a caller now had seven pre-recorded messages on AIDS to choose from.

The spokesman said a caller could choose to listen to any of the pre-recorded messages on specific areas of his concern by simply pressing the pre-defined buttons.

Besides English and Chinese, people speaking Thai, Vietnamese and Tagalog may listen to four pre-recorded AIDS messages on a separate telephone line - 2359 9112.

The AIDS Hotline was computerised to improve service in 1993 and expanded to provide pre-recorded messages on sexually transmitted diseases in February this year.

The hotline received about 12,000 calls each month.

End/Saturday, June 17, 1995

### Employees entitled to statutory leave

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The Labour Department today (Saturday) reminded employers to grant their employees 11 statutory holidays as required by the Employment Ordinance.

ACMDC Ventures Incorporated at Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, was recently fined a total of \$12,000 at Western Magistracy after pleading guilty to three summonses for failing to grant statutory holidays to an imported worker.

Labour Officer (Prosecutions), Mrs Tonia Leung, said under the Employment Ordinance, all employees, irrespective of their wage levels, were entitled to statutory holidays and had to be paid for the day off if they had worked continuously for the same employer for three months or longer immediately before the statutory holiday.

"Holiday pay should be equivalent to an employee's earnings on a full working day. Where the earnings vary from day to day, holiday pay should be the average daily earnings during every complete wage period, comprising not less than 28 days and not more than 31 days preceding the holiday," she explained.

"If an employee is required to work on a statutory holiday, he must be given an alternative day off within 60 days before or after that day," Mrs Leung added.

Any employer who fails to grant statutory leave to an employee is liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

End/Saturday, June 17, 1995

#### Young violinist to attend international music camp

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An 18-year-old violin player, Cheng Ka-ming, who has been selected by the Music Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch to represent Hong Kong to attend the 1995 World Youth Symphony Orchestra Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan, USA. this summer. will leave Hong Kong on June 23 (Friday).

Cheng has made remarkable achievements in music in the past few years. He was the Champion in Violin Sonata Class and Violin Concerto Class in the 1992 Hong Kong Schools Music Festival, the first runner-up in the 1993 Commercial Radio Prize, and the 1993 Student Musician of the Year organised by South China Morning Post.

Currently, he is the concertmaster of the Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra and the La Salle College School Orchestra.

"It is really exciting that I can have the opportunity to participate in the Interlochen Arts Camp and to meet young musicians from different countries in the coming two months," he said.

"I am looking forward to staging concerts together with renowned musicians and I would do my best to introduce Hong Kong to other campers," he added.

The music camp, to be held from June 25 to August 21, is aimed at promoting friendship among young musicians aged between 14 and 18 through music.

The eight-week intensive training will include master classes and workshops conducted by renowned musicians. In addition, recreational activities such as sing-a-song round camp fires, canoeing and swimming will be arranged.

The camp fee will be met by organisers while the round-trip air passage will be jointly sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways and the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Music Fund.

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### Licence application deadline for wastewater dischargers

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Existing dischargers of wastewater from industrial, commercial and institutional activities in Phase I of the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone are reminded to obtain a licence for their discharges before July 1 this year.

Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Mr John Boxall, said: "The said water control zone, which became effective on November 1 last year, covers Kwun Tong, Kwai Chung and the eastern part of Tsuen Wan.

"Dischargers in these areas who do not have a licence and whose discharges does not meet the required standards after July 1 will be liable for prosecution.

"The maximum fine for discharging polluting matter into the water control zone is \$200,000 for the first offence and \$400,000 for any subsequent offence. Offenders may also be liable to six months' imprisonment."

Mr Boxall urged dischargers who have not yet submitted applications to make licence applications early and to provide or improve treatment of their discharges to meet the required standards.

"The EPD has informed dischargers of the requirements of the legislation, verbally and in writing as well as sending them a copy of the information booklet.

"Four seminars informing the public about the legislation have also been held in the past months," he said.

Dischargers can contact the EPD's Local Control Offices on 2755 5518 (for Kwun Tong area) and 2417 6150 (for Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung areas) for enquiries on licensing and controls. Trade dischargers can also contact the Environmental Hotline on 2788 9696 operated by the Centre of Environmental Technology for information and advice on environmental regulations and methods to control pollution.

End/Sunday, June 18, 1995

About 1,500 removal orders issued

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The Control and Enforcement Division of the Buildings Department has served a total of 1,488 orders from January to April this year for the removal of unauthorised building works, including 77 cases for removal of illegal rooftop structures.

The Assistant Director/Control of the department, Mr Lok Che-leung, said the department had received 2,527 complaints and its staff had carried out 6,765 inspection during the same period.

Last year, a total of 4,890 orders were issued following 7,596 complaints received. Of these complaints, with about 1,600 or 20 per cent were on illegal rooftop structures.

As a result, a total of 232 illegal rooftop structures were demolished with 80 per cent of these structures demolished by the owners themselves.

Illegal rooftop structures are common in old urban areas like Central and Western districts, North Point and Shau Kei Wan on Hong Kong Island; Sham Shui Po, Mong Kok and Kwun Tong in Kowloon; and Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing in the New Territories.

Contrary to popular belief, Mr Lok said, rooftop illegal structures formed but one among the many categories of unauthorised building works tackled by the department.

Any building works carried out to any part of a building without the prior approval and consent of the Building Authority are defined as unauthorised building works and have to be demolished, Mr Lok said.

However, new unauthorised building works, work-in-progress cases, and unauthorised building works causing fire, health or structural hazard will be awarded high priority status requiring their removal.

"Our prime concern is building safety," he said. "Once an unauthorised building work of high priority is identified, an order will be issued under Buildings Ordinance Section 24 prescribing the date and the removal of the specified works by the building owner."

He added that non-compliance of the ordinance is a criminal offence and is liable to prosecution. On conviction, the owner is liable to a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000. In the case of continuing offence, a daily fine of \$5,000 will be imposed.

A total of 22 convictions have been obtained from January to April this year resulting in \$0.31 million fines. Last year, there were 55 convictions resulting in about \$1 million fines.

Mr Lok advised owners to apply to the Building Authority through an Authorised Person before embarking on constructing any additions and alterations to their buildings.

"If they failed to do so, they are wasting their own money as any such unauthorised works will have to be demolished in the end," he said.

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#### Country park and conservation information on computer

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With a touch on the computer screen at country park visitor centres, members of the public can now get more information on the territory's country parks and conservation matters through interesting games and lively computer presentations.

The newly-designed "Country Parks and Conservation Information System" has just become operational at the territory's seven country park visitor centres. The system has incorporated beautiful country park sceneries, educational information and interesting quiz all in one programme.

The Agriculture and Fisheries Department's acting Senior Country Park Development Officer, Dr Yeung Ka-ming, said the new system was set up to facilitate visitors to look for interesting information concerning country parks and conservation during stops-over at the centres.

Available in both Cantonese and English, the new system consists of a three-segment programme, Dr Yeung said.

The first segment is on Hong Kong's country parks in general. Visitors can view beautiful sceneries of the territory's country parks, which are divided into six major regions according to their location, in the computer programme.

The second segment is about knowledge on country parks and nature conservation. It comprises six major areas: including tree planting, country park history, endangered species, hiking trails, community participation and work of the Country and Marine Parks Authority.

The last and most interesting part is a quiz on topics described in the previous segments.

The whole programme is about 40 minutes long.

Dr Yeung believed the programme would be popular among young people. Operated on a touch method, it is also suitable for young children.

He said plans were in hand to improve the system by adding more information, including facts about the Wilson Trail and advice on transport to country parks.

Efforts are also being made to turn the programme into a CD-ROM, he added.

The seven visitor centres with the new system are located in country parks in Sai Kung, Aberdeen, Shing Mun, Plover Cove, Clear Water Bay and Tai Mo Shan as well as at the Lions Nature Education Centre in Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung.

End/Sunday, June 18, 1995

Exhibition taken to NT and Kowloon

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A roving exhibition on Hong Kong urban planning and architecture will be staged at the Metroplaza in Kwai Fong from tomorrow (Monday) and at the Lok Fu Shopping Centre II in Central Kowloon 10 days later.

Entitled "Hong Kong - City of Vision", the exhibition features building models, design and photographic displays of various major present and future developments projects in the territory.

"The exhibition will be held tomorrow at the Crystal Atrium of Metroplaza in Kwai Fong till June 27 and at the Atrium of the Lok Fu Shopping Centre II between June 29 and July 6," a spokesman for the organising committee said.

It will be open to the public from 10 am to 10 pm daily. Admission is free.

The exhibition had recently been held at the Central Plaza in Wan Chai attracting more than 100,000 visitors.

"The exhibition at the Central Plaza was a great success. Visitors including professionals, office workers, students and tourists found the displays informative and educational," the spokesman said.

"In view of its popularity, the organising committee has decided to take the exhibition to the New Territories and Central Kowloon in order to reach out to a wider community.

"In collaboration with the Education Department, a children painting competition with a similar theme will be held in October. Details of the competition will be announced in mid-September," he added.

Apart from giving an overview of the different development patterns of Hong Kong, the exhibition highlights the planning of various activities including commerce, industry, transport, housing, community, education, recreation and preservation.

Two documentary videos, entitled "Hong Kong-The New Metropolis" and "The Quest For Land The Need For Reclamation", will be shown at the venues.

The exhibition is jointly presented by the Planning Department, Architectural Services Department and Information Services Department.

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### Water cuts in Sai Kung and Sha Tin

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Fresh and flushing water supply to some premises in Sai Kung will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (June 21) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include Hong Kin Road, Hong Fu Road, Wa Fun Road, Wa Fuk Road, Wa Yung Road, Sai Kung Tui Min Hoi Chuen, Fishermen Housing Estate and the Sewage Treatment Works.

Meanwhile, flushing water supply to some premises in the northern part of Sha Tin, Sha Tin Town Centre and Fo Tan will also be cut off from 6 pm on Wednesday to 6 pm the next day to allow for conversion of the existing supply of fresh water to salt water for flushing.

The suspension will affect Lek Yuen Estate, Lek Yuen Clinic, Wo Che Estate, Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin Technical Institute, Ti-I College, Jubilee Garden, Hong Kong Sports Institute, Lucky Plaza, Sha Tin Centre, Sha Tin Plaza, New Town Plaza, Sha Tin Town Hall, Sha Tin Magistracy, Royal Park Hotel, Wai Wah Centre, Hilton Plaza, Sha Tin Central Park, Man Lam Road, Man Lai Road, Man Lai Court, Fo Tan KCRC Station, KCRC Workshop, Au Pui Wan Street, Wo Heung Street, Wo Shing Street, Wo Shui Street, Wo Liu Hang Road, Min Fong Street, Shek Lau Tung Street, Tsung Tau Ha Road, Kwei Tei Street, Tat Yip Lane, Fo Tan Road, Fo Tan Village, Cheung Lek Mei Street, Shan Mei Street, Ho Lek Pui Street, Sui Fung Lane, Sui Wo Road, Ngau Wu Tok Street, Wong Chuk Yeung Street, Yuen Kong Au Street, Man Hang Street, Sui Wo Court, Sha Tin 33 and Scenery Garden.

End/Sunday, June 18, 1995

### Students advised to check before enrolment

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The Education Department advised students to check whether an educational establishment in which they intend to enrol this summer is registered with the department under the Education Ordinance.

A spokesman for the Education Department said under the Education Ordinance, an institution, organisation or establishment which provided education to eight or more students at any one time or 20 or more students during any one day is required to register with the department.

"To enable students or their parents to easily verify a school's credentials, schools are required to state their registration or provisional registration number on any advertisement," the spokesman said.

Students should be particularly cautious with institutions which operate a chain of centres under the same name in various districts but with only some of the centres or courses properly registered.

"A school that operates without registration may jeopardise the studies of its students," the spokesman said, adding that there is no control as to the safety of the premises, sanitary conditions and teacher qualifications.

"Furthermore, the public are reminded that only bona fide Secondary 5 students of registered schools approved to participate in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination may sit for the examination as school candidates," the spokesman pointed out.

He said schools were required to display on the notice board the registration certificate showing the name of school in English and Chinese, address and registration number and a fees certificate in respect of the class, tuition fee per instalment and number of instalments.

By looking at the registration and fees certificates, the spokesman said, students would know whether the institution or centre they intended to enrol in had complied with requirements set out in the Education Ordinance or not.

Students or parents are welcome to check with the Education Department's District Education Offices to find out if an educational establishment is registered with the department.

The spokesman said the department conducted 118 inspections on unregistered educational establishments between September last year and May this year to ensure that they did not contravene the provisions of the Education Ordinance.

During the same period, the department had issued 19 warnings to some of these establishments, requiring them to comply with the ordinance, the spokesman added.

The department had conducted 175 inspections and issued 36 warnings to unregistered educational establishments in the 1993-94 school year.

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